

Little Wing Productions presents

Spike

An Echidna's Journey



Interactive shadow puppetry storytelling

THE PERFORMANCE

Spike is the story of a baby echidna who is stolen from his nest by a greedy rat, and hatches from his egg far away from home. Fi Jones, a young girl who is playing alone because she is being bullied by the other children, finds the echidna. He has no spikes yet and Fi doesn't know what kind of creature he is. She tries to work out where the echidna comes from, but accidentally puts him in dangerous situations – in the nest of a crocodile, an emu and a turtle. The echidna feels frightened, rejected and alone. As the story unfolds, Fi helps him to discover where he belongs, and he helps her to find her own “spikes” and stand up to the bullies.

Spike: An Echidna's Journey is an interactive performance told through shadow puppetry. As well as being entertaining and fun, it is a catalyst for discussion about difference and belonging. It also explores the unique biology of Australian animals, especially the egg-laying echidna. After the performance there is a demonstration of shadow puppetry techniques, introducing students to an expressive hands-on story-telling medium that is highly accessible to young people. *Spike* was co-written with acclaimed children's author Anne Brooksbank, whose work has been shortlisted for the Prime Ministers Children's Book of the Year 2012 and Highly Recommended in the Family Therapists' Association Awards 2006.

THE PERFORMER

Jenny Ellis has been a puppeteer for over twenty years. She has a Post-Graduate Diploma in Puppetry from the Victorian College of the Arts. In 2011 she studied with master shadow puppeteer Richard Bradshaw as part of the national Jump Mentoring program. In 2012 she was awarded a major fellowship with the Mike Walsh Foundation to research contemporary puppetry in Europe. Jenny was a Researcher for the NSW Minister for Education from 2003-2005. She has a Bachelor's degree in Social Ecology with a major in Environmental Education. As co-founder of Company Gongoma, their show *The Mermaid's Daughter* won the Melbourne Fringe Festival Award for The Best School Holiday Program. Jenny's performances have been presented to over 50,000 kindergarten and primary school students in every state and territory of Australia.

Written by Jenny Ellis & Anne Brooksbank

Directed by Jacob Williams & Clare Batholomew

Original music by Mal Webb



Venue Requirements: Dark venue needed for shadow puppetry

DURATION: 40 Minutes + Q & A time	SUITABILITY: Years K - 4
PERFORMANCE COST: Per Student \$4.50 (gst n/a)	PERFORMANCE MINIMUM: 120 Students* Per Session \$540.00 (gst n/a)

*PLEASE NOTE EVERY STUDENT OVER 120 PAYS \$4.50 GST N/A