



## Zoë Atkinson Designer

**Lawn for Splinter Group and Sasha Waltz & Guests in a touring production for Stuttgart Tanzplattform, 2006**

"... what happens within Zoë Atkinson's simultaneously realistic yet somehow surreal set is like a series of physical and imaginative miracles." *The Australian*

"Atkinson's set is integral to Lawn's success, its bleak surface at times revealing the horrors of history as well as the dramas and delusions of the present.... Lawn leaves its audience with images that disturb and delight, and definitely deserves a repeat viewing. It will undoubtedly become a festival favourite..." *Real Time*

**The Importance of Being Earnest for London Barbican BITE/Brisbane Powerhouse/Ridiculusmus UK**

"Add an ironing board and a spray pack of windex, a pop-up toaster and an intricate patterning of imitation Persian carpets, and you have a gorgeous set for which Oscar Wilde, if he were living today, would surely applaud designer Zoë Atkinson"  
*Stage Diary*

"Jude Kelly's direction is inspired, Zoë Atkinson's set a nightmare of patterned wallpaper and malfunctioning gadgets... it is the funniest thing to be seen in London." *Times Literary Supplement*

**Uncle Vanya for Black Swan Theatre Company**

"In those telltale tufts of desert grass pushing stealthily through the rotting homestead floor, stage designer Zoë Atkinson has made visual Chekhov's leitmotiv: that life is transient, often disappointing but irrepensible." *The Australian*

**Snark – The Way of the Bravest for The Carry Grant Players/Maison de la Culture de Nevers et Nevers for 2006 Sydney Festival**

"... a stroke of pure genius." *The West Australian*

Zoë studied design for performance at The Prague Academy of The Performing Arts in the Faculty of Puppetry and Alternative Theatre, The International Institute of Figurative Theatre (Czech Republic), and at the Institute International de la Marionette in France (under designer Josef Svoboda).

Zoë designed the costumes for the Opera Conference production of Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West*, directed by Nigel Jamieson, which played in Adelaide and Perth in 2009, at the Sydney at the Opera House in 2010 and will play in Brisbane in 2011.

Since returning to Australia in 1997, she has designed sets, costumes and puppets for more than fifty productions; including award winning performances and festival commissions such as KAOS Theatre's *Fantastical Adventures of Leonardo da Vinci*, Spare Parts Theatre's *Out of the Blue* (nominated Best Presentation for Children, 2003 Helpmann Awards) and *The Velveteen Rabbit*, Black Swan Theatre's *Plainsong* (Best Production, 2000 Equity Guild Awards), *Carnivores* (nominated Best production, 2006 Equity guild awards) and *The Crucible* (Best Designer, 2007 Equity Guild Awards); Perth Theatre Company's *Skin Tight* (Best Production, 2004 Equity Guild Awards), costume design for Steamworks Arts Productions *Drover's Wives* (Best New Work- Dance Australia Critic Survey, 2006) and costume design for the Malthouse/Black Swan production *The Odyssey*, for which she was awarded Best Costume Design in the 2006 Helpmann Awards.

Based in Western Australia, she has enjoyed a long relationship with Black Swan Theatre; designing- in addition to the above- *Away*, *Copenhagen*, *The Unexpected Man*, *Uncle Vanya* and the recent co-production with Bunuba Films *Jandamarra*, which

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enabled her to collaborate extensively with Bunuba visual artist Kaylene Marr. She was also involved in the 2008 UNIMA World Puppetry Congress and Festival, curating and designing the hugely successful *Million Puppet Project Exhibition*.

In addition to *The Odyssey*, Zoë's work outside of Western Australia has included the highly acclaimed *Lawn* with the Splinter Group, for which she received a 2009 Green Room Award, produced by the Brisbane Powerhouse and Berlin's Sasha Waltz and Guests (nominated for Best Ballet or Dance Work, 2007 Helpmann Awards), and London based Ridiculusmus' sell-out *The Importance of Being Earnest*- a Barbican BITE commission produced in collaboration with the Brisbane Powerhouse and directed by Jude Kelly OBE.

Zoë is a founding member of the highly irreverent Carry Grant Players, a collective of professional, European based artists seeking to exorcise the darker side of puppetry. She co-conceived and designed their inaugural production *Snark- The Way of the Bravest*, produced in France by Maison de la Culture de Nevers et Neviere (nominated Best Design Equity Guild Awards 2004), and continues to slowly chip away at the next production, *The Complete Manual Of Suicide*.

In 2000- 2001 Zoë was Head of Design at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. She has been the recipient of numerous grants and awards, including the 2000 Young Australian of the Year Award for the Arts.

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