A woman with long dark hair, wearing a grey t-shirt and a yellow measuring tape around her neck, stands in a room filled with racks of clothing. She is looking down at a small object in her hands. The background is filled with various garments hanging on metal hangers.

Melanie Liertz

Designer

Melanie is a freelance designer and maker for theatre, film, dance, opera and circus.

Recent designs include The Iliad Out Loud (Adelaide Festival), Rainbow's End (Darlinghurst Theatre), The Return of Ulysses (Pinchgut Opera), The Big Time (Ensemble Theatre), A Midnight Visit (Broad Encounters), Romeo and Juliet (Bell Shakespeare), Good Cook. Friendly. Clean (Griffin Theatre), Funatorium- Captain Hook's Pirate Party (Sydney Opera House), Alice in Wonderland (Sydney Festival), Oedipus Doesn't Live Here Anymore and Dignity of Risk (Australian Theatre for Young People), Antigone (Sport for Jove), Frankenstein (Q Theatre).

Together with Making Space- a company of designers based in Melbourne- Melanie has produced and created Closed for Maintenance and Beneath and Beyond- interactive design based performances (La Mama).

Previous designs in Melbourne include- Yellow Moon (MTC), This is Beautiful (Malthouse), Yarn and Button (La Mama), Dreams from the Second Floor (NICA).

As a costume maker- Bell Shakespeare, Sydney Chamber Opera, Legs on the Wall, BighART, Malthouse Theatre, Australian Ballet and Victorian Opera.


Costume design for feature film- Moonlite (2011), Academy (2007) and Max- A Cautionary Tale (2005). Costume design for Short film- The Widow (2015), Therapy (2015), Comeback (2012), Hugo (2008) and Hollow Bones (2007).

Melanie received an APDG award nomination for Athalia (Pinchgut Opera) in 2018 and two Sydney Theatre Awards in 2016- Set Design for Independent Theatre and Costume Design for Independent Theatre for Antigone (Sport for Jove). In 2015 she received a nomination for Costume Design for Independent Theatre for Love's Labour's Lost (Sport for Jove).

She graduated from The Victorian College of the Arts in 2001 with a Bachelor of Creative Arts.

**Melanie online**



A portrait of Danielle O'Keefe, a woman with blonde hair, wearing a dark blue top, standing in front of a large, layered rock wall. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

### **Danielle O'Keefe- Artistic Director**

Danielle has worked in the Arts for over 18 years. Beginning her practice as a performer and vocalist, Danielle has in recent years honed her skills of leading, establishing a reputation as one of the country's leading youth arts creators.

After finishing her vocal studies in 2003 in London, Danielle returned to Sydney to conduct the Australian Youth Choir (AYC) and held that post until 2012 when she left to work in Outback Australia. Simultaneous to conducting the AYC, Danielle worked with companies such as the Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP), Sydney Chamber Opera (SCO) The Australian Institute of Performing Arts (AIPA), Brent Street and PACT to create exciting works for and with young people. Alongside her work with young people, Danielle has directed MainStage shows at the Seymour Centre, The Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Complex and Merrigong Theatre.

Danielle established The House That Dan Built in 2015, which houses the Toy Choir, a singing and ukulele playing ensemble of young girls which Danielle initiated and conducts. The Toy Choir is uniquely hearing the ideas and impressions of girls and young women in Australian today. Members of the Toy Choir also participate in the Akin program, which sees Danielle facilitate creative workshops for girls all over regional NSW.

As Artistic Director of Outback Theatre for Young People, Danielle was responsible for a \$250,000 budget delivering two festivals in regional NSW using voices and local story-tellers to bring the environment to life.

[www.danielleokeefe.com/works](http://www.danielleokeefe.com/works)

[www.danielleokeefe.com/education](http://www.danielleokeefe.com/education)



# ENSEMBLE LEADERS

## **JAYDEN SELVAKUMARASWAMY** - Ensemble leader/cast member

Jayden Selvakumaraswamy is an Ensemble leader and artist of The House That Dan Built. Jayden has trained in music and voice since she was eight, also studying one year at the Australian Institute of Music. She is a vocalist in Sydney Chamber Opera's world premier of Howling Girls in 2018 & 2019 for Tokyo Festival. She performed in the chorus of Angelica Mesiti's work ASSEMBLY for the Venice Biennale 2019. Jayden has been a core ensemble member of The House for six years and continues to explore the female voice and its development over time through music.

## **IRIS SIMPSON** - Ensemble leader - text coach/cast member

Iris Simpson is a writer and performer based in Sydney, Australia. She is interested in the intersections between language, feminine experience, and the power of music as a form of storytelling. As a member of The House that Dan Built ensemble, Iris devised and performed in all three developments of Tender Young Creatures, and performed at the opening of the 2018 Blake prize. She was selected to perform in Angelica Mesiti's video work, ASSEMBLY, for the 2019 Venice Biennale d'Arte. Iris has been performing in plays since she was 12, and has appeared in multiple ATYP plays. She has written extensively for House that Dan Built shows, with a writing background in poetry.



# ENSEMBLE

## **KIRI JENSSEN** - Group leader/cast

16-year old Kiri has been performing since the age of 5 and has appeared in 8 operas, twice as the First Spirit in OA's The Magic Flute. She is an ensemble member of The House That Dan Built and is thrilled to be going to Tokyo to perform in Sydney Chamber Opera's experimental opera The Howling Girls.

## **GRACE CAMPBELL** - Group leader/cast

Grace Campbell is a core member of The House and is a creative member of Tender Young Creatures and Salt with The House. She has trained in both singing and acting since the age of 11 and is a vocalist in Sydney Chamber Opera's world premiere of The Music Theatre Now award winning 'The Howling Girls' in 2018 and 2019 for Tokyo Festival. Grace was also a member of the chorus of Angelica Mesiti's work ASSEMBLY for the Venice Biennale in 2019.

## **EMILY PINCOCK**- Percussionist/cast

Emily Pincock is a member of the training artist ensemble at The House the Dan Built and has performed in the devised show called SALT in the Bondi pavilion as well as their devised work Tender Young Creatures. She performed as part of the teenage girl chorus for the sold out and critically acclaimed new opera 'The Howling Girls' with Sydney Chamber Opera. Emily performed as 'Poppy' in the play Good, Die Young for the 2018 Sydney Fringe. Emily and the House ensemble collaborated with Angelica Mesiti on her 2019 Venice Biennale project called 'ASSEMBLY'.

## **RUBY McVICAR**- Visual Artist

Ruby McVicar is a Sydney born artist, who works as a creative director and artist utilising a multitude of mediums to create dreamlike, obscure portrait/character-based artworks, with a mixture of stylistic inspiration from surrealist, realistic and contemporary art. She has worked on many projects that range from murals, costume design for modern productions, commissioned paintings, character design, and illustrations & themed art pieces for Good Material Mag, and Lithium Magazine.

