



Fiona Thompson performs *Circadian Lace — Emma*. Photo: Ken Ball

The PADP in Bathurst is one of three programs funded by Local Stages, an Australia Council for the Arts and Arts NSW initiative. Local Stages, a three year commitment by both funding bodies, aims to develop hot-houses for the performing arts in regional communities, providing a platform for local performing artists to create and stage their works. Programs are also underway at the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre in Port Kembla and at Griffith Regional Theatre.

Emma, performed by violist Fiona Thompson, is a regional woman living in contemporary Australia. Her journey through a single day is accompanied by Jocelyn Hungerford's narration, which tells the story of Emma's return to the country, of her self discovery and solitude.

"I grew up on a farm in the country and the visual, sensory and auditory landscape was like another world. A comforting, invigorating organism. That is what I have tried to create for *Emma*, a virtual world within which we can experience her story." Says Stockwell, who studied composition, music technology and violin performance at La Trobe University and has composition credits in theatre and film.

"This is a very unique work for our community, drawing on hybrid artforms, with an original music score driving the work." Says Margie Breen, Producer/Animateur of Bathurst's Performing Arts Development Program.

"*Circadian Lace — Emma* fits well into the PADP's aims, because it's relevant to local audiences, utilises local talent, and has gone through an intensive creative development period with the support of Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre." ■

***Circadian Lace — Emma* was performed at the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre 6 – 8 July 2007.**

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Theatre with aroma

The first work to come out of the pilot Performing Arts Development Project in Bathurst is a 'multi-sensory' composition with a truly 'regional' flavour.

by MARYANNE JAQUES

The regional experience is not a two-dimensional one. It pulses. It enlivens the senses — and so too does its theatre and music. It is not just words and sounds that we can encounter on a regional stage, it is the whole landscape: The textures, the images, the contrasts, the hot drought blown winds, even the smells.

A new theatre work created and produced in regional NSW explores both the ensemble of senses within performance and the pulses that flow through the life of women in rural Australia. *Circadian Lace — Emma* is a multi-sensory composition of solo viola, narrative, contemporary pre-recorded audio, sound effects, photography, film media,

animation, temperature and even fragrance, designed by Bathurst based composer Michelle Stockwell.

"Multi-sensory composition is about giving sound, visual and sensory media equal status within the performance ensemble," says Stockwell.

It's a bold project to not only bring to a regional stage but to wholly create in that space. As the first fully fledged performance piece to come out of the pilot Performing Arts Development Program (PADP) at the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre, *Circadian Lace — Emma* represents a new top-down push to develop new professional works in and for regional communities.

October — November

31 October — 16 December
 👁️ Yulgilbar Indigenous Art Prize, promoting contemporary Indigenous art in the Clarence Valley **GRAFTON** Regional Gallery
 Tel 02 6642 3177
www.graftongallery.nsw.gov.au

1 — 2 November
 🏠 *Back Home* by Urban Theatre Projects, the dramatic hit of Sydney Festival about men's business, presented by Performing Lines in **BATHURST** at Kelso Community Centre (outdoors) Bookings BMEC Tel 02 6333 6161

1 — 5 November
 🎷 The Deni Spring Blues Festival
 A weekend of blues and roots music.
DENILQUIN Tel 03 5881 4806

More What's On listings in our e-Bulletin at www.regionalartsnsw.com.au

2 November — 10 December
 👁️ *Gins_leap/dubbo_speak* A d/Lux Media Arts touring program. An intimate journey into the lives of 4 Gamilaraay women. Australian Fossil & Mineral Museum **BATHURST** Tel 02 6331 5511
www.somervillecollection.com.au