

Case study

Angela Chaplin

Details

The *Smoke and Mirrors* creative development aimed to create a draft script based on the life of Magician Sam Angelico. The creative development period also explored how to intergrate the use of illusion in the narrative and action layering the storytelling with an emotional subtext.

All three participants involved developed new skills and knowledge during the creative development. Magician Sam Angelico participated in naturalistic acting and script development for the first time. Director Angela Chaplin explored new opportunities in directing illusion and magic elements to enhance and strengthen a theatrical narrative and as a writer, incorporated Sicilian with English creating a truly bilingual script. Actor Rosemarie Lenzo furthered her knowledge in participating in script development. Both Angela and Rose developed knowledge of magic and its processes and uses within a dramatic context.

The Judith Wright Centre provided rehearsal spaces as part of its Fresh Ground Space program.

When: February - March 2014

Where: Brisbane

Arts Queensland contribution:

\$13,500 – Projects and Programs Fund

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Outcomes

- Development of a new piece of Queensland theatre. This development was undertaken by a team of senior Australian theatre artists who had not worked in this combination before.
- The exploration of the use of magic and illusion as part of the narrative of a text based play produced some cutting edge moments in the work. The exploration of the content of the piece led the team in new and exciting directions not previously considered before the workshop period.
- Being part of the Fresh Ground Space program at Judith Wright has led to possible new opportunities with that organisation.

Learnings and reflections

Director, Angela Chaplin provided the following reflection on the creative development:

'The combination of artists worked extremely well. The two performers had never worked together and they proved to be an exciting and productive pairing.'

The use of magic as part of the fabric of the piece worked well but continues to be challenging. It is a time consuming artform and whilst Sam has specialist knowledge it still required extra time commitment from all involved. It is also be a relatively costly artform with which to experiment. Next time I would allow time specifically for the development of the magic and include a budget line for materials needed to explore illusions.'