

Trick of the Light Theatre

March  
7-24 2019  
**ARTS FESTIVAL**  
**AUCKLAND**



**THE  
BOOKBINDER**

21-24 March • Loft, Q Theatre

*They say you can get  
lost in a good book.  
But it's worse getting  
lost in a bad one...*

From award-winning company Trick of the Light Theatre comes a story of mystery, magic and mayhem. *The Bookbinder* is an inventive one-man performance that weaves shadowplay, paper art, puppetry, and music into an original dark fairytale in the vein of Neil Gaiman. For adults and older children (8+).

First performed in the back room of a secondhand bookshop as part of NZ Fringe, it has since toured across Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, the UK, and USA. It enjoyed a sell out season at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in both 2015 and 2016, and received Best Theatre, and Best in the Fringe at the NZ Fringe 2014, the International Excellence Award at Sydney Fringe 2014, and the Children's Theatre Award at Fringe World 2015.

**55mins no interval**

IMAGES: PHILIP MERRY

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## Credits

### Written and performed by

Ralph McCubbin Howell

### Directed by

Hannah Smith

### Composition & Sound Design

Tane Upjohn-Beatson



Trick of the Light is an award-winning theatre company from Wellington, New Zealand, founded

by Hannah Smith and Ralph McCubbin Howell. We like to make theatre that is playful, inventive, thought-provoking, and that speaks to the here and now. Our shows have ranged from intelligent children's theatre to biting political satire, but are unified by their attention to narrative, inventive visual design, and belief that theatre should resonate with the wider world. Previous works include *The Engine Room* (Outstanding New Playwright – Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards 2011), *The Road That Wasn't There* (Outstanding New New Zealand Play, Most Promising Director, and Production of the Year – Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards 2013, Auckland Arts Festival Award – Auckland Fringe Awards 2013), *Broken River* (STAB 2013), *BEARDS! BEARDS! BEARDS!* (Best Theatre – Dunedin Fringe 2014), *The Devil's Half-Acre* (NZ Festival 2016), and *Tröll* (Children's Weekly Award Winner, West Arts Editor Weekly Award Winner – Fringe World, Perth, 2019).

[trickofthelight.co.nz](http://trickofthelight.co.nz)

 [trickofthelighttheatre](https://www.facebook.com/trickofthelighttheatre)

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# AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL

TE AHUREI TOI O TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU

aaf.co.nz

Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland Arts Festival is a place for ambitious ideas by storytellers, provocateurs and creators.

The Festival reflects our contemporary, cosmopolitan city with its many communities. It challenges artists and audiences to be bold and take a risk. Through the work of artists of Aotearoa and across the world, we aim to inspire, provoke and entertain the people of Auckland Tāmaki Makaurau and our many visitors.

A globally recognised celebration of art and culture taking place each March in New Zealand's largest city, AAF will be presented for the 11th time in 2019. The Festival has attracted nearly two million visitors to date.

## CONTACT

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## Biographies

### HANNAH SMITH

Director/Designer

Hannah Smith has an honours degree in English and Theatre from Victoria University of Wellington. She designs sets and puppets and masks. She has worked extensively since 2008 with theatre companies including Theatre Militia, Three Spoon Theatre, Full.Stop. Theatre and Playground Collective. She also writes reviews for Theatreview, the New Zealand Listener, Broadway Baby and The Wireless. She received a nomination for Most Promising Director at the 2011 Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards for her work on *The Engine Room*, and received the same award in 2013 for *The Road That Wasn't There*.

### RALPH McCUBBIN HOWELL

Writer/Performer

Ralph McCubbin Howell is a theatre maker from Wellington, New Zealand, and co-director of Trick of the Light. He was a member of the NZ Young Shakespeare Company and completed a BA (Hons) in Theatre and English at Victoria University, Wellington before training at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School in the UK. He was a founding member of Three Spoon Theatre, and has performed extensively as an actor and improviser throughout New Zealand. He received the award for Outstanding New Playwright at the 2011 Chapman Tripp Theatre Awards for *The Engine Room*, and Outstanding New New Zealand Play for *The Road That Wasn't There* in 2013. He won the Bruce Mason Playwriting Award in 2014 and received an MA in Scriptwriting from the IML at Victoria University in 2018.

### TANE UPJOHN-BEATSON

Composition & Sound Design

Tane is an award-winning New Zealand composer and sound designer, specialising in unique scores for film, theatre and digital media. He received the Park Road Post Sound Designer award for his work on *Watch* in 2014, and surround-sound tour de force *Broken River* in 2013. In 2015, he wrote for the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, to craft extensive experiential score and sound design for *Gallipoli: The Scale of Our War* – a cutting edge exhibition at Te Papa (New Zealand's national museum). In 2015 he received the national Best Original Score award in the Rialto 48Hours Furious Filmmaking competition, judged among others by New Zealand's Sir Peter Jackson. His work with Trick of the Light Theatre includes *The Engine Room*, *The Road That Wasn't There*, *Broken River*, *The Devil's Half-Acre* and *Tröll*.

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“A stunning production.”

— BRITISH THEATRE GUIDE

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