

MEDIA RELEASE**POD travels to Cairns Children's Festival, sharing Larrakia seasons and disability-led theatre with new audiences**

Interactive, child-friendly theatre show **POD** by **Luminous Productions** will soon travel to **Cairns Children's Festival** for two performances on Saturday 16 May.

A multi-sensory, sensory-friendly performance for younger audiences, *POD* follows a seed pod on a journey through the Top End seasons, using live music, interactive puppetry, atmospheric lighting and projections.

The cast and crew are rehearsing in Garamilla/ Darwin this week before packing up for the tour.

Created on Larrakia Country, *POD* brings a Northern Territory story to Cairns, another tropical setting and the home of the Yidinji peoples.

Developed in close consultation with Larrakia Elder Aunty June Mills, the work is grounded in Larrakia knowledge and in the seasonal rhythms of the Top End, carrying that story to interstate audiences through a work shaped by place, ecology, and cultural consultation.

The work was also developed with artists with disability helping shape the creative process and appearing as performers in the work itself, with accessibility built into the production from the ground up.

Director of Luminous Productions Tania Lieman said both cultural consultation and disability-led practice were central to the making of the work.

“The development process was really very organic,” she says. “We weren’t trying to create anything that wasn’t. It’s what we live in with the Top End seasons every day. We were reflecting that and finding a way to honour it and be true to it.”

“There’s no words in the show. The audience can just go into a sort of beautiful state of relaxation. It’s soothing and comforting and sensorily very rich.”

Reflecting on working with and making space for artists with disability, she added: “I go there, I don’t ask them to come to me.”

Cairns Children's Festival returns for its 12th year this May, with a weekend of performances, workshops and interactive experiences for children and families.

For Artback NT, the Cairns tour is part of its ongoing work taking Territory-made productions to audiences across Australia.

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About Artback NT:

Artback NT develops and presents creative works from across the Northern Territory – to and from some of Australia's most remote locations.

We work collaboratively with artists and communities to create and present high quality arts and cultural experiences not readily available to regional, remote, and very remote communities who are often left off the touring map.

Our Performing Arts Development and Touring Program delivers dynamic theatre, music, and dance performances, as well as creative workshops to audiences around Australia.

Working primarily with NT based artists, producers, and companies, Artback NT is passionate about sharing the strong and unique stories of the Northern Territory.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal investment and advisory body.

About Luminous Productions

Luminous Productions is an all-abilities theatre company that creates professional productions with artists with disability under the mentorship of Artistic Director, Tania Lieman. Their first production, Trash Magic, was developed in 2020-2021 with its premiere and first tour in the Northern Territory in 2022.

About the Cairns Children's Festival

Find the full program for the Cairns Children's Festival [here](#).