

Erth's Prehistoric Aquarium credits & biographies

Dare to adventure to the bottom of the sea

Deep below the surface, submerged below time, swam some of the world's most amazing prehistoric marine reptiles. Following the internationally loved and applauded show Erth's Dinosaur ZooTM, the team at Erth have spent years scouring the seven seas, collecting playful prehistoric creatures of the deep in their giant aquarium. For the very first time, you are invited to dive in and meet these aquatic critters in person.

In Erth's Prehistoric Aquarium you will be able to get up close and personal with an amazing array of aquatic creatures from bygone eras, connecting young audiences to the real science of palaeontology. Erth's prehistoric creatures are unmistakably "alive" and mostly friendly, in this fun, educational and unique performance that will delight all audiences from ages 5 years and up. Children can watch wide-eyed from a safe distance or dare to get right up close to these prehistoric creatures. Come dive with us to the historical depths of the ocean and unlock some of nature's greatest mysteries.

Artist Bios



Scott Wright – Writer/Director

Scott is a co-founder of Erth Visual and Physical Inc. and has been its Artistic Director since its inception in 1990. He trained as a dancer and choreographer in Victoria, Australia and is a multi-skilled artist incorporating puppetry (one of his greatest loves), movement, acting, aerial, stilts and pyrotechnics. During his time with Erth, Scott has steered the company through many twists and turns, creating a successful national and international touring profile. Scott has directed most of Erth's successful touring shows, and worked with a large variety of national and international companies and institutions, individual artists and community groups. Scott has been exploring how ancient stories can be retrieved and presented to engage new audiences and more recently he is looking at this being work created for children thanks to his collaborations with renowned Italian theatre maker Chiara Guidi.

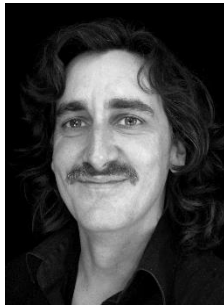


Steve Howarth - Designer

The third founder and full time member of Erth, Steve designs for most of the company's productions and external commissions.

From the Erth Studio/Workshop he supervises a team of artists in the creation of puppets, sets, props, costumes and associated elements that constantly tour the nation and the globe. In this principle role over the last twenty years he has worked with a wide variety of people, organisations and across numerous media.

He directed his first work in 2011 which combined live actors, puppets and projections. Working closely with indigenous storytellers, "Taniwha!" explored Moari folklore for Auckland Museum, New Zealand. Steve also mentors design students from tertiary institutions and assists emerging artists in the implementation of their respective crafts.



Phil Downing -Sound Designer

Phil has a distinct history working with interactive multimedia. After years as a musical performer, Phil set about reinventing his means of musical expression by creating unique and obscure musical instruments. This inspiration has led to the creation of numerous soundtracks for theatrical productions from 1999 thru 2012. Delivery of video and imagery being an obvious progression, Phil has also worked with various technologies to incorporate physical interaction (with performers and audience members) into installations and performances, utilizing technologies such as infra-red, sonar and pressure sensors, Arduino programmable circuit boards and “Kinect” sensors. With Erth, Phil has developed systems for automated delivery of sound, light and visual effects, and has designed stand-alone sound systems for their various creature puppets. “This one’s going to be a mad professor!” his Grandma proclaimed upon his birth.... She was possibly correct!



Christian J Heinrich (SUGARBANK) - Animator

Christian is an award winning animator, filmmaker and internationally exhibited new media artist.

His disciplines range from motion graphics to music videos and large-scale building and arena projections.



Drew Fairley – Host/Co-Writer

Since graduating from the School of Creative Arts at the University of Wollongong Drew has worked internationally as an actor, writer and director.

Most recently Drew performed in Deathtrap at the Darlinghurst Theatre and Jack and the Beanstalk (Directed by Chira Guidi) for the 2015 Adelaide festival. Before that Drew worked with Lisa Chappell as director of Bad Day Insurance. As a performer in Erth’s Dinosaur Zoo as part of the Kids for Fun Festival, VIC. As dramaturge on Here- a Verbatim Theatre piece through Warringah council, directed by Kristine-Landon Smith (Tamasha Theatre Co UK). Before that he performed with Version 1.0 in The Major Minor Party- as an actor devisor, Terripin Puppet Theatre Company as a writer of Pip and Pooch- and with Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre as a writer/director on their new musical – Oh My God I’ve Been Kidnapped and I Hate what I’m Wearing, And Purse of the Mummy for Marguerite Pepper Productions and the Casula Arts Centre. For Television Drew has performed in –The Kangaroo Gang- King of Thieves- for the BBC and is featured in Anne Fontain’s Australian/French feature film- Adore and Mat Govoni’s –The Misfortune of Others- which was being screened at the Australian’s In Film conference in L.A. he is also a regular in Ariana Bossi’s six part comedy series The Stereo Complex (featuring Marcus Graham and Christa Hughes)

Drew has had a long association with actress/comedian Kate Smith and together they have written and performed three plays – Bangers and Mash, The No Chance in Hell Hotel and The Unspeakable Itch- the first two of which toured extensively through Australia, The UK, The US and Hong Kong.

Drew has also produced several short films including – I Killed an Ibis, Bubble and a six part webisode series called Upgrade.



Catherine McNamara - Host/Co-Writer

Catherine McNamara is an emerging performer and maker. She has a Bachelor of Performance (Acting) from the University of Wollongong, and a Communications degree. She began dance training at age three, practicing ballet, modern and jazz. In the last two years she has been studying Bodyweather, a dance method that grew out of Japan in the 1980s. This October, she will dance in Victoria Hunt's new work *TANGIwai* at Carriageworks.

In 2014, she performed in *Metamorphoses*, directed by Linda Luke and Catherine McKinnon (Illawarra Performing Arts Centre), and *Teenage Wildlife* adapted from *Spring Awakening* by Alex Tutton, and directed by Chris Ryan (PACT Theatre). She co-wrote and performed in *The Defence*, which enjoyed fringe seasons in Sydney, Wollongong, Melbourne and Perth.

In 2013, she premiered the role of 'Mackenzie' in Catherine McKinnon's *Hurt Trilogy, Hurt#1 (Kin)*. She trained for three years with mezzo-soprano Dr. Lotte Latukefu, and in 2012 was selected for Karen O's *Stop the Virgins: A Psycho Opera* (Vivid Festival).

Catherine is also a Disability Support Worker with the Cerebral Palsy Alliance, and has the long-term ambition to make theatre with, and for, people with diverse abilities. *Prehistoric Aquarium* is Catherine's first project with EARTH.



Sharon Kerr - Puppeteer

Sharon is a founding and core member of Erth. Originally trained as a school teacher majoring in drama, Sharon has much performance experience. Prior to helping form Erth, she spent five years in contemporary dance theatre with emphasis on improvisational movement. Puppetry became a natural extension of her performance experience. Some of her performance highlights include her aerial harness and flying work, effectively becoming a human marionette. Some of her more memorable flying locations were those from atop the sails of the Sydney Opera House, the spire of St. Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne, the tower of Bingham Hall at Yale University, and from the 30th floor of the Ngee Ann skyscraper in Singapore. Her roles within Erth are many and varied. Contributing to creative and performance direction, Sharon continues to perform, while assisting with the construction of props and costumes. Sharon has steered the company for many years as its key administrator.



Gabbie Paananen – Puppeteer/Illustrations

Gabbie is a new generation of artist whose deep affinity with nature informs her work.

Passionate about puppets, Gab has studied natural history, animal behavior and mycology - always with a focus on the arts. She has illustrated several scientific papers as well as a book about Permaculture (sustainable living) which was published in 2013. Her time working with developing communities in Uganda is reflected in her work.

Gab has recently completed a Diploma of Production Art. She is always drawing, painting, playing the piano accordion, designing and making weird creatures.

Gabbie has spent time as a puppeteer and a maker in the Erth studio. She is motivated by her many hours scuba diving to share the experience of the great depths of the ancient oceans.



Michael Cullen - Puppeteer

Whether it's as a *Warhorse*, a Doctor in *Home and Away*, or a Dino Wrangler, Michael aims to communicate with a transformative clarity and physicality. His work as an Artist and Facilitator has taken him all around Australia, Europe, East Timor and Brazil. Credits include feature & short film, TV series, commercials, theatre, puppetry and children's shows. Film and TV credits include the lead in the supernatural thriller "*TIMELESS*", due for release early 2016, lead in TV pilot "*D-List Dicks*", "*Tricky Business*", "*Underbelly-RAZOR*", "*Packed To The Rafters*", "*Home and Away*", "*Wrath*", "*Microstories*", "*Shelling Peas*. Theatre credits include *Macbeth*, *Taming Of The Shrew* (Sport For Jove Theatre), *Construction of The Human Heart*, *Closer*, (Apocalypse Theatre), *As You Like It*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Golden Ass*, and *The Young Tycoons*.