

A PUPPET SHOW BY TALIA PUA

**THE GIRL
WHOSE TWIN
WAS A
BIRD**

**STAND
PUZZLED**





Quick Facts

DURATION: 45 min + 30 min 'Meet, Greet & Eat'

AUDIENCE: All ages. Family friendly. Recommended for kids 5 yo+

CAPACITY: 50-65 pax p/performance

VENUES

Adaptable to non-traditional theatre spaces e.g. parks, community spaces, art centres

Small - medium sized indoor venues

TOUR READY

Travelling Party: 2 (1x performer, 1x stage manager)

All key set/prop elements can be packed into a car



ABOUT

It's the Grand Opening of Petra Quek's noodle stall, 'Flying Mee Hoon Kueh' and you're invited! Join Petra as she cooks her signature Mee Hoon Kueh, and shares the story of how it all started.

A coming of age story about twinhood told through puppetry, cooking and puppets who cook!

At the end of the show, audiences are invited to try some Mee Hoon Kueh



Mee Hoon Kueh

Mee Hoon Kueh is a Hokkien Chinese noodle dish from Malaysia or Singapore - depending on who you ask ;) The name literally translates as “wheat flour cake”, and refers to chewy hand-torn noodles served in a broth made from *ikan bilis* (dried anchovies).

As first generation Malaysian-Chinese growing up in Aotearoa, my mum would make this for us all the time. As a child, I remember sitting by my mum’s feet with my twin sister, playing with spare dough as she pulled noodles for dinner.



STORY

Jena and Petra are twin sisters and best friends who dream of owning their very own noodle restaurant - just like their Ah Kong's (Grandfather) famous 'Quek's Noodle Restoran'. Then one day, Jena starts to grow feathers, which is not a huge biggie. But when Jena develops a beak, wings, and penchant for watching the sky, Petra fears that their dream of opening a noodle shop is turning into a solo flight...



PLAYWRIGHT'S STATEMENT

The story is inspired by my experience growing up as a twin. Specifically focussing on the period in our relationship when we began to navigate adulthood as individuals rather than a pair. For me, I remember it was quite a scary process, like I was being left behind. I had to learn that despite our growing differences, we were still twins. And that letting go of my twin didn't mean I loved her any less.

The story brings together my love for cooking (and eating!), and is loosely inspired by my Ah Kong's (paternal grandfather) noodle factory on Malay Street in Klang, Malaysia. The show celebrates the storytelling power of food and how it brings people together. It throws homage to the strong and vibrant hawker stall culture in Malaysia.



Photo: Alyssa Miller

Timeline

2024

September - Te Hono: Connection with Playmarket;
Script Advisor - Rachel Callinan

October - November - Papermoon Puppet Theatre
Artist in Residence, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Puppetry Mentorship under Jon Coddington, CNZ
Early Career Fund

2025

May - Development Premiere at 'Downtown Days'
by Eke Panuku, Queen's Wharf, Auckland CBD

September - The Little Giant's Children's Festival,
Whangaarei, Quail Cafe

2026

Asian Ink Clinic - Directed by Miriam McDowell,
Dramaturgy by Rachel Callinan

April - Hand Pulled Collective's Taamaki School
Holiday Tour, Venues various

ABOUT ME

I am a theatre-maker, performer and set designer based in Tāmaki Makaurau, of Malaysian-Chinese heritage. In 2021, I co-founded independent theatre company, 'Hand Pulled Collective' alongside Natalya Mandich-Dohnt. Our kaupapa is to bring stories from our communities to the stage through visionary theatre.

In 2021, I made my directorial and playwrighting debut with 'Pork and Poll Taxes' - an epic tragedy following one Chinese family during the poll tax era in Aotearoa. 'Pork and Poll Taxes' was shortlisted for the Adam NZ Play Award (2022) and won the b425 Award (2023). 'The Girl whose Twin was a Bird' is my third play, first solo performance and my first puppet performance!

CREATIVE TEAM

Produced by Natalya Mandich-Dohnt (Hand Pulled Collective)

Directed by Miriama McDowell

Dramaturgy by Rachel Callinan

Puppetry Mentorship by Jon Coddington

Music and Sound by Harmony Hogarth

Stage Management and Operation by Tema Pua

Graphic Design by Alyssa Miller



Photo: Alyssa Miller



WATCH

Check out the full performance here:
<https://youtu.be/hzc207xn--o>



Photo: Alyssa Miller

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