Join us as we explore the potential of play in the urban context.

We have an exciting national line up of speakers whose pioneering work in urban play, wellbeing, creativity and cultural practice will inspire you to think differently about the possibilities of play as a positive individual and social resource.

**PROGRAM**

**SESSION 1: URBAN PLAY, CREATIVITY AND WELLBEING**
Room: Theatrette 1A21

David Caffery, Director, Dionysus, Canberra
9.45 – 10.30am

Robert Reid, Artistic Director, Pop Up Playground, Melbourne
10.30 – 11.15am

Dr Mark Seton, Creative Director, Sense Connexion, Sydney
11.30 – 12.15pm

Jean-Paul Bell, Creative Director, Arts Health Institute, Sydney
12.15 – 1.00pm

**WORKSHOP: CANBERRA – A PLAYFUL CITY?**
Room: 1AHUB

Facilitators: Associate Professor Jordan Williams and Dr Cathy Hope, Faculty of Arts and Design, University of Canberra
1.30 – 2.30pm

**SESSION 2: PLAY, URBAN DESIGN AND WELLBEING**
Room: Theatrette 1A21

Christopher Saunders, General Manager, Renew Newcastle, Newcastle
2.45 – 3.30pm

Dr Kate Bishop, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Built Environment, UNSW, Sydney
3.30 – 4.15pm

Gregor Mews, Urban Synergies Group
4.30 – 5.15pm

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www.playsymposium.eventbrite.com.au
SESSION 1: URBAN PLAY, CREATIVITY AND WELLBEING
Room: Theatrette 1A21

David Caffery
Director, Dionysus, Canberra
9.45 – 10.30am

With a background in arts event management, programming and cultural philosophy, David founded Dionysus to support Canberra’s cultural development after four years as Molonglo Group’s Events and Cultural Coordinator. He coordinates NewActon’s Cultural Program, started the ACT Music Awards, curates ensembles and visual productions for his events, and has produced Art, Not Apart Festival from inception. Most recently, David’s role in MusicACT helped to deliver a whole-of-government strategy for policy to support a vibrant musical capital, designed a $340k activation grant program for Canberra CBD and is a founding director of Australian Dance Party, a Canberra contemporary dance company. He is the lead event manager of the 20th Canberra International Film Festival and passionate about connecting these practices to strong cultural theory.

Robert Reid
Artistic Director, Pop Up Playground, Melbourne
10.30 – 11.15am

Robert Reid is a freelance playwright, director, game designer and academic. He is Artistic Director of the Australian live games company, Pop Up Playground. With Pop Up Playground he directed the Fresh Air International Games festival at Federation Square for three years and has created games for the White Night Festival, the State Library of Victoria, The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Bell Shakespeare, Melbourne Comedy Festival with Claire Hooper, VicHealth and the City of Melbourne. He was also Experience Director for Pop Up Playground’s newest fully immersive live game, Small Time Criminals. Pop Up Playground’s work has been presented at w00t festival in Copenhagen and Come Out and Play in New York.

Dr Mark Seton
Creative Director, Sense Connexion, Sydney
11.30 – 12.15pm

Dr Mark Seton is an Honorary Research Associate (Department of Theatre and Performance Studies) at The University of Sydney. Mark is Creative Director of Sense Connexion, which he established to inspire savvy resilience in actors and other professionals whose giftedness for empathy and sensitivity is crucial to their effectiveness and success. Many such professionals are prone to compassion fatigue, burnout and even vicarious trauma. Over many years of research and experimentation, Dr Seton has developed a practical training program designed as a preventative tool to minimise such inevitable impacts. He is a certified practitioner and trainer in InterPlay and one of the founding members of the Australian Society for Performing Arts Healthcare (ASPAH).
Jean-Paul Bell has been described as one of Australia’s great “Humour-manitarian”. As the Creative Director of the Arts Health Institute he supervises over 70 artists in a number of programs including the highly successful Play Up program, a playful therapy for elderly people living with dementia. Since co-founding the Humour Foundation and creating their Clown Doctor Program in 1996, Jean-Paul published a book in 2010, Laughter is the Best Medicine, which chronicles the experiences of a number of Clown Doctors as they do their rounds at children’s hospitals around Australia. Jean-Paul’s performing background crosses many disciplines including theatre, cabaret, stand-up comedy, film and television. His mission in this life is to leave the world laughing in his wake proving his equation: Humans+Humour=Humanity.

**WORKSHOP: CANBERRA – A PLAYFUL CITY?**
Room: 1AHUB

**Facilitators: Associate Professor Jordan Williams and Dr Cathy Hope**
Faculty of Arts and Design, University of Canberra
1.30 – 2.30pm

Dr Jordan Williams works as a teacher and researcher in the Faculty of Arts and Design at the University of Canberra. She is an advocate for play as a creative mode in education and in health and wellbeing settings. Jordan works with Defence personnel who have been wounded, injured or become ill whilst in service, teaching creative writing in the Defence Arts for Recovery Resilience Teamwork and Skills (ARRTS) Initiative.

Cathy lectures in Communication at the University of Canberra and holds multiple roles for the enhancement of access, engagement and the student experience in higher education. She has written extensively on Australian Film Festivals, farmers’ markets and Australian youth radio station Triple J, and also freelanced for Rolling Stone, The Canberra Review and other national media. Play – as engagement, education, creative practice, resilience and disruption – is at the core of Cathy’s teaching, writing and research.
SESSION 2: PLAY, URBAN DESIGN AND WELLBEING
Room: Theatrette 1A21

Christopher Saunders
General Manager, Renew Newcastle
Newcastle
2.45 – 3.30pm

Christopher Saunders has worked as a social change initiator for over 20 years. Christopher has worked with Renew Newcastle for over four years enabling creative enterprises to flourish and bring life back to a desolate cityscape whilst at the same time informing urban development decision-making. His work with public housing tenants in the infamous Northcott Building in Surry Hills Sydney is widely recognized. Here he produced the site-specific performance event StickybrickS for the 2006 Sydney Festival as well as the ABC TV documentary 900 Neighbours. He was instrumental in facilitating the World Health Organisation’s Accreditation for Northcott as a Safe Community in 2007 – the first international recognition of its kind for a public housing precinct.

Dr Kate Bishop
Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Built Environment, UNSW, Sydney
3.30 – 4.15pm

Dr Kate Bishop is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Built Environment, NSW. She is currently the Director of the Built Environment Interdisciplinary Learning (BEIL) program and Co-convenor of the People and Place research cluster. She is also a member of the University’s Women In Research Network (WiRN) Committee. Her principal area of design and research interest is children, youth and environments. She has extensive experience as a design consultant with a particular interest in environments for children with special needs; the design of paediatric and adolescent health care facilities; and participatory methodologies in design and research with children and young people.

Gregor Mews
Urban Synergies Group
4.30 – 5.15pm

Gregor Mews is an urban planner/designer working as the Founding Director for Urban Synergies Group – an international ‘think and do’ tank that provides services in the space of health and well-being in urban systems. Prior to this he was Head of Public Relations and Project Development for SIK-Holz® in Germany – the international segment market leader in sustainable play space design. During his previous appointment as Active Living Coordinator with the Australian National Heart Foundation in Canberra, Australia, he has been advocating for a shift towards better health and well-being outcomes in built environments. Greg holds an honorary adjunct position at the Centre for Research and Action in Public Health at the University of Canberra.