



SILK TENT THEATRE COMPANY

Education through the arts

Invitation to become a Patron of *Girl with no Words* DVD

The Silk Tent Theatre Company is delighted to offer you an opportunity to be part of their new film project; producing a DVD version of their successful theatre work *Girl with no Words - listening to the language of cutting*.

The History

Silk Tent Theatre Company's first project was *Girl with no Words*; a story of self-injury that looks at the impact of mental distress on all our lives. The story was written for theatre and performed as a multi-media piece; a retrospective story about a teenager who self-harms, enacted on stage with words, images, music and documentary sequences. It explores how we as humans, as professionals and as communities respond to those in mental distress. It is an opportunity for those with an interest in people, healthcare, arts and their community to be part of this educative piece.

Girl with no Words theatre production premiered at the Royal New Zealand College of GPs conference in Wellington on 9th September 2009. This was followed by a tour of Wanaka, Auckland, Queenstown and Clyde in the same year. During May this year we held a further performance in Wanaka and two public performances in Wellington. There are plans for performances in Christchurch and Dunedin in 2011.

Mind-expanding and spirit-lifting [Theatreview of Girl with no Words in Wellington](#)

Theatre is powerful but not cost effective and can be limiting in terms of audience numbers. We have been encouraged by people who have seen the theatre production to produce a DVD of *Girl with no Words* in order for the message to be distributed to a wider audience. In fact, many who have seen the theatre production ask for a DVD to show to their own communities.

I was inexpressibly moved by your [Girl with no Words] production and I am in complete awe of your collective courage, creativity, honesty and deep compassion. I scarcely know how to express my admiration for your work except to beg you to make a recording of this production so that it not be lost as a precious treasure.

*[Dr Robin Youngson, Anaesthetic Specialist, Waitakere Hospital,
Founder for Centre for Compassion in Healthcare](#)*

We now seek donations to assist with the production of the high-quality DVD of *Girl with no Words*.

The Project

Our mission for this project is to produce a high-quality film, based on the theatre production of *Girl with no Words*, which is accessible to our target market. The film is to educate and entertain people. To encourage compassion. To encourage people to think about their response to others, particularly those who are suffering.

Film will allow this educative piece to be more accessible and available to a far wider audience from support networks to communities, from families to the general public.

We need to re-develop the script for film and have sourced professional help for the production, filming and direction of the film, to ensure this project does happen. We have worked through strategic, marketing and funding plans and compiled a draft budget. Now, we are currently sourcing funds.

The Organisation

The Silk Tent Company was formed in May 2008 and comprised of three Wanaka women. Since forming, the group has grown in membership, become incorporated and Silk Tent Theatre Company is now a not-for-profit, registered charity (CC39670) whose primary objective is education for the benefit of members of the New Zealand community. Members of the Society consist of adult community members interested in the aims of the organisation.

The three original group members are now the officers: Lucy O'Hagan, a local General Practitioner with an academic interest in the philosophy and ethics of medicine; Lizzi Yates, a prize-winning visual artist with a current focus to create images which may increase our understanding of the coping mechanisms we use to alleviate suffering; and Gilly Pugh, a full time performing arts practitioner and musician. These key people have volunteered their time, researching extensively, since the groups' inception.

For the film project the three officers are joined by three other committee members who each bring their own skills and strengths; John Schwarz, an actor for over two decades (actor); Caroline Harker, an experienced documentary maker (Director) and Katy Macpherson an experienced project manager (Production Manager). In addition, the group are working closely with a local film producer, Piers Faircloth-Harding from Switchstyle Productions, who has worked on TV shows and various other productions.

The Finances

With a forecasted budget of \$100,000, the financial aim of this DVD project is to break even. We have some finances on hand to kick start the project and plan to raise the balance of the funds through donations, sponsorship and applications to major grants and Trusts. Once the DVD is produced, sale price will be kept to a minimum, to cover our costs yet ensure accessibility. Any profits that are generated will be used to further advance the aims of the organisation.

The Marketing

The target market for the DVD is widespread and falls into two main groups. Firstly, healthcare professionals and their support networks, school teachers, student teachers and students. Secondly, consumers: people that self-harm, their families and friends, those with wider mental health issues, their families, and the general public.

A marketing plan is in place targeting a variety of media throughout New Zealand. Promotion will be directed through media releases (for print, broadcast and radio), websites, conferences, seminars and of course, after theatre performances. We plan to also promote through national organisations and community groups.

Your Donation

When you become a Patron of this project you are encouraging compassion within our communities. Patrons are very gratefully acknowledged on the website, DVD cover and on the film credits. Donations of \$1000 are welcome from any individual, organisation or company interested in supporting education through the arts.

Donations can be made via cheque to *Silk Tent Theatre Company* and posted to 29 Aeolus Place, Wanaka, 9305 or by online banking to 02-0673-0098719-000. Please add your name and telephone number as references. A receipt will be provided.



Thank you for taking the time to read this invitation and we look forward to working with you to bring this worthwhile project to fruition.

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