

MATRIARK THEATRE PRESENT...

# URZA AND THE SONG IN THE DARK



## About the show...

*A girl free-falls through filtered light; A barefoot child slips silently between stalagmites evading a shadowy beast; A legendary explorer searches for a lost song.*

Urza and The Song in the Dark is a children's fable set in a subterranean wonderland of complex caves, underground lakes and fantastical creatures. Using a live score of original songs with stunningly layered, shadow visuals, Matriark builds a vibrant world through shadow and light while telling a story gently invites young audiences to ask: who is entitled to a safe space? Where is home? Who have I shut out?

A mysterious song leads a young girl named Urza on an adventure to find her way back to the surface. Along the way she befriends a lost explorer, gets pursued by a mysterious, dark force and finds herself caught up in a primeval story of mythical proportions.

Devised for children of all ages, Urza and The Song in the Dark will be presented intimately in venues across City of Sydney before touring in 2019/2020.

## About Matriark Theatre...

*Matriark Theatre builds worlds made of stories in intimate spaces. We create original theatre works that draw together diverse audiences through shared visual-storytelling experiences.*

Matriark Theatre is made up of core artists Scott Parker, Kathryn Parker, Aleisa Jelbart, Nicholas O'Regan & Robert den Engelsman. Hailing from backgrounds in design, classical music, puppetry, mask and physical comedy, Matriark exists to create new theatrical works for families blending whimsical puppetry and glorious visuals together with folk tales and physical theatre. The company is committed to connecting diverse audiences with the arts, improving participation and accessibility by working with communities, schools and regional arts centres to develop, premiere and present new works.

## Reviews of Previous Work

*"You don't often get to experience magic in theatre nowadays... humble and unpretentious and tender and offbeat"*  
**SYOP Sydney, Halfworld 2014**

*"What the hell was that?! It was really really good but what in the name of all the Gods was it?... It was brilliant, funny, emotional, experiential physical theatre beyond definition."*  
**The Sydney Arts Guide, GodFace 2014**

*"A remarkably ambitious production by an exciting young theatre company..."*  
**The Music, GodFace 2015**

*"This production shines in the lively rigour demanded of its performers... The puppetry work is very impressive - exquisitely designed and expertly manipulated by the performers... it is not very common to see such work on the stage anymore."*  
**Upstaged Reviews, GodFace 2015**

**Produced and toured by:** Matriark Theatre Inc.

[www.matriarktheatre.com](http://www.matriarktheatre.com)

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# URZA AND THE SONG IN THE DARK

## Touring Requirements

**Space:** Very flexible - end-on seating or non traditional theatre spaces.  
**Set dimensions:** 5m x 4m (with flexibility for smaller stages)  
**Bump-in:** 2 hrs  
**Bump-out:** 2 hrs  
**Tour Party:** 5 pp  
**Performers:** 4 pp

## Programming

1 Day (bump-in & 1 shows)  
2 Days (bump in & 2-4 shows)  
3 Days (bump in & 4-6 shows)

## Appeal/Selling Points

### Perfect for school holidays

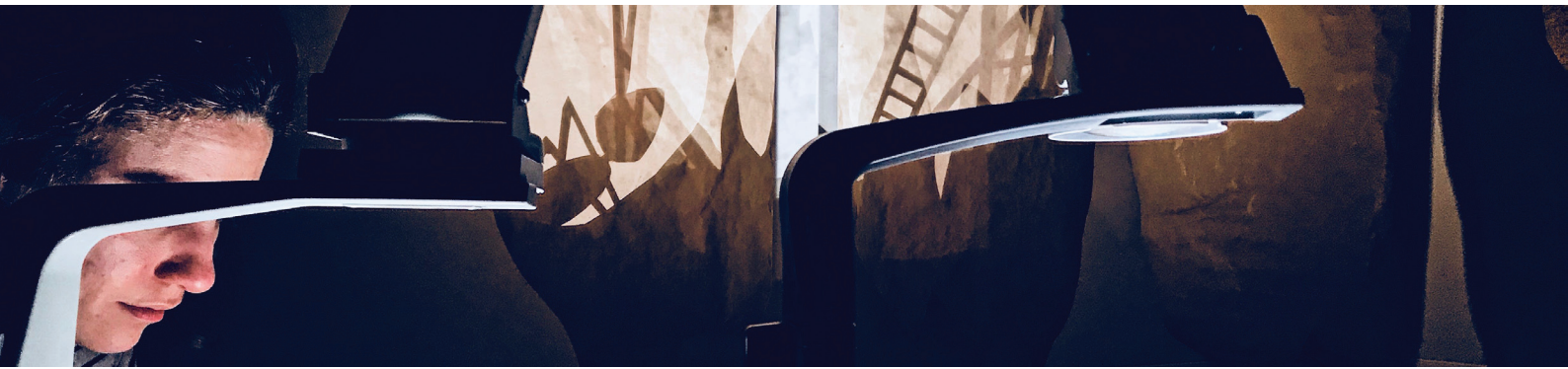
Urza is fast paced and visual so it's a perfect activity for children during their school break. A great day trip for holiday-care groups and parents looking for a meaningful holiday experience.

### Female Protagonist

Urza is a strong willed, adventurous and intelligent protagonist wrapped up in a story of mythic proportions. Parents of young girls will find a unique role model in Urza.

### Inclusive

With minimal dialogue, beautiful live songs and score and magical shadow puppetry Urza is totally accessible and inclusive of audiences from culturally diverse backgrounds and those with disabilities.



## Add Ons...

For Primary & Secondary School Students:

### Shadow Puppetry (120 minute workshop minimum, maximum 20 students)

Learn Matriark's unique approach to shadow puppetry, combining physical performance and shadow play to bring to life a world of your own creation. Matriark will provide projectors and materials, in this hands on exploration based on the work in Rat Symphony. A perfect companion to the show.

### Commedia dell'Arte workshops (90 minute workshop - time flexible, maximum 70 students)

Scott and Nick are trained Commedia experts having mastered the form through extensive training and performance. This workshop brings the duo to primary and secondary aged students who will have a chance to learn the basic Commedia stock character from the servants, the masters or the lovers whilst being taught some common lazzi (comic action) associated with them. At the end of the workshop students will perform for their peers in short improvisations using all the skills they've learned.

For Adults:

### The Shadow Puppet and the Ensemble Workshop (Full day workshop, maximum 12 students)

Work with Matriark to explore the relationship between puppet and ensemble - spend the morning constructing shadow puppets, and the afternoon bringing them to life in story with the ensemble. A really unique experience!

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# URZA AND THE SONG IN THE DARK

## Marketing Assets

### Existing assets include:

Hardcopy + digital show resources  
Images  
Promotional videos (available upon request)

### Online content platform

Online Resources.  
Sections of the show delivered via film

## Lighting (if in equipped performance venue)

### Overview: LX pre-rig required:

Generic LX Plans available. Venue specific lighting plans will be available 1 month prior to booking. Urza and the Song in the Dark flexibly fits into any venue and can work with a simple floating rig in spaces without

Positions	3 x above stage lighting bars
Fixtures	TBC
Dimmers	2.4Kw dimmers
Dimmer Distribution	TBC
Lighting Desk	Cues input into venue console

## Sound

**Overview:** The show audio consists of; live music from one on-stage musician playing synthesizer and violin as well as playback from QLAB

Desk	1 x 24 channel analogue/ digital console
Source	Playback for the show is provided by Macintosh laptop with external soundcard running Q-lab (provided by Matriark Theatre).  2 x mics positioned near musician  2 x inputs from musician
Speakers	TBC

### Matriark to Provide

- Macintosh laptop with external soundcard running Qlab (provided by Brink).
- All instruments and live performance equipment for musician

### Presenter to provide:

- Complete sound system as specified above.
- Mics and pickups TBC

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