

JESSICA GABRIEL
PUPPETEER / CLOWN / ART MODEL
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Jessica Gabriel is a queer, multidisciplinary artist from the Sunshine Coast BC, currently based in Vancouver BC on the unceded, stolen and occupied territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. Since 2003 she is co-artistic director, creator and performer with Mind of a Snail Puppet Co., and is also a founding member of The Assembly: an intersectional feminist collective of self-identifying clowns. Jessica is a professional art model at many university classrooms in the Lower Mainland, and she performs experimental music/found sounds under the name "tay_ploops" (pronounced tape loops).

Selected Theatre Experience / Awards:

Shadow Theatre with Mind of a Snail Puppet Co. : 2003 - ongoing
www.mindofasnail.org

All Mind of a Snail's projects are collaborations between Chloe Ziner & Jessica Gabriel.
Jessica is Co-Creator, Co-Director, Collaborator, Designer, Puppet Builder, Puppeteer, and Performer in all of the following original Mind of a Snail productions:

Large scale Shadow Theatre: (in person)

"**Improv in Five Dimensions**" hybrid show with international remote performers
-Presented at inaugural IN/ON/OUT Festival, Winnipeg, MB 2022
-Presented at Vancouver Improv Festival, Vancouver B.C. 2021

"**Multiple Organism**" (2017): *A surrealist gender-bending comedy about having a body.*
-Presented at **WILDSIDE** Festival at Centaur Theatre, Montreal, QB 2020
-Presented at **The Cultch** as part of their '18-'19 season, Vancouver B.C. 2019
-Presented at **LIVING THINGS** Festival, Kelowna B.C. 2018
-Presented at **Artswells** Festival, Wells B.C. 2018
-**Winner** Best English Production, Patron's Pick at Montreal Fringe 2019
-**Winner** Jessie Richardson Critic's Choice Innovation Award 2018
-**Winner** Edgy As F--- Award at Orlando Fringe 2018
-**Winner** Critic's Pick, Artistic Risk Award & Pick of the Fringe at Vancouver Fringe 2017
-**Winner** Cultch-ivating the Fringe Award 2017

"**Curious Contagious**" : *A dark comedy about viruses in the body of a unicorn.*
-Presenté à **FIAMS** (Festival International des Arts de la Marionette à Saguenay) 2017
-Awarded "**most daring show**" for innovation and risk at London Fringe 2016
-**Winner** "Patron's Pick" at Toronto Fringe & "Pick of the Fringe" at Vancouver Fringe 2016

“Caws & Effect” : *A modern fable about magical crows.*

- Presented at **Puppeteers of America National Festival**, Minneapolis MN 2019
- Presented at **TIFA** (Taiwan International Festival of Arts)(bilingual version)Taipei 2017
- Presented at **LIVING THINGS** Puppetry Festival, UBCO Kelowna BC 2017
- Presented at **(S)hiver Arts Festival**, KIAC, Dawson City, Yukon 2017
- Presented by **Haida Gawaii Arts Council**, Masset, Queen Charlotte, BC 2016
- Presenté à **Casteliers** Festival International des Marionnettes,(bilingual) Montreal 2016
- Presented at **rEvolver** Festival, UpintheAir Theatre, Vancouver BC 2015
- Presented at **Puppets For Peace** International Puppet Festival, Victoria, BC 2014
- Winner** “Best of Fest” in seven Canadian fringe festivals: Winnipeg (2014), Edmonton (2014), Vancouver (2014), London (2015), Toronto (2015), Saskatoon (2016), Orlando (2017).

“Inside Outlet” : *Object based puppetry. Will the fork ever find it’s true love?*

- Presented at **VIP** (Vancouver International Puppet Festival), Vancouver, BC 2016
- Presented at **Tiny Lights Festival**, Ymir, BC 2013
- Presented at **ArtsWells** Festival, Wells, BC 2013
- Presented at **Flagstop** Festival, Alta Lake, Whistler, BC 2013
- Presented at **Elevate the Arts**, Courtenay, BC 2013

“Against Gravity” : *“Gravity Oppresses us All!”*

- Presented as part of the National Series at **Summerworks** Festival in Toronto 2014
- Presented at **Winterlab**, Intrepid Theatre, Victoria, BC 2014
- Winner** of the **Joanna Marratta Award** at Vancouver Fringe 2012
- Presented at **Astral Harvest**, Driftpile, Alberta 2012

“Plasticity Now” : *The spirit of plastic has a message for us.*

- Presented at **Puppet-o-rama!** Regional Puppet Festival, Seattle University, Wash 2012
- Presented at **Contemporary Art Gallery**, North Vancouver 2012
- Presented at Vancouver International Fringe Festival, Waterfront Theatre, Vancouver 2007

Selected Online Work- Interactive Live Streaming, Virtual Live Theatre:

“Shadowjam!” Self Produced Live Stream 2020-21
 Improvised puppetry and music every Sunday on Twitch [twitch.tv/mindofasnail](https://www.twitch.tv/mindofasnail)

“Project-a-Sketch” Interactive Live Stream 2021
 Presented by the Toronto Fringe Primetime Festival

“A Light Touch” Self Produced Live Stream with customized healings for special guests

- Debuted at UpintheAir Theatre’s **e-Volver Festival**, Vancouver B.C. 2020
- Presented at **FIS - International Shadow Festival**, Sao Paulo Brazil 2020
- Presented at **Winnipeg Fringe** Virtually Yours, Winnipeg MB 2020

“Breakfast for Dinner” Live Streamed performance piece
 Created for the **Red Pearl Clown Festival**, Helsinki, Finland 2021

“Lantern Dance Parade” Interactive Live Stream Dance Party
Created for the **Secret Lantern Festival** Winter Solstice , Vancouver, BC 2021-22

Teaching, Workshop Facilitation & Dramaturgy:

Workshop: “No Strings Attached” storytelling and puppetry design 2022
for **Real Wheels Theatre Society**, Peace Centre, Vancouver B.C.

Workshop: “Telling it Bent” approaches to “queering” theatre for **frank theatre co.** 2022

“Something in the Water” Dramaturg, Puppetry Director for **Scantilly Glad Theatre** 2021
Winner of the Best Theatre Award at Adelaide Fringe 2021

Workshop: Making LIVE Performance Online Live Streaming Inspiration and Tech 2020-21
Offered for ArtsUnite National Launch (Toronto), Puppeteers of Puget Sound, Fringe Town Hall (Edmonton), MainLine Theatre (Montreal)

“Kitt & Jane” SNAFU Dance Theatre Puppetry Coach/Consultant 2018

Selected Film and Video:

“Nimih̓towin Askihk” by Jeanette Kotowitch for NAC Indigenous Theatre *Dancing the Land*
Collaboration, Projection Design 2021

“3 Clowns” Self produced art film 2020
Theatre Under the Gun (Virtual Edition) with *Monster Theatre/Woe Horsey*

“Days of Reflection” Long form collaborative film collaboration 2020
The Relay (Episode 6) for *The Cultch Digital Storytelling Series*

“The Call” Self produced puppet short for the *Edmonton Fringe Revue* 2020

“Inside Outlet” Self produced puppet film for *Toronto Fringe Collective* 2020

Projection/ Visuals/ Media Design :

Pia Massie & Minah Lee “Time Traveller’s Testimony” a digital exhibition using old archival interviews from activists at Clayoquot Sound remixed into immersive visual environments, 2022.

Leah Abramson “Songs for a Lost Pod” visuals to accompany her 5 piece band and full choir, live performances at *Music on Main, SFU Goldcorp Centre, Vancouver B.C. May 2022.*

Annie Sumi & Brian Kobayakawa “Tanuki” part of their interactive art installation at the *Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, Toronto, ON, May-Oct 2022.*

UpintheAir Theatre, “**A Brief History of Human Extinction**” with writer Jordan Hall.
This was premiered in the fall of 2018 at The Cultch Historic Theatre, Vancouver B.C.

Lisa Cay Miller / the NOW Society *Improvvised Visuals for Live Musicians*
“**Bugs and Beyond**” at the Roundhouse, Vancouver BC, 2019
“**Rippled Modality**” at Pyatt Hall, Vancouver BC, 2014

Persephone Theatre’s remount of “**Matchstick**” written by Nathan Howe directed by Kristen Holfeuer. *This production was nominated for **Outstanding Projection Design** at the SATAwards in Saskatoon 2015. The show was also presented by GCTC (Great Canadian Theatre Company) in Ottawa 2016.*

CHURCHpresents / Hannah Epperson : *Live visuals to accompany musicians in a performance series at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver BC, 2012 - 2013.*

STRING FLING II FOUR on the Floor : *Live handmade visuals to accompany musicians for performances at the Rio Theatre, 2014.*

Commissioned Works:

“**The Nose Knows**” : Commissioned by **Telus World of Science** 2016
What does the nose know and how does it smell?
Accompanied the Micro Zoom WinterLab Exhibit, performed in the Science Theatre.

“**Rosehips & Pawprints**” 2015
“**Tea with Chickadee**” 2014

Commissioned by **VanDusen Gardens and the City of Vancouver**
Seasonal adventures inside the winter garden. Performed at Van Dusen Festival of Lights.

“**The Whale’s Back**” : Commissioned by the **Pacific Rim Whale Festival** 2012
An educational shadow show about gray whales.
Performed at the Ucluelet Community Hall & Tofino Community Hall(2012), Saltwater Waldorf School in Courtenay(2012), Mulgrave School in West Vancouver(2012), Surrey Arts Centre Family Day(2012), Gulf Islands Shadow Festival, Mayne and Galiano Islands(2013), Navigate Fine Arts School(2013), Sechelt Arts Centre(2013), Summer Arts in Sunrise Park(2013), Richmond Children’s Arts Festival(2015), Roberts Creek Hall Family Literacy Day(2017), Saskatoon Libraries tour(2017), Vancouver Maritime Museum (2018).

“**Ursa’s Imaginings**” & “**Wet Coast Winter’s Eve**” 2009-2011
Commissioned by **Secret Lantern Society** for Winter Solstice Festival, Vancouver BC

“**Maiden Mother Crone**” Commissioned by **Asian New Moon Festival Society** 2006-09
“**How the Moon got it’s face**”, *New Moon Asian Festival, Gibsons BC, Sept* 2009
“**Dragon Swallows Moon**” *New Moon Asian Festival, Gibsons BC, Sept* 2008
“**Dear Child of Many Worlds**” *New Moon Asian Festival, Gibsons BC, Sept* 2007

Mentorship/ Facilitation (in person) :

-Shadow Puppetry Introduction, UQAM masters students, Montreal QB	2020
-Intro to Shadows Puppetry for Adults, Pacific NorthWest Puppetry Center, Seattle WA	2019
-Shadow Theatre for Adults, Winnipeg Puppetry Collective, Winnipeg	2018
-Puppetry For Theatre Makers, adult workshop at Vancouver Fringe	2017
-Youth Performance Workshops, Renfrew Ravine Moon Festival, Still Moon Arts	2012-2017
-Shadow Theatre Drama Classes, St. Johns Academy, Vancouver BC	2012-2017
-Shadow Puppetry + Performances, Sunshine Coast Alternative School	2004-2015
-Shadow Puppetry + Performances, Artstarts in Schools Gulf Islands Tour	2014
-Shadow Puppetry Workshops, Navigate Fine Arts School, Courtenay BC	2013
-Shadow Workshops Weekend Intensive, A-Muse Circus Troupe, Golden BC	2013
-Puppet Manipulation Workshop, Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret, Vancouver BC	2010
-Shadow Puppetry Workshop Series, Naturally Autistic ANCA, Vancouver BC	2006
-Puppetry Workshop (en français), Ecole du Pacifique, Sechelt BC	2005
-Mask making Workshop, Council of All Beings, Roberts Creek BC	2005
-Puppet Club, sock puppet series, Sunshine Coast Regional District, Gibsons BC	2005
-Puppet Workshop, Summer Reading Program, Madeira Park BC	2004
-Puppet Village, Camp Experience your Dreams, Roberts Creek BC	2004

Shadowjam! *A free community improvised storytelling ritual with puppet-making, shadows and sound-making facilitated by Mind of a Snail: in hundreds of living rooms and backyards*
2003-present

Selected events:

Virtual Shadowjam on Twitch , weekly interactive live stream on Twitch	2020-2022
Virtual Shadowjam, E_Stir Edition , online shadowjam experiment, Facebook Live	2020
UBC Orchard Garden , Vancouver BC,	2013
Puppet-o-rama Festival , Seattle, Washington,	2010
Puppet Rampage Festival , St. Paul, Minnesota	2008
Puppet Power Conference , Calgary, AB	2007
Intention Retreat Shadowjam Workshop , Squamish/Sunshine Coast BC	2006-07

Residencies :

- The Giving Shapes: devising miniatures to animate a musical concept album	2020-2021
- Theatre de la Pire Espèce , two week residency, Presentation House, Vancouver, BC	2020
- Kaoshiung Shadow Puppetry Museum , two week mentorship in Taiwan	2019
- TJ Dawe , two week skills share, PTC Test Kitchen	2019
- Boca Del Lupo FishBowl , one week space residency	2018
- Boca Del Lupo Anderson Street , two week space residency	2017

Site Specific Installations : *Mind of a Snail* designed, created, installed, facilitated and performed shadow puppetry in unconventional locations :

Vancouver Art Gallery Family FUSE, Vancouver B.C.

- ~“**Forest for the Trees**” based on the paintings of Emily Carr 2014
- ~“**Welcome to Projectorland**” based on the CO-MIX works of Art Speigelman 2013
- ~“**Look Both Ways**” based on the Conceptual photographic works of Ian Wallace 2012

Illuminaires Public Dreams Outdoor Festival, Trout Lake Vancouver B.C. 2012

Designed and created a giant projection screen for use outside in the park.

*Titled “**Mind of a Face**”, the installation functioned visually from all angles both before and after sunset with live shadow projections at night.*

TREMORS Festival with The Dusty FlowerPot 2010

*Created a “micro theatre” puppet show “**Cheese House in the Sky**” on the theme of homelessness and displacement performed in the basement of the Cultch for audiences of 8 to 10 people. Performed as part of “**Soon this Space Will be Too Small**”.*

Collaborations :

With **THE ASSEMBLY** assemblytheatre.wordpress.com 2014 - 2019

Creating full-length physical theatre ensemble performances with a group of feisty, sensitive, intersectional feminist clowns. Performances at the Russian Hall, Chapel Arts, Ukranian Hall, Revue Stage, Vancouver BC.

With **Critical Mask Theatre / Clea Minaker** 2009

“**These Walls are Paper Thin**” at Little Mountain Studios, Vancouver BC

Created a devised theatre production integrating masked players with live shadow puppetry and live musicians.

With **Dusty FlowerPot Cabaret** : *Created shadow scenes integrated inside a large scale community theatre production :*

“**Valley of the Ashes**” The Ukranian Hall, Vancouver, BC 2008

“**The Listening Jar**” The Russian Hall, Vancouver, BC 2009

“**Hardtimes Hit Parade**” The Russian Hall, Vancouver, BC 2011

With **In the House Festival / SwallowTail** 2011

“**Down the Rabbit Hole**” Pop up Restaurant, Burnaby Lake, Vancouver BC

Created Alice in Wonderland Themed performances using shadow puppetry, object manipulation, and hand puppetry to entertain dinner theatre guests.

With **Playmore Theatre** :

“**emerge in Sea (dot) calm**” WalkingFish Festival, Waterfront Theatre, 2008

“**The Church of Pointless Consumerism**” 2007
Performance Works, Vancouver, BC

With **Mythmaker, New Myth Seeds:**

“The Galactic Fairy Tale”/ “Dream of a Tree”. Roberts Creek Hall, Sunshine Coast 2005
As part of the Community Creation and Collaboration Canada Council Grant.

Art/Life Modelling Experience:

Shadbolt Centre , Drawing Group, Burnaby BC	2015 - ongoing
Langara College painting and drawing classes, Vancouver BC	2008 - ongoing
Emily Carr Institute painting and drawing classes, Vancouver BC	2008 - ongoing
Jericho Drawing Group, Vancouver, BC	2017 - ongoing
Maiwa textile art class, Granville Island, BC	2016 - 2020
Richmond Painter’s Guild , Minarou Centre, Richmond BC	2014 - ongoing
The Art Institute/ La Salle College Vancouver, BC	2012 - ongoing
The Think Tank Vancouver, BC	2011-13
Maplewood House North Vancouver BC	2011-13
Blim costumed poses, Vancouver BC	2008-13
Sunshine Coast Arts Centre women’s painting group in Sechelt BC	2003-06
Artesia Gallery life drawing classes in Lower Gibsons, BC	2004-06
Mary-Jean Brown Studio draped model for art classes in Gibsons, BC	2003-05

tay_ploops pronounced (tape loops) : *live sound collage performance concerts & net releases*

Jefferson Park Experimental Chicago	2020-2021
dish of orcas 20x20Project UK	2020
Fake Jazz The Toast Collective Vancouver BC	2019
spool oops pan y rosas discos	2018
ArtsWells Festival Wells BC	2018
Hidden City Records Vancouver	2017
MOOT Studio Vancouver	2016

Education:

I Am One Who/Grotowski with Raina Von Waldenburg	2017-2020
Bouffon Intensive with Nathaniel Justiniano of Naked Empire Bouffon	2018
Expressive Mask with Frank Rader & Axis Theatre, Vancouver, BC	2017
Naked Theatre Intensive with Deanna Fleysler, Vancouver, BC	2015-2019
Action Theatre Intensive improvisation & presence with Ruth Zaporah	2014
Fantastic Space Enterprises , Deep Clown with David MacMurray-Smith	2005-2007
Puppetry Mentorship with Hoi Chiu (Hong Kong)	2004-2005
Permaculture Design Certificate , Australian Correspondence School	2003
Exchange program L’École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-arts, Paris, France	2001
Bachelor of Fine Arts major in painting, U.B.C.	1999-2002