

## Carl Polke

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Carl Polke is an Australian award-winning composer, sound-designer and multi-instrumentalist whose work is known for its animated style and theatrical sensibility.

His work in the live theatre and contemporary circus is well recognized, having received both Helpmann award nominations and a Canadian *Jessie* award. Carl's work as musical director of Circus Oz for many years has been lauded at both national and international level, and he has created sound designs, compositions and performed with many of Australia's leading companies including Legs on the Wall, Phunktional, NICA, Melbourne Youth Orchestra.

Carl's current performative practice involves free improvisation utilising digital audio effects with alto saxophone, interrogating the relationship between society/the individual and the digital realm. It has featured both as solo presentation for the 2020 Australasian Computer Music Conference and in his duo *The Confabulations*, which performs regularly in the local improvised music scene

His website based interactive project *The Endless Guitar Solo* received funding from the 2020 City of Melbourne Quick Response Arts grant. As co-artist with Ania Reynolds he created the audio/visual sound-art presentations *Rad.I.Us 5K*, and the Peggy Glanville-Hicks Commissioned *Audible Lockdown* project, an audio-visual representation of Melbourne during the 2020 lockdown. This piece received an Honorable Mention as a semi-finalist in the Prague International Indie Film Festival, and won the **Best Short Film Award** at the **2021 Experimental, Dance and Music Film Festival (Toronto, Canada)**. As part of the ongoing development of this project, they have just completed a remote artist residency program with the **Centre Culturel d'Ambronay**, France, as part of the **Odyssée Programme International de Résidences d'Artistes**.

Carl maintains an ongoing industry involvement, playing music in the local live scene, is the current conductor of Squawkestra community orchestra, and has been MEAA Musicians Australia Victorian President.

Audible Lockdown: [https://youtu.be/6fQPoQ45\\_-g](https://youtu.be/6fQPoQ45_-g)  
The Confabulations: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMPp5QvqM7p0FNza-0E9M0A>  
Los Cojones: <https://www.facebook.com/LosCojonesMelbourne>  
The Whoopee Project: <https://www.facebook.com/TheWhoopeeProject>  
Squawkestra: <https://squawkestra.com.au>

**Special achievements:**

*Helpmann Award Nomination "Best Original Score" - On the Case-Legs on the Wall*

*Jessie Richardson Award Winner (Vancouver, Canada) "Outstanding Sound Design or Original Composition: Large Theatre" - Flying Blind – Axis Theatre & Arts Club Theatre*

**CREDITS:****Physical Theatre/Dance/Performance**

|      |                             |   |  |
|------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 2020 | 32 Bars                     | Mark Morand                                   | Musician/recording                     |
| 2019 | The Confabulations          | LaMamma Musica                                | Perfromance                            |
| 2018 | Jazz Massive                | Melbourne International Jazz Festival         | Performer                              |
| 2018 | Scotts BMX Trick Bike Show  | Scott Hones/Gasworks                          | Music/soundscape/performance           |
| 2017 | Ladies Lounge               | Christa Hughes/Melb Arts Centre               | Performer/musician                     |
| 2017 | Second Story Project        | Phunktional/Melbourne Youth Orchestra         | Orchestrator/Fascilitator              |
| 2017 | Steps on my Own             | Phunktional/Melbourne Youth Orchestra/ANAM    | Orchestrator/Conductor                 |
| 2016 | Raising the Lobster         | City of Prt. Phillip                          | Performer                              |
| 2016 | Super Sonic Sound Structure | Artplay                                       | Co-creator/Sound design-production     |
| 2015 | Loose Ends                  | Jens Altheimer                                | Composer/Sound Design                  |
| 2014 | Tram Steampunk              | Phunktional Inc,                              | Sound Design/Performer                 |
| 2008 | Regrets, I've Got a Few     | Legs on the Wall/Under the Radar Festival     | Composer/Sound Design                  |
| 2008 | Bubble                      | Legs on the Wall/Sydney Opera House           | Composer/Sound Design/Musical Director |
| 2008 | The Last Highway            | Urban Theatre Projects/ Sydney Festival       | Sound Design/Composition/Operation     |
| 2007 | Beyond Belief               | Legs on the Wall/Carriageworks                | Composer/Sound Design                  |
| 2007 | Wilde Tales 2               | State of Play                                 | Composer/Sound Design                  |
| 2006 | The Window                  | Accidents and Alchemies (Performance Space)   | Co-creator/Sound Design/Performer      |
| 2006 | On the Case                 | Legs on the Wall/Commonwealth Games Melbourne | Composer/Sound design                  |
| 2005 | Blue Love                   | Shaun Parker/Ausdance                         | Sound re-edit/Design                   |
| 2004 | Back In Ya Box              | Australian Theatre for Young People           | Composer/Sound Design                  |
| 2004 | Wilde Tales                 | State of Play/Company B Belvoir (B Sharp)     | Composer/Sound Design                  |
| 2004 | Bubble                      | Soundbody Company B Belvoir (B Sharp)         | Composer/Sound Design                  |
| 2004 | Krush                       | Soundbody Company B Belvoir (B Sharp)         | Composer/Sound Design                  |
| 2004 | Ungrounded                  | Legs on the WallComposer/ Hoopla Festival     | Composer/Musical Director              |
| 2004 | Runners Up                  | Legs on the Wall                              | Composer/Sound Design                  |
| 2003 | Bouncers                    | Sugar Pig Productions                         | Composer/Sound Design                  |

|      |                                |  |                               |
|------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 2003 | Flying Blind                   | Legs on the Wall/Axis Theatre Co (Canada)                        | Co-Creator/Composer/Performer |
| 2003 | Rabbit                         | Griffin theatre production,                                      | Composer/Sound Design.        |
| 2003 | Cloak of Feathers              | Legs on the Wall/Chris Drummond creative development             | Composer/Sound design         |
| 2002 | Homelands                      | Manchester Festival UK, Legs on the Wall,                        | Sound Engineer                |
| 2002 | Runners Up                     | Legs on the Wall   | Composition/Sound Design      |
| 2002 | 4 on the Floor #2              | Company B Belvoir (B Sharp)                                      | Sound Design                  |
| 2001 | Flying Blind                   | Legs on the Wall/Axis Theatre/Belfry Theatre/Vancouver Arts Club | Co-Creator/Composer/Performer |
| 2001 | Eccentric Acts                 | Sue Broadway   | Composter/Sound Design        |
| 2001 | Where is it?                   | 4 on the Floor/Company B Belvoir (B Sharp)                       | Composition/Sound Design.     |
| 2001 | Edward/Massacre                | Australian Theatre for Young People                              | Sound Design                  |
| 2001 | Tranny Boy”                    | International Playwright Conference                              | Composer/sound design         |
| 2000 | Centenary of Federation Parade | City of Sydney   | Composition/Production        |
| 2000 | Certified Male                 | Star City/Art Cackle and Hoot Production                         | Musician                      |
| 2000 | Eccentric Acts                 | Sue Broadway/Margueritte Pepper Production                       | Composer/Sound Design         |
| 1999 | Under the Influence            | Legs on the Wall regional and international tour                 | Sound Operator                |
| 1998 | Blood and Bone                 | Spanda Productions   | Composer/Sound Design         |
| 1998 | I Love You                     | Airated Production   | Composer/Sound Design         |
| 1998 | The Horror                     | Melbourne Mask Works creative development                        | Composer                      |
| 1997 | Temptation                     | Legs on the Wall/Sydney Festival Production                      | Composer/Sound Design         |
| 1997 | Paul Capsis Live               | Sydney Mardi Gras  | Musical Director/Performer    |
| 1997 | Oh My Gorgeous                 | Airated/Melbourne International Festival of the Arts             | Composer/Sound Design         |

## Circus

|      |                            |                                   |                                     |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2022 | Circonoclasm               | NICA                              | Composer/Sound Design               |
| 2020 | Karnidale Circus Fest W.A. | Lunar Circus                      | Composer/performer                  |
| 2019 | The Classics               | Batton and Broadway               | Musical Director/Performer          |
| 2019 | Karnidale Circus Fest W.A. | Lunar Circus                      | Composer/performer                  |
| 2019 | Christmas Magic III        | District Agency/Chadstone         | Sound Design/Composition/Operation  |
| 2018 | Christmas Magic II         | District Agency/Chadstone         | Sound Design/Composition/Operation  |
| 2018 | Qu-est-ce que C'est        | National Institute of Circus Arts | Sound Design/Composition            |
| 2017 | Christmas Magic            | District Agency/Chadstone         | Sound Design/Composition/Operation  |
| 2016 | General Fiasco             | Independent/City of Moreland      | Director/Musical Director/Performer |
| 2015 | The Classics               | Batton and Broadway               | Musical Director/Performer          |

|         |  |  |  |
|---------|--|--|--|
| 2014    | Nanjing Project                        | Melbourne International Festival of the Arts               | Sound Design/Operation                   |
| 2014    | Man and Crane                          | Darling Harbour/Sydney Foreshore Authority/Hoopla Festival | Sound Design/Composition                 |
| 2014    | The Classics                           | Batton and Broadway  | Musical Director/Performer               |
| 2010-14 | Circus Oz                              | Circus Oz National/International Touring                   | Composer/Musical Director/Performer      |
| 2009    | Circus Oz                              | Circus Oz National/International Touring                   | Composer/Musician/Performer              |
| 2009    | Kit 'n' Kaboodle                       | Darling Harbour/Sydney Foreshore Authority/Hoopla Festival | Composer/Sound Design/Musician           |
| 2009    | In The Grip                            | NICA   | Sound Design/Composition                 |
| 2009    | White Nights                           | A4 Productions   | Sound Design                             |
| 2008    | Superb and Broken                      | Circus Monoxide  | Composer/Sound Design                    |
| 2007    | Crash 'n' Burn                         | Circus Monoxide  | Composer/Musical Director                |
| 2007    | Beach Party                            | Flying Fruitfly Circus/ Hooplah Festival                   | Composer /Musical director               |
| 2007    | The Great Wall                         | Flying Fruitfly Circus /Powerhouse Museum                  | Composer/Sound Design                    |
| 2006    | Les Clowns Triste                      | Flying Fruitfly Circus                                     | Performer/Musician                       |
| 2005    | Circa!                                 | Circa/Brisbane Marketing                                   | Composer/Musical Director                |
| 2005    | Les Clowns Triste                      | Flying Fruitfly Circus/Japan World Expo                    | Performer/Musician                       |
| 2004    | Flying Fruit Fly 25 <sup>th</sup> Gala | Flying Fruitfly Circus                                     | Musical Director/Performer               |
| 2004    | Skipping on stars                      | Flying Fruitfly Circus Production                          | Composer/Sound Designer/Musical Director |
| 2003    | Skipping on Stars                      | Flying Fruitfly Circus Production                          | Composer/Sound Designer/Musical Director |
| 2000    | Fusion                                 | Flying Fruitfly Circus/Sydney Olympic Arts festival        | Composer/ Musical Director               |
| 1993-98 | Circus Oz                              | Circus Oz National/International Touring                   | Composer/Musical Director/Performer      |

## Screen

|      |                    |   |                             |
|------|--------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 2021 | Audible Cubicle    | Melbourne Fringe Festival                           | Co-artist/composer/director |
| 2021 | Ambronay           | Centres Culturels de Recontres                      | Co-artist/composer/director |
| 2020 | Audible Lockdown   | Peggy Glanville Hicks commission                    | Co-artist/composer/director |
| 2020 | River              | Phunktional   | Producer/recording/Mix      |
| 2020 | Seeing Not Looking | Dr Anne Scott Wilson/Deakin University              | Sound Edit/design           |
| 2019 | Irriki Camp        | Phunktional   | Sound Design                |
| 2018 | Melbourne Victory  | About Bob Productions                               | Composer/sound design.      |
| 2018 | TAC Towards Zero   | AboutBob Productions                                | Sound Design                |
| 2017 | Dance Movement     | Dr Anne tScot Wilson/Deakin University              | Sound Editor                |
| 2014 | Homage Lois Fuller | Dr Anne Scott Wilson/Deakin University              | Sound Design                |
| 2014 | Light              | Dr Anne Scott Wilson/ Deakin University             | Sound Design                |
| 2012 | The Pet            | Short Film Jelly FJM Productions                    | Co-Composer                 |
| 2010 | Bic Mike Hussy     | Fuzzy Advertising                                   | Video Sound Editing         |
| 2003 | Silver Bullet      | Documentary film dir. Margaret Kirby, ,             | Composer                    |
| 1998 | Skydiver           | Amco Jeans TV Commercial; Dare Concepts Advertising | Composition/Production      |

|              |                                 |   |                                      |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1998         | Caravan And Camping Video       | Dare Concepts Advetising                              | Composition/Productio                |
| 1998         | Out There                       | ABC America Television Trailer                        | Composition/Production               |
| <b>Other</b> |                                 |   |                                      |
| 2020         | The Infinite Guitar Solo        | City of Melb Grant                                    | Lead artist                          |
| 2020         | Teacher                         | NICA  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> yr Music             |
| 2019         | Robot Song                      | Arena Theatre   | Recording Engineer                   |
| 2018         | Orkeztra Glasso Bazhalde        | Ork produced recording                                | Producer                             |
| 2018         | Domestic Dream CD               | Mike Tillbrook-Independent                            | Co-Production/recording/mix engineer |
| 2017         | Squawkestra                     | Squawkestra   | Conductor/facilitator                |
| 2017         | Tutoring                        | Outer Urban Projects                                  | Song Writing W/Shop Facilitator      |
| 2017         | Tutoring                        | Outer Urban Projects                                  | Band Tutorial group                  |
| 2014         | Teaching                        | Reservoir High School                                 | Teacher Electric Guitar              |
| 2009         | iTraffic                        | AppOvation iPhone app                                 | Sound desig                          |
| 2008         | Big Swifty and KJ               | ABC Radio National                                    | Composition/Production               |
| 2008         | The Transport Revolution        | ABC Radio National, Background Briefing               | Composition/Production               |
| 2007-9       | Teaching                        | Sydney College of the Performing Arts                 | Teacher Woodwind                     |
| 2007         | ABC Radio Master Control        | ABC Radio   | Technician                           |
| 2006         | ABC RADIO                       | Radio National  | Technician                           |
| 2005         | Roomies                         | Newtown Boardinghouse Project                         | Music Workshop Facilitator           |
| 2005         | Bovis Lend Lease Event          | Legs on the Wall                                      | Composition/sound design             |
| 2005         | Infinity                        | Design Troupe/Legs on the Wall Korea Motor Show       | Sound Design/Composition             |
| 2004         | Hyper                           | International Hyperbarric Conference Opening Ceremony | Sound Design                         |
| 2002         | El Cheppo                       | Legs on the Wall, corporate                           | Composition/Production               |
| 1999         | Clown Class                     | Nepean University                                     | Music tutor                          |
| 1999         | AFI Intro                       | Legs On The Wall                                      | Sound Design                         |
| 1999         | Who Are You Winning Today?      | Dare Concepts Advertising/Glaxo-Kline                 | Composition/Production               |
| 1999         | St. Kilda Film Festival Fanfare | St. Kilda Film Festival                               | Composition/Production               |
| 1999         | Hot Hot Hot                     | Dare Concepts Advertising                             | Composition/Production               |
| 1998         | Can Can Screensaver             | Dare Concepts Advetising                              | Composition/Production               |
| 1998         | Special CD recording            | Dashboard   | Producer                             |
| 1997         | Circus Oz Alive CD recording    | Circus Oz   | Producer                             |
| 1996         | Aqua Profunda CD recording      | Circus Oz   | Producer                             |
| 1995         | Cafe Kaos CD recording          | Circus Oz   | Producer                             |
| 1998-09      | Teaching                        | Private Music Tuition                                 | Teacher Woodwind                     |

### **1985-93**

This time was spent participating in the Melbourne music scene as a performer and composer with various bands and projects, including:

ADZOHU: African Drumming Ensemble: 1982 - 1990

Stellios Tsiollas: 1988 – 1991 Greek/Cypriot composer

Melbourne Improvisers Association

Anna Halprin – Earth Dance

Antipodes festival 1990

Private Flute Tuition

### **Skills**

Computer based Music Composition/Sound production - advanced level

Audio Editing and technical skills – advanced

Alto, Tenor and Soprano sax - advanced level

Flute - advanced level

Electric Guitar - advanced level popular and rock genres

Percussion- Intermediate hand percussion skill

### **Education:**

1993 SAE Certificate of Audio Engineering

1986 La Trobe B.A. Mus (composition)

### **Current Bands:**

The Confabulations:

Los Cojones

The Whoopee Project

Northside Jazz Orchestra

Hanksaw

Afrobics

### **Offices Held:**

|         |                     |           |                            |
|---------|---------------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| 2017-20 | Musicians Australia | MEAA      | Victorian President        |
| 2013    | Circus Oz Board     | Circus Oz | Working Group Board Member |
| 2011-14 | Circus Oz           | MEAA      | Union Representative       |

1994-98

Actors Equity

Cirucs Oz

Union Representative

**Certificates:**

Current Working with Children check

Construction Induction certificate