



A DROP TOO MANY

AUDITION INFORMATION PACK

AUDITION NOTICE

Title: *A Drop Too Many*

Presented By: Maxi Mossman with Backbone Festival

Genre: Physical & Visual Theatre

Originally performed as a site-responsive show, *A Drop Too Many* will be undergoing a redevelopment as a part of the Backbone HUB Residency in 2026 with a focus to bring the outside inside. This new version of the show will include a new creative team and a fresh restructuring, redesigning, rewriting process. We are on the hunt for performers who are eager to collaborate, experiment and expand the show into an impactful new work.

SYNOPSIS

From cracked, dusty earth to rising inland seas, *A Drop Too Many* dives headfirst into the ebbs and flows of droughts and floods in Australia. Created out of admiration for local communities banding together in the face of adversity, *A Drop Too Many* uses visual and physical theatre to unravel real Australian stories of joy and hardship from local natural disasters. Exploring the experience of both rural and urban residents, the production weaves a shared experience together through verbatim text, poetry and visual and physical storytelling.

Through a multidisciplinary storytelling approach, *A Drop Too Many* highlights the importance and power of community in the face of what seems to be a never-ending stream of natural disasters. *A Drop Too Many* is a bridge building understanding between urban and rural communities, connecting us and reminding audiences of the importance of the Australian spirit.

ABOUT THE WORK

- **Length:** 1 hour
- Cast of 4-5
- Performed in the Ron Hurley Theatre as a part of Backbone Festival in October 2026
- Contains verbatim stories about natural disasters combined physical theatre with visual theatre



HISTORY OF THE WORK

STAGE ONE

A Drop Too Many was originally developed through the Zen Zen Zo Creative Entrepreneur Internship in 2022. This process involved a detailed conceptual development, followed by a creative development with a cast of four. The process ended with a Work-In-Progress showing where two excerpts of the show were performed alongside a presentation about the work delivered by creator, Maxi Mossman.

STAGE TWO

Following this, in 2023 A Drop Too Many debuted as a site-responsive show in the Brisbane Anywhere Festival, winning an Anywhere Festival Award and selling out shows. This process involved a second creative development over three months, with additions to the creative team and cast.

STAGE THREE

From mid-2023 to 2025 Maxi Mossman worked on the project individually, strengthening the concept and identifying new opportunities.

STAGE FOUR

Through the Backbone HUB Residency this project will undergo a creative re-development and reimagining of the show. This involves a redevelopment of the script, a redesign to suit a Blackbox theatre space to bring the outdoors indoors, and a season with a new cast and creative team.



PERFORMANCE AND REHEARSALS DETAILS

All dates are TBC depending on cast and creative team availability.

- **Creative development:** 29th + 30th May & 5th + 6th June - TBC
- **Rehearsal Period:** 2 weekly rehearsals from July - October.
- **Performances:** Backbone Festival - 3 performances Thursday - Saturday during 1-17th October. Show dates TBC.
- **Location:** Ron Hurley Theatre, Backbone Youth Arts, Seven Hills

Successful cast members must be available for all rehearsals, tech days, and performances.

WARNING AND REQUIREMENTS

This production contains:

- Stylised movement - competent level of fitness required
- Performance vocal demands
- Sensitive themes, including impacts of natural disasters, psychological trauma, themes of loss and grief

MEET THE TEAM

MAXI MOSSMAN (LEAD CREATIVE, DIRECTOR, DESIGNER)



Maxi Mossman is a Brisbane-based emerging theatre maker with a focus in holistic, sensory theatre design and contemporary performance curation. With a Bachelor of Creative Industries (Drama)

(Distinction), Maxi has previously worked extensively with Zen Zen Zo Physical Theatre as a company member and Schools' Program Coordinator for the past four years. She entered the independent theatre scene with her award-winning directorial debut, *A Drop Too Many* (2023) and strives to create rich, textural and sensory art that uses a multidisciplinary approach and connects to community.

Maxi's training has expanded beyond Australian borders,

with her training with physical theatre companies such as Frantic Assembly and TheatreRE (UK) and Butoh company, Dairakudakan (Japan). Through these experiences as well as working with local creatives such as: Zen Zen Zo, Dead Puppet Society, Collective Circus, Tony Brumpton and Shari Indriani Irwin, Jag Popham, Vena Cava and many more, Maxi has discovered a deep drive to create physical and visual theatre works that unravel authentic stories that connect to Australian audiences. Maxi's diverse skillset in design-led direction, movement, performance, visual art, stage design, costume design and stage management, cultivates theatrical worlds which aim to swallow audiences whole.

ANDREW OXFORD (SOUND DESIGNER)



Andrew Oxford (he/him) is an interdisciplinary freelance artist who specialises as a sound designer and composer for theatre. He strongly insists on the collaboration between designers and performers in the rehearsal room. Andrew's most recent sound design and composing credits include *Matilda Award*

nominated shows *FUSE* by Annabella Gregory at the Backbone Festival 2025, and *Crow's Nest* by the Velvet Collective and The Traveling Rose Theatre and the Anywhere Festival 2025. More credits include, *Maybe It's Only Us* (Flipside Circus, 2025), *Steve the Queen* (Pip Theatre, 2026) and *You Can't Tell Anyone* (Vena Cava Productions, 2026).

CALEB BARTLETT (LIGHTING DESIGNER)



I am a proud Indigenous man from the Lamalama area in Cape York. I am also an emerging lighting designer with a strong interest in contemporary theatre. My work tends to stray away from the traditional

way of lighting a space while experimenting and finding new ways to light a person. I work with many different areas such as sound and vision to help enhance the atmosphere of a theatre production.

LANI DWYER (VISION DESIGNER)



Lani (she/her) is a Māori/Australian video designer and artist based on Quandamooka land, with a passion for visual storytelling in live performance. Holding a BFA in Technical Production, she combines strong technical

knowledge with a creative, intuitive approach to bring stories to life on stage.

Her recent credits include *LOVE STORIES* (2024), *JERSEY BOYS* (2024) with Optikal Bloc, *ANGUISH* (2024), and *DUSTY THE MUSICAL* (2025), alongside collaborations with Shake & Stir, Vena Cava, and the Prague Quadrennial (2023).

When not deep in timelines and tech, Lani can be found sewing, baking cakes, starting new crafty projects, or heading out for a coffee (purely for creative research, of course).

ABOUT YOU

We're looking for performers from a range of disciplines: movers, actors, dancers, and circus artists - who bring a strong movement background and a spirit of enthusiastic collaboration. Ideal artists are open-minded and curious, with a thoughtful, inventive, and experimental approach to movement. You should be ready to devise and collaborate as part of a group, comfortable working in high-energy, physically demanding contexts, and unafraid to get messy, including experimenting with elements like water and dirt. Performers should be capable of delivering a variety of text styles, from poetry to monologues and scene work, and be eager to contribute ideas, explore new methods of making, and share their own skills within a collaborative process.

SKILLS

- Strong movement background or interest (dance, physical theatre, circus)
- Ability to perform in high-energy, physically demanding work
- Comfortable experimenting with materials (e.g. water, dirt) and getting messy
- Versatility in delivering text (poetry, monologues, scene work)
- Collaborative mindset; confident contributing ideas and devising with others
- Openness to experimentation and trying new creative approaches

INTERESTS

- The environment (natural disasters, climate change, Australian landscape)
- Rural Australia and Australian communities
- Movement-based practices (physical theatre, dance, circus)
- Devising and collaborative creation processes
- Unconventional storytelling forms
- Poetry - writing, performing or reading

EXPERIENCE

- Devising and ensemble-based performance-making
- Spoken-word poetry
- Physical theatre or dance theatre
- Verbatim storytelling
- Monologues and duologues

AUDITION DETAILS

Please fill out the Application Form [HERE](#) and submit by **9am Monday 11th May.**

- **Audition Date & Time:** 9am Sunday 16th of May
- **Audition Location:** 28 Tallowood St, Seven Hills QLD 4170
- **Applications Open:** Thursday 23rd April, 2026
- **Applications Close:** 9am, Monday 11th May 2026

Successful applicants will be contacted the *week of the 19th May.*

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

- Please prepare an environmentally-themed piece of text no longer than 2 minutes (short monologue, poem, news article, verbatim text, song lyrics etc) that you resonate with (some possible options [HERE](#)).
- Be prepared to collaborate and devise in a group
- Demonstrate a thoughtful, interesting and experimental use of movement - wear clothes that are comfortable for moving in and bring water.
- Come in open and flexible, think of this audition as an opportunity to perform, play and collaborate.

The casting process is open to performers of all abilities, backgrounds, and identities. We are seeking an ensemble who collaborate well together and are able to perform effectively both as a group and individually. If you would like to disclose any access requirements, preferences, or adjustments, please let Maxi Mossman know (maximossman@gmail.com). *A Drop Too Many* is committed to telling diverse stories, and we strongly encourage people of all experiences and

MOOD BOARD

