

ISOLATION ALLOWS FOR NEW CREATION AT LA MAMA THEATRE!

La Mama has been known for live independent theatre for over 50 years but during Covid-19 the prestigious company have taken to a different medium to keep their artists treading the boards (so to speak) and engaging with audiences. La Mama will engage our youngest audiences with **Super Jenny**, an online video series for preschool aged children.

Premiering the content online gives the program a far wider reach across Australia not restricting the work to Melbourne audiences, giving artists and La Mama greater exposure. This is a wonderful bonus and was made possible by the support from the City of Melbourne's COVID-19 Arts Grants to employ artists to produce content for children during isolation.

Super Jenny is a short online series created by **Jennifer Monk**, a long-standing performer and theatre maker at La Mama.

Jenny likes to swim with mermaids and fly to other worlds. Her best friend is Ned and she loves her nanny. But when someone needs help, she becomes Super Jenny!

This short series of preschool children's entertainment is engaging, fun and educational. Each episode incorporates fine and gross motor skills, Auslan sign language, shape recognition, singing, dancing and musical terms. Super Jenny encourages creativity, imaginative play and cognitive learning that goes hand in hand with enhancing young children's physical and intellectual development.

Jennifer and her cast from Girls Act Good were ready to hit the road with their show **Ladies of the Bay** touring regional Victoria as part of the La Mama Mobile Program in March. However, days before leaving the tour was postponed due to Covid-19. It has been wonderfully rewarding to be able to give this opportunity to Jennifer.

It was disappointing to have done months of rehearsals and preparation for the La Mama Mobile tour to be then put on hold only days before we were due to leave. But



Image by **Jennifer Monk**

when La Mama asked me to create an online children's show I jumped at the chance to be able to perform and create something new.

– **Jennifer Monk**

Jennifer has produced award-winning online content (**Last Breath**). She started live streaming her performances for **hey dee ho** music (preschool music program) when restrictions were enforced in April. She has experience producing online content as well as presenting engaging programs for young children online in isolation.

Due to isolation restrictions Jennifer called upon people who were already in her bubble to assist in being her skeleton crew, which included her nieces and nephews and her friend's children for research.

It has been great making a show for children with the help of children. Even though this time of isolation and uncertainty has shut doors for many artists, perhaps there is a silver lining... by having a forced rest and a chance to re-group the world is being exposed to new ways of producing and presenting creative content. I would be quite happy if Super Jenny became my new employment.

– **Jennifer Monk**

Super Jenny will premiere on Facebook
Episode 1: Tuesday 30th of June at 1pm.
Episode 2: Saturday 1st of July at 11am

More Info: [HERE](#)

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