



## **JACKIE SMITH – PLAYWRIGHT, DIRECTOR, CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR FINUCANE & SMITH UNLIMITED**

**Jackie Smith** was born on a rocket base in the Australian desert base of Woomera of migrant parents. Her father fought in World War II, joining the Navy at the age of 16. Discovering a love of radar he came to Australia at the same time as the birth of television technology. Her mother discovered her love of education in Woomera and has worked at country schools ever since. Jackie grew up with a love of people, of language and of stories that became a life-long fascination. She began to write, short stories, little one act plays, but it was her style of writing, so particularly Australian – with language often so sparse, dry, humorous and disturbing - that turned heads from the very beginning, resulting in 2 ABC Radio Awards for her very first plays, short listing for the **Griffin Playwright Award**, The HQ short story award, **The Kit Denton Fellowship** and in winning the inaugural **Patrick White Playwright Award** for her first full length play *The Aliens*.

She has won **eight Green Room Awards** for her works that span genres from playwrighting to provocative variety and cabaret, and she has travelled the world to great acclaim in twelve languages - with three seasons in the Sydney Opera House and festivals in Japan, Sweden, Italy, Croatia, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, Hungary, Latin America and New Zealand.

As half of **Finucane & Smith** she has created some of Australia's most provocative theatre – from the multi award winning **Glory Box**, now seen by 300, 000 people around the world and acclaimed in 12 languages, to the surreal indoor **Carnival of Mysteries** the “exhilarating hit” of the **Melbourne International Arts Festival 2010**, commissioning 43 artists across all artforms to respond to the Mysteries of Innocence, Mercy, Passion, Forgiveness and Love, to her wild dance and physical exhibition salons, the **Salons de Danse**.

As a playwright Jackie has never lost her love and fine observation of landscape, people and stories, far away from cities where the land and the elements are such a strong part of everyday life.

Her haunting Australian Gothic ***The Flood*** toured Australia for 4 months in 2012 to extraordinary acclaim, and is now being translated into Chinese and Spanish to become the first Australian drama to be presented at **The Shanghai International Contemporary Theatre Festival 2016** – the largest and longest standing theatre festival in Eastern China, and to be reimagined as a Latin American grotesque by acclaimed Chilean company **La Nina Horrible** for South American audiences. She is currently rehearsing the epic historic dreamscape ***The Exotic Lives of Lola Montez*** for a Victorian and national tour in 2017.

*“Smith’s handling of the gothic form is masterful ... You have to see this, its Australian theatre that speaks from the heart of the country.”- MCV*

*“Exhilarating, beautiful and unexpectedly moving” - The Australian*

*“a powerful authenticity ... complex, rounded, tightly constructed drama” - Sunday Age*