



Asha Cornelia Cluer, 2021.
Photo courtesy Paul Aitchison

About the Artist

Asha Cornelia Cluer is a multilingual mixed-medium artist and youth arts facilitator who creates culturally diverse and linguistically-focussed work. She grew up in Walyalup (Fremantle) and her practice spans live and recorded arts. As a writer, her play *Flamenco Vampires and Outlaw Space Cowboys*, written in English and Spanish, was produced by We Are Quiet Roar (Naarm) in 2021.

Her next multilingual play, *A Magical Guide to Fighting Fascism*, is currently in development, supported by the Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries. She regularly facilitates theatre and screen projects in primary and secondary schools across Western Australia for Australian Theatre for Young People, Black Swan State Theatre Company, WA Youth Theatre Company, Barking Gecko Theatre Company and Emergent Academy (Cert IV and Diploma courses).

She was awarded the UWA Graduates Association Prize in Anthropology, Archaeology, Linguistics and Psychology (Level 1) for her work in Linguistics during her undergraduate degree (BA Political Science, 2011, University of Western Australia). She trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School in the UK (MA Acting, 2016) and her acting career includes numerous West End and UK number one touring credits.

ashacorneliacluer.com/wise-young-things
[@ashacornelia](https://www.instagram.com/ashacornelia)
[@wewiseyoungthings](https://www.instagram.com/wewiseyoungthings)



Rockingham Arts Centre
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Gallery opening times:
Wednesday – Sunday
10am – 4pm

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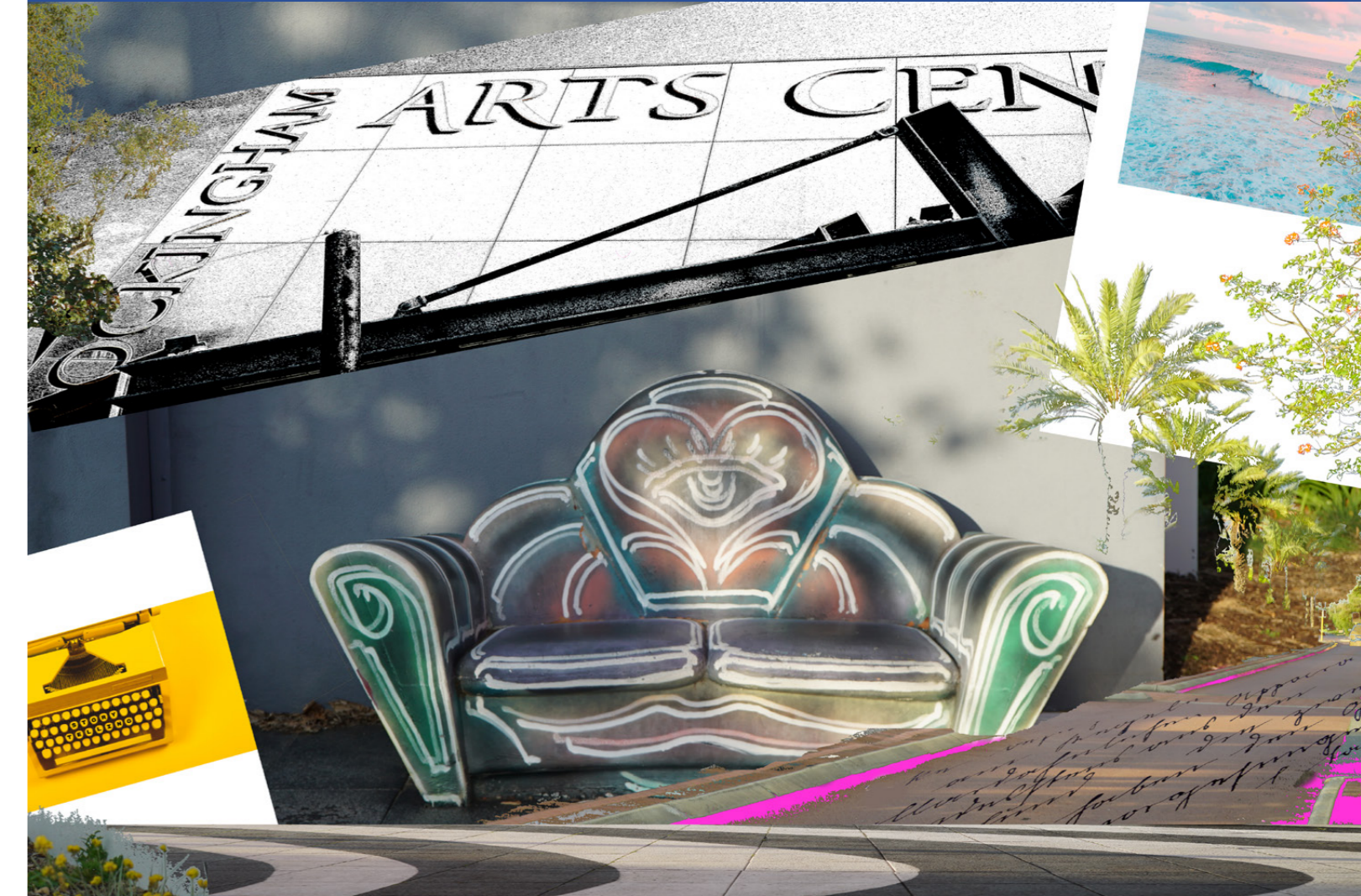
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Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Rockingham acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, the Binjareb and Whadjuk Nyoongar peoples and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of Aboriginal communities and their cultures, and to Elders past and present.



Wise Young Things: Rockingham

Asha Cornelia Cluer
27 November – 8 December 2024

Asha Cornelia Cluer, *Place and Purpose*, 2024,
digital photography collage. Photo courtesy the artist.



Storytelling Workshop, 2024. Photo courtesy the artist.

Thank you

The biggest thank you to an incredible team of local storytellers and performers, without whom there would be no film. Thank you for sharing yourselves with us.

Storytellers

Ginette, Keith, Hugo Alvarez, Isabel, Keith, Margaret, Nada Lubay, Susana C. Schmidt and anonymous contributors.

Performers

Eliza Smith, Kaiden Behrendt, Mercedes, Oliver Kimber, Rose Lee, Sai Gaspar, Tabitha, Trinity, Tristan.

Exhibition Information

Wise Young Things: Rockingham is an intergenerational storytelling film project connecting local young people with senior citizens born outside Australia who now reside in the Rockingham area. It is a celebration of young and old, and of the breadth and diversity of experiences and people that make up the fabric of the Rockingham community.

Through storytelling workshops, senior citizens were facilitated to share memories and anecdotes from their lives with young performers aged 13 - 18. There was a focus on place, immigration, family, friends, language, culture, and changing technology. Audio of these stories was recorded, edited, and curated by the artist. This was followed by a series of performance workshops in which young people built vital 21st century skills and learnt theatrical techniques from practitioners such as Lecoq and Laban.

Using the audio recordings from the storytelling sessions as the soundtrack, each performer created their own nuanced lip-sync performance, paying attention to physicality and character. These were filmed in distinct and recognisable places in the Rockingham area and edited by the artist to create what you see: *Wise Young Things*.

This verbatim project combines oral storytelling with modern technology and performance, namely filmed lip-syncing, popularised in recent years by social media. It is a meeting of old and new, of past and future – pushing the boundaries of how we communicate narrative, present character, and create pathos. Both the storytelling and performance workshops were developed in alignment with the Telethon Kids Institute's Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) and the Arts framework. The process is as important as the output in this project, which aims to increase SEWB in all project participants and encourage connection between generations.

Underpinning this unique visual arts film exhibition is the idea that communities are strengthened and wellbeing is improved with the opportunity to build relationships between generations, increase empathy towards immigrant and second-generation experiences, and engage in quality arts activities.

This is a community project made possible by the generosity and willingness of our storytellers to share their lives with us, and by the dedication and empathy of the performers to take on the responsibility of embodying these stories. Thank you.

Beyond this exhibition at the Rockingham Arts Centre, the artist has developed a written resource available for schools and community groups which serves as a blueprint to run the project in your local area. If you would like to find out more, please contact Asha at ashacluer@gmail.com or visit ashacorneliaccluer.com/wise-young-things

Acknowledgements

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A huge thank you to Dr. Leanne Fried, Sarah Falconer, Tina Gjordeni, Cassie McNeill, and all the staff at Rockingham Youth Centre for your fierce advocacy for the arts.

And finally, thank you very much to Winnie's Bakehouse & Catering and Rockingham Bowling Club for letting us film in your beautiful local establishments.

