

ANDREA GIBBS BIO

| Storyteller | Writer | Actor | Producer |

Andrea Gibbs is the creator and artistic director of Barefaced Stories, Australia's longest-running program of refreshingly honest, bold and brutally frank live storytelling.

After studying storytelling in NYC with award-winning storyteller Margot Leitman (The Moth), Andrea arrived home in 2010 to find very few storytelling opportunities in Australia. A modern type of storytelling, one that was fresh, authentic, spoke to who we were right now and one that could elevate those voices that might not easily find a microphone. With an audience and community as keen to participate as to watch, regular workshops are held for those looking to make the leap from the audience to stage and now, thirteen years later, Barefaced Stories is Australia's leading homegrown live storytelling event. A love song to the human condition.

Each month, Andrea curates a line-up of six storytellers who take to the stage to share a real life story. She coaches them, helps them edit their stories and gives them the confidence to share the most vulnerable parts of themselves in front of a live audience.

She is playwright behind the outstanding *Barracking for the Umpire* produced by Black Swan State Theatre Company in 2022 and published by Playlab.

As a broadcaster, Andrea presents Weekends with Andrea Gibbs on ABC Radio Australia-wide every Saturday.

Originally hailing from Donnybrook, Western Australia – Andrea has been described as 'the quintessential cousin from the country' (*The West Australian*). And telling yarns is the core of who she is.

As an actor, she was billed as a 'revelation' by *The Australian* newspaper in the lead role of *8 Gigabytes of Hardcore Pornography* by Declan Greene (Griffin Theatre, Sydney). Other recent performances include: *Animal Farm* by Van Badham for Black Swan State Theatre Company, *Minneapolis* by Will O'Mahony, *Is This Thing On?* by Zoe Coombs-Marr at The Blue Room Theatre (Best Performance 2016), *The Mars Project* by Wil O'Mahony (Best Supporting PAWA), Ben Elton's feature film *Three Summers* alongside Magda Szubanski, *Hug The Sun* by Auntie Donna/Grouse House and *How to Please A Woman* opposite Sally Phillips.

In 2005 she won Triple J's Raw Comedy Stand-up State Final and was selected for The Comedy Zone produced by Melbourne International Comedy Festival in 2006. She was a core member of the premiere improv-comedy ensemble The Big HOO-HAA! and has performed at the National Theatresports Championships, Loose Moose Theatre (Canada) and Women in Comedy Festival (Boston).

She has been a guest speaker, MC and speaker coach at TEDxPerth and presented at Marieke Hardy's Women of Letters.

www.andreagibbs.com

ANDREA GIBBS CV

EDUCATION:

Curtin University / BA English (Theatre Arts) 2003
WAAPA / Graduate Certificate in Arts Management 2006
UWA / BA Psychology 2018-present

CURRENTLY:

[Barefaced Stories](#), 2010-present

Artistic director, producer, workshop facilitator & host

[Weekends with Andrea Gibbs](#), ABC Radio 2015-present

Presenter – Australia-wide weekly on Saturdays 2-4pm AEST

The FIRE Project, supported by MIF (Major Festivals Initiative), Australia Council for the Arts

Lead creative, 2023-present in creative development with Perth Festival (focusing on bushfire affected regional areas in both WA and SA).

[eaters by pvi collective](#) 2022-23

Host - performance work cunningly disguised as a pub quiz where audiences team up to consider the challenges we face as eaters amid a climate emergency. Touring WA and NSW.

[“What’s Your Story?”](#) – **storytelling workshops ongoing at Boola Bardip (WA Museum)**

Workshop Facilitator (6-8 times per year) - Public workshops for the community since 2014. Previously held at The Centre for Stories, The Blue Room Theatre, His Majesty’s Theatre and Albany Entertainment Centre.

PAST EXPERIENCE:

[FUEL Lab, produced by Perth Festival](#)

Artist, 2022-23 - a program for elite mid-career artists to consider works of scale for Perth Festival.

[‘Barracking for the Umpire’ full-length play by Andrea Gibbs for Black Swan State Theatre Centre 2021/22](#)

Playwright – Through *Malcolm Robertson Foundation* and *City of Perth* support for the playwriting program ‘Funny Girl’ Andrea was commissioned to develop her play ‘Barracking For The Umpire’. Black Swan State Theatre Company produced it to much acclaim in 2022 and Andrea has given them the rights for a remount in 2024 (Perth metro season and regional tour).

[Minneapolis by Will O’Mahony](#), directed by Frances Barbe and produced by Performing Lines **Lead performer**, Subiaco Arts Centre July 2021

[Animal Farm, adapted by Van Badham and produced by Black Swan State Theatre Company](#)

Lead performer - alongside Megan Wilding and Alison Van-Reeken. October 2021

[Barefaced Stories, residency produced by Country Arts SA](#)

Workshop facilitator and live performance MC 2021 - Tintinara, Naracorte, Kangaroo Island, Port Lincoln and more.

[Kolyang Creative Hub](#), produced by Performing Lines 2000/21

Core Artist - The Creative Hub is the singular event in the WA arts ecology that brings artists & industry-heads together, providing time and space to reflect, question, learn and share. It is a future-focused site for breaking down silos and knowledge-sharing within the sector: fostering critical thinking and developing innovative new ways of working.

Disrupted Festival of Ideas “Going with the Flow”, State Library of WA 2021

Co-speaker - alongside Lucy Peach, tackling the taboo subject of periods, exploring the power of hormones, and the issue of period poverty.

[Red Earth Arts Festival, The Chin Wagon – “Pilbara Ponderings”](#) March 2021

Lead Artist - travelled the Pilbara region – Roebourne, Wickham, Karratha, Dampier - recorded stories from locals and sound designed a listening track for the Red Earth Arts Centre.

CircuitWest Research Project, “Why don’t you engage with the arts?” The Chin Wagon Jan-Jun 2021

Lead Artist - traveled to regional towns to gather stories and interview those who do not engage with the arts about why. Created sound bites to feedback to regional venues and present the findings at Showcase WA 2021. Port Hedland, Geraldton, Hopetoun, Ravensthorpe, Harvey, Margaret River, Beverly.

Performing Artists during COVID, WAAPA Research – “[Breathing Through the Pandemic](#)”

Digital Stories Producer – research in performance arts challenges and responses to the mental health implications of COVID-19 to understand the impact of the pandemic on arts workers and the arts sector in Australia. Interview and capture stories of local arts workers – Natalie Allen (dancer), Josh Pether (experimental artist), Zoe Atkinson (designer), Mace Francis (Perth International Jazz Festival) and Bonnie Davies (comedian).

How to Please a Woman (2022) – feature film. Directed by Renee Webster.

Role: Detective Elliot. Alongside Sally Phillips (UK) and Cameron Daddo.

“What Your Community Means to You?” The Chin Wagon for the City of Stirling Feb-April 2021

Lead Artist - recorded stories and memories of growing up in Scarborough, Waterman’s Bay, Trigg Beach, Inglewood, Mount Flora for the City of Stirling archive and for them to share back to the community.

[Hug The Sun](#) (2021 TV series) produced by Aunty Donna, with the help of Screenwest and Screen Australia.

Writer and actor. Nominated Best Short Form Comedy at AACTA 2021

“Objects in the Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear” at Kings Park produced by WAAPA, Nov 2020

Guest director and sound design by Andrea Gibbs. Site specific work with BPA 2nd year students.

Stories of Love & Loss, by Andrea Gibbs for Boola Bardip (WA Museum)

Lead Artist – collected local stories of Love and Loss for the Reflections Gallery, alongside composer Rachel Dease.

pvi Collective disobedience rules - August, 2020

Host. Game to inspire our community leaders to create playful new tactics for civil disobedience and test them on the streets

Story Exchange with The Chin Wagon and Dr Renee Newman WAAPA

Lead artist. A community-based audio artwork on the subject of 'love and loss', Department of Local Government and Communities, 2019–2020. Perth, Albany and WA Museum.

Barefaced Broome: community workshop and show. June 2019

Back Stories 2020, Storytelling Coach for Centre for Stories.

TEDxPerth 2014-2018 Speaker coach

NZ International Arts Festival Barefaced Stories, March 2018.

Transom Storytelling Workshop participant, Marfa Texas. Dec 2017

Three Summers by Ben Elton – feature film.

The Elders by Kabuki Drop – storytelling coach.

Blink by Phil Porter and Directed by Mel Cantwell for Kabuki Drop July 2017

Is This Thing On? By Zoe Coombs-Marr at The Blue Room Theatre (Best Performance 2016)

The Mars Project by Will O'Mahoney at The Blue Room Theatre 2016

[Eight Gigabytes of Hardcore Pornography](#) by Declan Greene and directed by Lee Lewis for Griffin Theatre Company and Perth Theatre Company June-July 2014.

Lead

Hoods by Angela Betzein directed by Leticia Caceras – REAL TV 2009/11

Lead – Perth and Melbourne

AWARDS:

Best Lead Performance 2006 / The Blue Room Theatre

IS THIS THING ON? Written by Zoe Coombs-Marr & directed by Zoe Pepper