

## **Conversations: Wonderland**

### **BIOGRAPHIES**

#### **Jessica Bram**

Jessica Bram has long been a fan of Alice, first reading it as a child and now passing on Lewis Carroll's magic to her two young daughters. She's also had a long interest in the intersection of memory, history and popular culture and has over 10 years of experience working in the field of museums, cultural heritage and exhibition development. Jess joined the ACMI team in 2015, after an extended post at the Jewish Museum of Australia as curator and exhibition coordinator. Since starting at ACMI, she has curated a number of exhibitions and projects including the very successful *Del Kathryn Barton: The Nightingale and the Rose* and most recently as the lead curator on ACMI's 2018 Melbourne Winter Masterpieces exhibition *Wonderland*, which she counts among her most favourite professional endeavours ever.

Topic:

Jessica will explain how the idea behind the exhibition came to be and take us on a journey through the looking glass and through the evolution of Alice from manuscript to CGI, during her cinematic odyssey.

#### **Dan Koerner**

Dan has a background in film, music video and theatre and has lead multidisciplinary teams for 12 years. He is co-founder and creative director of Sandpit – a role that fuels his passion for technology as a storytelling tool, unusual places and the stories that fill them.

His work combines intuitive UX and dramaturgy into projects that integrate digital components in connected objects big and small. He is an experienced leader of creative and design teams, working with researchers, writers, designers and many other to create boundary redefining work.

Topic:

How does human-centred design improve exhibition experiences? Hear from product designer Dan Koerner (Sandpit) about the technology and processes used to create the unique and personal digital experience of Wonderland. Dan will share his iterative and human-centred design process, physical and digital prototyping, and the integration of NFC (near field communication) chips to create an interactive and targeted series of audience experiences within the exhibition.

#### **Katherine Blyn Wakely-Mulroney**

Katherine Wakely-Mulroney is Assistant Professor of British Romanticism in the Division of English. She received her PhD from the University of Cambridge, and completed her postdoctoral research at NTU's Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Her research interests lie in British literature of the long eighteenth century, children's literature, and the histories of reading, memory, and recitation.

Katherine is the co-editor of *The Aesthetics of Children's Poetry: A Study of Children's Verse in English* (Routledge, 2017). Her work has appeared in the *Review of English Studies*, *Book History*, the *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies* and is forthcoming in *Texas Studies in Literature and Language*, *The*

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Cambridge Guide to the Eighteenth-Century Novel, 1660-1820 (ed. April London), and The Cambridge History of Children's Literature in English (eds. Eugene Giddens and Zoe Jaques).

Katherine's research interests include British literature of the long eighteenth century, children's literature of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, children's poetry, the history of reading, and devotional and pedagogical literature. She is currently working on *Much in a Little: The Dimensions of Childhood and Children's Books in the Long Eighteenth Century*.

Topic:

Katherine will give a presentation on the ways in which Carroll marketed his books in the wake of their initial publication, talking about various products and adaptations calculated to increase his fan base (as well as the "special effects" embedded in the pages of his books).

## **Stuart Wee**

Stuart is the co-founder of AndSoForth - a different type of theatrical experience that creates series of feasts immersed around stories, drama and...secrets. Influenced by the underground dining sub-culture in London, founders Stuart Wee and Emily Png boldly draw inspiration from art forms and culture and collaboration.

The ANDSOFORTH creative team includes actors, set designers, chefs, costume designers, illustrators, copywriters, scriptwriters/producers, lighting designers, sound scape artists who conspire to create immersive dining experiences in Singapore.

Topic:

Stuart will tell us more about AndSoForth, and will also speculate what exactly it is about Alice that endures and continuously captures our creative imagination.