

MEDIA RELEASE
Tuesday, 6 April 2021

Come celebrate WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

WILL DO!

Poetry Sydney partners with Good Space to present an afternoon of poetry and performance in celebration of William Shakespeare on Sunday, 25 April 2021.



Photograph: Geoffrey Forrester AKA Tug Dumbly reciting Shakespeare in the Camperdown Cemetery, Newtown. Photograph by Marco Bok 2016, courtesy of the artist Tug Dumbly 2021.

As a writer we may think Shakespeare to be courtly, cerebral, metaphysical, melancholic, Machiavellian, neurotic, light-hearted, loving and much more. However, as there are few factual things known about him we are in the curious position of compelling ourselves to adding to his portrait.

Known throughout the world, Shakespeare's writings capture the range of human emotion and conflict and have been celebrated for more than 400 years, and yet his personal life is somewhat a mystery. No birth records exist, but an old church record indicates that he was baptised in Stratford-upon-Avon on 26 April 1564.

This is the seventh annual Sydney Shakespeare event that celebrates his life and work with performances, poetry and open readings. It is an inclusive community event and welcoming to all who share a passion for Shakespeare and would enjoy participating, being in the audience and being entertained.



Photographs: Actors performing Shakespeare at the Old Fitzroy Hotel (2017). Brian Andrews and Peter Whitehead reciting Shakespeare's sonnets at Shakespeare Hotel (2018).

Hosted by **Tug Dumbly**, which is the pen and stage name of Geoff Forrester. He is a poet, performer, satirist, and singer, songwriter, who has worked extensively in live venues, schools, and radio. The event will feature a cast of celebratory performances that include sonnets recited by thespians **Brian Andrews** and **Peter Whitehead** and a traditional Czech puppetry performance of an adapted scene from Ophelia by award winning puppeteer **Lenka Muchová** scripted by poet, playwright and performer **Benito DiFonzo**. **Patricia Starrs** of Starrs productions will perform a Lady Macbeth monologue. An open reading and open mic will be staged throughout the event. Registrations are encouraged to ensure a position. Email through your participation to mail@poetrysydney.org.

The event takes place in the heritage building that was home to The Marionette Theatre of Australia and The Rocks Theatre in the 1980s as part of a two-month arts festival programmed by **Good Space 3 April – 30 May 2021**.

Expect new experiences through poetry and performance in celebration of Shakespeare at the Good Space in The Rocks.

This project is part of the City of Sydney's CBD activation funding to boost the city centre, support businesses and create jobs.

For more information on Good Space and the Arts Festival program visit Good Space: <https://goodspacesproject.com/>

WHAT: **Will DO!** Celebrating William Shakespeare
 WHEN: 3-6pm Sunday 25 April 2021
 WHERE: Good Space, 106-108 George Street, The Rocks

REGISTRATIONS: *Please note, all contributing and participating poets and performers there is no Access charge. Pre-registrations only. Open reading and mic registrations
 email: mail@poetrysydney.org

TICKETS: \$10 / unwaged, or children \$5
 Direct Bookings [HERE](#)
 Event Bookings: <https://goodspacesproject.com/good-events/>

Good Space Program:

Saturday 3 April – Sunday 3 May 2021

Program Link: <https://goodspacesproject.com/good-events/>

The event will be strictly COVID-19 compliant with Government Health Directives upheld.



Left Hamlet, handmade marionette puppet by Lenka Muchová (2018) and performers at the Old Fitzroy Hotel 2017.

Will Do! Celebrating William Shakespeare:

Tug Dumbly is the pen and stage name of Geoff Forrester. He is a poet, performer, satirist, singer, songwriter, who has worked widely in live venues, schools, and radio. As a performer, he set up and ran a couple of seminal spoken word nights in Sydney, including the legendary and drunken Bardflys. He has performed his poems, songs and monologues as resident poet on Triple J and ABC radio (on the programs of James Valentine and Richard Glover), as well as writing and recording, for radio, his ABC-syndicated culture and current affairs satire *The Tug Report*. He has released two spoken word CDs through the ABC – *Junk Culture Lullabies* and *Idiom Savant* – once won the Spirit of Woodford storytelling award, twice won the Banjo Paterson Prize for Comic Verse, and three times won the Nimbin Performance Poetry World Cup.

In print, his work has appeared in publications including the Australian, the Canberra Times, Southerly, the Australian Poetry Journal, the Blue Nib, FourW, Offset, Veranda and the spoken word anthologies Shortfuse and Solid Air. In 2020 he had two poems shortlisted for the Newcastle Poetry Prize, for which he was also shortlisted in 2019. In 2020 he won the Borranga Poetry Prize, and was runner up in the WB Yeats Poetry Prize. In 2019 he was longlisted (for the second time) for the Vice Chancellor's Poetry Prize. In 2015 he came second in the Josephine Ulrick Poetry Prize. His first poetry collection, Son Songs, came out through Flying Islands Books in 2018.

Links:

<https://www.facebook.com/tug.dumbly>

<https://www.instagram.com/tugdumbly/?hl=en>

Poetry Sydney:

Poetry Sydney nurtures innovation, discovery, and inspiration through the poetry of today. We present established, emerging and early career poets from diverse poetry practices. For more information please visit our website: poetrysydney.org

Please forward any queries that you may have to: mail@poetrysydney.org

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Poetry Sydney official website: <https://poetrysydney.org/>

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Poetry Sydney gives respect to the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation,
the traditional owners of the land we live, create, meet and work.