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# Bringing Adelaide families together *all it takes is a village*



An Adelaide based theatre show has its sights set on bringing people together for a village living vibe.

*Return to the Village* is a children's interactive theatre performance exploring the concept of village life by inviting participants into the very heart of the experience for a chance to collaborate.

The performance, written by Marina Barbaro in partnership with local artists, offers children the chance to take the creative lead in building their own village and community.

"The action and storyline mimic daily village life and its social dynamics and are designed to give children the chance to practise problem-solving skills, teamwork and empathy. Children play a key role in making the show come to life," Marina says.

*Return to the Village* is described as a board game come to life and focuses on role-play with performers doubling as facilitators to support children and their families in building cubby houses and taking on village roles.

"*Return to the Village* is primarily a performance where people of all ages play at being together and working towards a joint experience. It revels in communal and face to face experiences and, after the year we've had, I think people are ready to feel part of a community again," Marina says.

The show also pays homage to the idea that the wellbeing of most modern, busy families, relies on the support of the people and community around them.

"Ask any family how they manage with complex commitments and competing demands and chances are they'll credit the support of someone amazing. It might be a grandparent, a best friend, a neighbour or even a village of people around them," Marina says.

*Return to the Village* is a pop-up interactive event suitable for festivals and community/family days.

Easily adaptable to a variety of spaces, it doubles as an art installation which celebrates both indoor and outdoor areas.

With two completed seasons, one at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens and more recently at the 2021 Adelaide Fringe Festival, the show has enjoyed great reviews and been described as a 'truly magical' experience.

-ENDS-

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