

BEN MCKENZIE

PERFORMER, WRITER, PRESENTER, GAME DESIGNER

CONTACT DETAILS

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BIO

Ben is a performer, writer, game designer and nerd for all seasons. His games work has run the gamut of tabletop, videogames, escape rooms, live action and alternate and virtual reality. He's written articles, short fiction, games and scripts. As a performer he has been a comedian and actor for stage, screen and audio. His favourite element is helium, and his favourite dinosaur is *Stegosaurus*.

TRAINING/AWARDS

- Convenors' Award for Excellence for *Night Terrace* - Aurealis Awards, 2015
- Highly Commended in Comedy category for *A Record or an OBE* – 2007 Melbourne Fringe Awards
- Best Male Performance (nomination) for *M: Faith in Chocolate* – 2002 15/15 Film Festival
- Performer's Certificate (Speech & Drama) – Trinity College London
- Exhibition Award (Speech & Drama) – Trinity College London

NIGHT TERRACE

Ben is a creator, main cast member, producer and writer for this time travel audio comedy series. So far it consists of sixteen 28 minute episodes, a 45-minute live special, and three mini-series of varying length. The first and second seasons have been broadcast in the UK by BBC radio in 2019 and 2020, with a further repeat scheduled. A third season is in COVID-delayed production. For more see nightterrace.com.



COMEDY

- The Anarchist Guild Social Committee* - live sketch comedy, 2008-2009, 2017, 2020 (ensemble, writer/performer).
- Dungeon Crawl* - improvised comedy, 2010-2019 festivals (with Richard McKenzie).
- You Chose Poorly* - 2019 Comedy Festival (with Alanta Colley).
- Ben McKenzie's Late Night Games Night* - 2018 Comedy Festival (producer and host).
- Where in Melbourne is Carmen (or Diego)?* - 2016-2017 Comedy Festivals (producer, writer, designer, host).
- Your Turn* - 2015 live game show (designer, host).
- Ben McKenzie is Uncool* - 2014 Comedy Festival (solo).
- A Brief History of a Brief History of Time* - 2008/2011/2012 festivals (solo and as part of *The Peer Revue* ensemble).
- Melbourne Museum Comedy Tour* - 2008-2012 Comedy Festivals (producer, writer, performer).
- The Terminativity* - 2010/2011 comedy musical (cast member).
- A Record or an OBE* – 2007/2008 festivals (two-hander comedic theatre; also writer, producer).
- Planet Nerd* - 2007 TV variety show for Channel 31 (writer, presenter).
- Science-ology* - 2007 Comedy Festival (solo).
- Evolutionary* - 2005/2006 festivals (solo).
- Listen to the Man in the Lab Coat* - 2004 Melbourne Fringe (solo).

PODCASTS

- Pratchat* - 2017-current, monthly ongoing show (producer, editor, host, writer).
- Bodgy Creek Community Podcast* - 2020, narrative series (guest writer/performer).
- Night Terrace: For Your Ears Only* - 2020, mini-series (producer, editor).
- message received* - 2020, single episode (producer).
- On the Terrace* - 2019, two series (producer, editor, co-host).
- re:Discovery* - 2019, single series (producer, editor, host).
- Splendid Chaps* - 2013-2019, monthly live show plus sporadic revivals (producer, host, writer).

GAMES

Table of Tales: The Crooked Crown - 2019 PlayStation VR game, Tin Man Games (lead writer).

Inmost - 2019 indie game, Chucklefish (localisation).

Small Time Criminals - 2016/2017 live installation (designer, writer, performer).

1000 Cities - 2015 explorative digital/live game (designer, writer, performer).

#TrueRomansAll - 2014 live narrative game (designer, writer).

The Whispering Society - White Night Melbourne 2013; live narrative game (designer, writer).

Spy Catcher - 2012 social deduction game show (designer, writer, performer).

The Curse - 2012 live puzzle game (designer, writer, performer).

TRAINING, EDUCATION AND EVALUATION WORK

Freelance workshops - 2010-current; subjects including podcasting, crowdfunding, game design etc (writer and presenter).

ClickView - 2016-current educational videos, various lengths and subjects (writer, also presenter and VO since 2008).

100 Story Building - 2016-current (workshop facilitator, writer and producer of video workshops).

SEED Workshops - 2013-current; boys' program presenter for secondary student wellbeing workshops.

Freeplay Awards judge, 2015-2018 Freeplay Independent Games Festival.

Student feedback, RMIT - 2017, on games pitch projects.

Guest lecture/workshops, RMIT - 2016/2017, on games writing and audio drama.

"Hands On: Improving approachability in live game design by removing abstraction" - 2017 talk at Digital Games Research Association conference.

OTHER PERFORMANCE

The Terminativity - 2010/2011 comedy musical (supporting cast, two songs).

Woodley - 2011 ABC sitcom (guest role).

McGuffin - 2010 Melbourne Fringe Festival; improvised theatre (producer, deviser, director, performer).

The Taking of Ramsey Street - 2006 Melbourne Fringe Festival; stage musical (principal role).