

indelabilityarts

Artist Bio:

Hi there! My name is Karen Lee Roberts and I am a performer/ writer/ singer living with and surviving bipolar disorder. My artwork aims to convey social and emotional messages to my audience on prevalent topics and try to educate whilst entertaining.

I have performed extensively in Australia and overseas including acting and singing at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre in “Sherwoodstock”, performing in the West End musical “Hair” at the Old Vic Theatre in London, and singing my original works in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. I have also been part of various festivals in Australia including the Brisbane Festival, Fete de la Musique and the Festival of Sydney.

In 2013 I joined Performing Detention, a residency piece at the Metro Arts Theatre, performing at the Brisbane Powerhouse. Later I was accepted into the QPAC Choir and performed with them from 2013 until 2015. During 2014 I worked with OzFrank Theatre Company and the Villanova Players.

My first children’s book, *The Big Pineapple*, was published in 1996 through Boolarong Press, and my second children’s book, *Wilbur the Optical Whale*, was published in 2016 through Amazon. I have written several other children’s books and recently developed *Wilbur the Optical Whale* into a theatrical show which won two awards at the 2020 Adelaide Fringe Festival.

During 2015 I performed a self-written cabaret, *It’s Not Easy Being Green* (now titled *Chameleon*), at the Queensland Theatre Company, and travelled to Hawaii to perform and speak at the 2015 Pacific Rim International Conference for Disability and Diversity. Later in 2015 I joined **indelabilityarts** and co-created the show *Look Mum, No Hands*, which was first performed at the Turbine Studio, Brisbane Powerhouse. For 2016 I performed with **indelabilityarts** at the Powerhouse and La Boite Theatre, performed in the production of *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* with the Villanova Players and performed my cabaret *It’s Not Easy Being Green* at Room to Play.

In 2017 I performed *Look Mum, No Hands* at the Gold Coast Arts Centre, and my cabaret at the Anywhere Theatre Festival. I also co-created and performed a schools tour show, *Love Me*, with **indelabilityarts** at RPAC and SUNPAC.

At the start of 2018, I travelled to the Adelaide Fringe Festival to perform my cabaret, and to perform *Look Mum, No Hands* with **indelabilityarts**. I performed with Restless Theatre Company at the *Bleach Festival* for the Commonwealth Games. This show won a Helpmann Award. I also staged my cabaret in the Anywhere Theatre Festival on the Sunshine Coast.

For the remainder of 2018, I performed with **indelabilityarts** during a tour of regional Queensland, staging *Look Mum, No Hands* and *Love Me*.

In 2019 **indelability**arts went into rehearsal for *Wilbur the Optical Whale* with Flipside Circus. We did a showing at the Judith Wright Centre in August, and another in December at Flipside. I also staged my cabaret *Chameleon* to audiences in Melbourne at the Butterfly Club. And at Arts Ablaze Festival in Kooralbyn Valley. In 2020 **indelability**arts travelled to Adelaide to perform *Wilbur* in the Adelaide Fringe Festival to sold-out shows. I did two online jazz gigs during the Covid-19 lockdown and my cabaret also.

I have also done various MC'ing events around Brisbane as different characters and shot two QLD Government short films for disability, one of which, *The No Pile*, won several awards.