

Trailer Tales

(aka **Caravan Chronicles** outside the USA) **informational one-sheet**



We have families of blood, we have families of choice, and we have families of circumstance. And no matter where we go in the world, we find connections and shared values with ‘family’ we haven’t met yet.

“A piece of wildly original interactive installation theatre...with stories, hospitality and haikus. Warm-hearted, inclusive fun gently underscored by a universal message: families are all about shared memories, rituals and acceptance. Let us not take them for granted.” *Adelaide Advertiser, AU*

Adaptable to multiple venues, indoor or out, **TRAILER TALES/CARAVAN CHRONICLES** will surprise, please, provoke and inspire participants, giving a deeper meaning to the ideas of *family* and *tradition*.



WHAT HAPPENS?

This community-based, site-specific performance art piece is typically set in and around a vintage trailer (or caravan). In it, a trio of ‘cousins’ (internationally acclaimed, award-winning **theater simple**) dive into the shared stories and traditions of a sprawling, but oh-so-familiar tribe while audience members become ‘part of the family’ as they experience a semi-traditional yet highly idiosyncratic family reunion.

TRAILER TALES/CARAVAN CHRONICLES is comprised of many parts, some scripted, some improvised and interactive, which are collaged together by the viewer through experience and participation. History and tradition are jumping-off points for this gathering, as are the varied, unique, and yet sturdy ways family habits are viewed over time, over culture, and around the world.

CONNECTEDNESS. ENGAGEMENT. IMAGINATION.

Our goal is to build a larger sense of community within the audience, endowing them with relationships and discovering a shared ‘history’. Inside this idea- that ‘family’ is drawn from those who are literally around us – is where we look for the links of community as we listen to stories of where we have been and where we might go, whatever our age. And these stories are the maps that give us points of common connection and delight.

As audience members explore the universal customs of this sprawling, oddly memorable clan, they are encouraged (many are compelled) to share the flood of family memories that the project evokes. On paper plates they write longer stories, while on smaller plates, they become poets and write 17-syllable haikus. (The younger littles often draw pictures) These stories and poems accumulate and are viewable by future audiences and passers-by. So listen to a story, share a story, and contribute to the family ‘lore’.

Teaching and skill-sharing **TRAILER TALES/CARAVAN CHRONICLES** acts both as an interactive theater piece and a community-building artistic residency. Leading up to performance, **theater simple** can work with local participants to develop characters that can become part of the installation. We can also offer classes exploring techniques in physical imagination, ensemble theater, page-to-stage storytelling, and improvisation.

Artists in Residence: Commissioned by 4Culture’s Site-Specific Performance Network and supported by grants in Washington, **TRAILER TALES** and **theater simple** were artists in residence for the state-wide Washington State Cultural Congress. *Trailer Tales* was also the guest artist event at the Kennedy Center Director’s Lab West.

In Adelaide, South Australia, as the interactive public art component for the Adelaide Fringe (the 2nd largest arts festival in the world), the work was installed in 6 venues over 3 weeks in communities both urban and rural, including The Children’s Festival, on a busy beach esplanade, and at the Museum of South Australia — and was supported by the Arts Council of South Australia.

Video

(This 2-minute clip is a blend of US Performances and the 3 weeks that **Trailer Tales/Caravan Chronicles** spent in South Australia.) <https://vimeo.com/180573723>

Visit our webpage:

<https://theatersimple.org/trailer-ales-weekend-safari-caravan-chronicles-urban-reunion>