Creative Methods: Widening the World of Work

Following the last two years’ of Story Conferences we’d like to announce the next in the trilogy

Scheduled for October 5-7, in Melbourne, “Creative Methods: Widening the World of Work” seeks to open and hold the space for conversations and explorations around the many rich and powerful ways that creative methods are used to effect change in the world of organisations, communities and individuals today... and how you may get to do the work and follow your passion in the first place!

Creative Methods may include, but are not limited to:
- Story and Narrative Techniques
- Improvisational Theatre
- Psychodrama
- Creative-arts-based therapies

This conference is for you if you are:
- Seeking new (or old) ways to help bring meaningful connection, relationship and work to fruition within the workplace and beyond
- A creative methods practitioner in any guise
- Simply interested in learning more about the many and diverse ways of working with creative methods... like Story!

5 -7 October 2011
Abbotsford Convent, Melbourne

Event Location (see page 3)

Workshop Leaders (see page 5-23)
With this event being one of Babel Fish Group’s Crucible events, we will work hard (at getting out of the way) to provide the opportunities and conditions for rich connection and conversation throughout the three days of the conference.

‘Crucible: A vessel that can maintain high temperatures and transforms its ingredients as a result’
The Journey you’ll go on... in more detail

Day 1  Pre-conference Workshops (10am - 5pm)
Pre-conference workshops ... Choose... And spend the day with...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bob Dick</th>
<th>David Denborough</th>
<th>Tom Verghe and Cindy Tonkin</th>
<th>Viv McWaters and Johnnie Moore</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exploring below the surface: elicting stories for cultural diagnosis</td>
<td>The Power of Song: working with individuals, groups and/or communities</td>
<td>Consulting Unplugged: the secrets of flourishing in consulting</td>
<td>Friction and Fiction: Creating space for deeper conversations</td>
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Conference Opening with Rod Quantock 6pm-8pm

Day 2  Practitioner Workshops (9am - 5pm)

Morning Welcome and Choosing of Workshops

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<th>Rho Sandberg and Vanessa Toy</th>
<th>Tina Christensen</th>
<th>Cindy Tonkin</th>
<th>Robert Chaffe</th>
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<td>The Grit in the Oyster</td>
<td>The power of play - it’s no longer just for the kids</td>
<td>Solving the Insoluble: a corporate approach to improvisation</td>
<td>“Upside down and inside out” – Getting lasting results from all involved</td>
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<td>Listen to my story</td>
<td>Putting the ‘play’ back into role play</td>
<td>Visioning the future</td>
<td>Creative Intelligence – the Masters Wisdom</td>
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<th>Dr Gary Wohlman</th>
<th>Debra Driscoll and the Red Thread Stories team</th>
<th>Natalie McDonagh and Jessica Connor</th>
<th>Julie Harris and Sonja Ott</th>
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<td>Mastering Authenticity &amp; Audience Rapport</td>
<td>Stories of Success and Struggle</td>
<td>New Ways of Seeing, New Ways of Thinking</td>
<td>The SV Other Annual Report Stories</td>
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Conference dinner starting at 6pm

Day 3  Playback theatre to Open Space (9am - 4pm)
The final day of explorations...

Imagine it... You’ve made it to Day 3... And first thing in the morning you get the chance to see your stories brought to life with the magic of Melbourne Playback Theatre... The only question now is what are the conversations you need to have? What helps are you seeking? This day is your opportunity to share a tool, a process, a struggle, a possibility... A chance to share in richer conversations... This is what Open Space Technology will provide...
Event Location

To provide this three day event with a unique atmosphere we have chosen the Abbotsford Convent.

We have found the reflective and mysterious atmosphere of the Abbotsford Convent to be the perfect setting for this three day Story conference.

A place of story, the Abbotsford Convent is fast becoming an important arts, educational and cultural precinct in Melbourne. Just 4 kilometres from Melbourne’s CBD, its 11 historic buildings, gardens and car park are spread over 6.8 hectares in a sweeping bend in the Yarra River and are surrounded by the Collingwood Children’s Farm and Yarra Bend Park.

The conference dinner event will be held at the atmospheric Studley Park Boathouse.

Only 10 minutes from the city centre, the Restaurant in the beautifully restored Victorian/Edwardian residence at historic Studley Park Boathouse, Kew offers the special ambience of contemporary fine dining together with sweeping views of the Yarra River and natural bushland.

Registration Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Day 2 &amp; 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>All Preconference Workshops are priced at</td>
<td>$440 (inc GST)</td>
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<tr>
<td>And then enter into the conference with either a one day or two day pass.</td>
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<th>1 Day Pass</th>
<th>2 Day Pass</th>
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<tr>
<td>Super-Dooper Early Bird (before June 30th)</td>
<td>$495 (inc GST)</td>
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<td>Early Bird (before August 31st)</td>
<td>$363 (inc GST)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Corporate</td>
<td>$418 (inc GST)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate</td>
<td>$473 (inc GST)</td>
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Need help? Email us on: storyconference@babelfishgroup.com
Special Features of this year’s Conference

Rod Quantock

As part of this year’s conference opening we are thrilled to have Rod Quantock host the evening and get your creative juices flowing. As a pioneer of stand up comedy, Rod Quantock has more than thirty years experience working in cabaret, theatre, television, radio, advertising and the corporate sector. His live shows are predictably box office hits at the Melbourne Comedy Festival and the Adelaide Fringe Festival and he is an evergreen favourite at corporate events. Come along and see what surprises we have in store!

Melbourne Playback Theatre

For the third year running, we are excited to welcome back Melbourne Playback Theatre.

This year they will be featuring on the morning of Day 3... Sharing a rich session exploring Playback theatre as not only a magical performance vehicle, but powerful and effective in creating change in its own way...

Come along and experience how!

Simon Kneebone

This year we welcome Simon Kneebone back to our conference as our Artist-in-Residence.

Simon Kneebone has been a cartoonist and illustrator for over 25 years. Simon is in high demand and has worked with a wide range of organizations, his graphics appearing in many publications, websites and on conference walls.

Simon enjoys the challenge - and the playfulness - in getting pictures to tell the story and his work is well known for communicating information and ideas effectively - with more than just a touch of humour and fun.

Come along - see and experience how Simon works his magic during the conference... With pics that may be confronting, compelling, hilarious, enlightening, inspiring and beautiful...

Liquid Creativity

Liquid has used their creative talents to develop the branding for all three conferences along with the design for all the marketing collateral.

Liquid is a branding and graphic design studio. Sue Palmer, the director, has over 20 years experience transforming the way businesses communicate to their audience. As a branding consultant, she has extensive experience working with individuals and teams to guide them through the process of building an emotive and engaging brand.

Sue will be available for short consultations on how you can further connect, engage and create greater value with existing and potentially new customers through branding.
I’m an independent scholar, a facilitator of change, and an occasional academic and author. I would do this work for fun if I wasn’t doing it for a living. This is especially because it so often involves working with people who want to make the world a better place. In an increasingly complex and turbulent world I find action research and action learning useful methodologies and mindsets. In such work, story is a valuable medium for collecting information that is more than merely intellectual.

Pre-Con Description
This one-day workshop will explore the use of story-elicitation and action research to access the less accessible aspects of organisational life.

The day will see four sessions focusing on
• Using appreciative stories to form community and build engagement
• Story circles for story elicitation
• ‘History trip’ to build the collective story
• ‘Fairy story’ for an engaging organisational diagnosis

David Denborough works as a teacher, writer/editor, community practitioner, and song-writer, for Dulwich Centre. He is particularly interested in developing innovative responses to working with social suffering.

Recent teaching and community assignments have included Bosnia, Rwanda, Uganda, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, South Africa and a number of Aboriginal Australian communities.

David’s songs in response to current social issues have received airplay throughout Australia and Canada. And his collaboration with KAGE Physical Theatre Company has resulted in the award winning show ‘Headlock’ and ‘Sundowner’.

Pre-Con Description
‘Music has a power, a very special power’
How can lyrics be rescued from the words people speak?
How can songs be crafted and then performed that give voice to preferred stories of identity?
How can we use music and song in our work, even if we consider ourselves ‘not musical’?

This workshop will be relevant to anyone with an interest in music and melody and how their power can be harnessed to work with individuals, groups and/or communities.

It will consist of
• An introduction to key principles and practices of narrative song-writing
• Examples of narrative song-writing from within prisons, schools, and communities within Australia and internationally
• The creation of a collective song
• Illustrations of musical ‘definitional ceremonies’
• Explorations of how it is possible to turn anguish to art and then to social contribution
• And considerations of the intriguing relationship between music and memory
Co-creators include: Melbourne Playback, Chambers Rosewood Winery.

Pre-conference Workshops

**Tom Verghese and Cindy Tonkin**
Consulting Unplugged: the secrets of flourishing in consulting

**Pre-Con Description**
Come discover the secrets of successful consulting from two consultants with 19+ years consultancy experience.

Through a participant-driven agenda, find out the intellectual, physical, social, mental and spiritual habits which mean you can ride the ups and downs of clients and assignments, and still maintain your balance.

**The day will cover at least**
- You are more than you think: self-promotion within organisations and beyond
- You can do it: framing proposals in a way that clients want to go ahead
- You are who you hang out with: networking for your career
- You are worth it: negotiating briefs, fee structures, deadlines and scope creep
- You are human: dealing with intimidating clients; pushing back to the client; keeping your head together
- You are a global player: taking your business beyond your city, your state and your own country

This session is designed for both internal and external consultants.

**Viv McWaters and Johnnie Moore**
Friction and Fiction: Creating space for deeper conversations

**Pre-Con Description**
We'll be exploring ways to:
- Move meetings away from top-down, death-by-powerpoint models
- Have fun with complexity instead of getting tripped up by it
- Extend the emotional bandwidth within groups to get much more from meetings

We'll look at how to meet friction: doing things that stretch participants and support some risk taking.

And we're fond of dismissing the fiction: the “furries” of organisations – the myths that are used as excuses to stay put and carry on business as usual.

We're inspired by work from improv theatre, open space, gestalt therapy, encounter groups and our own experimentation.

**Among the things we’ll explore**
- Deliberate Gibberish: How to move beyond the language trap
- Snapping out of the ‘teacher trance’ to uncover new resources
- Noticing more, changing less: trading stressful control for meaningful influence
- Messing with status: uncovering and disrupting status games that kill energy in meetings

**Tom Verghese**, The Cultural Synergist, has had extensive experience working with a diverse range of global organisations and with global leaders from different cultures all over the world. His client list includes Shell, Disney, Honda, Autoliv, Sara Lee, Cadbury Schweppes and Microsoft. He is the author of “The Invisible Elephant – Exploring Cultural Awareness”.

Of Indian origin, born and raised in multi-ethnic Malaysia, he moved to Australia nearly 30 years ago as a foreign student. His wife is English and they have two children.

Find out more about him at www.culturalsynergies.com

**Cindy Tonkin**, The Consultants’ Consultant, wrote the Best selling Australian Consultant’s Guide and 7 other books on consulting.

It is her good fortune that 58% of her business is repeat or by referral. Her clients number just over 50 in a consulting career which began in 1987.

Cindy works with both internal consultants in major corporates and independent consultants. She is an improviser, a painter and singer and also runs Ludic Creative, an improvisation-based creative consultancy.

Find out more about her at cindytonkin.com or consultantsconsultant.com.au

**Viv McWaters** trained in agricultural science and journalism before becoming a facilitator.

She has worked across Asia, America and Africa for corporations, government bodies and educational institutions.

**Johnnie Moore** studied philosophy and politics at Oxford before working as a political speechwriter before sliding one notch up the ethical scale to work in advertising for 15 years.

After training in gestalt psychotherapy and improv theatre, he became a group facilitator and has worked in Europe, Asia, America and Australasia, with clients ranging from World Vision to Johnson & Johnson.

Find out more about them at www.consultantsconsultant.com.au

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Co-creators include: Melbourne Playback, Chambers Rosewood Winery.

Designed by: liquid Printed by: Impact Digital

crucible babelfish group
**Cindy Tonkin**
Solving the insoluble: a corporate approach to improvisation

**Session Description**
It’s often difficult to find clients who are prepared to “indulge” in their creative side in the business world. Come experience a workshop firmly aimed at working on insoluble client problems. See how you bend the creative side to adjust to the way they work. A fun and interactive workshop with not only improv games to use yourself, but some food for thought about how you can shape your own practice to include more and different organisations.

**If people got the “best” of your session, what would they leave with?**
Ways to tailor their own creative offerings to reach a corporate market.

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**Clare Coburn**
Listen to my story

**Session Description**
Communication, conflict, and creativity have infused my work life. I currently work as a consultant and educator and explore story and conflict to train, educate and inspire people to examine their own identity and communication. I completed a doctorate on listening in mediation and have studied storytelling at the International School of Storytelling. Some of my recent work includes projects and teaching with Legal Aid Western Australia, the Department for Child Protection WA, UWA and La Trobe University. I bring a seriously playful, inquisitive and humorous approach to work and life in this time when I believe we are all seeking to grow wiser.

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Cindy Tonkin runs Ludic Creative which uses improvisation games to help teams (especially corporate teams) bond, create new ideas and have fun. She came over to the creative side after a long while playing the corporate games, so she knows how to speak their language. She has consulted to over 50 organisations, and believes that the world benefits marvellously from applying creative and artistic processes to everyday experiences like work! She paints, improvises, and sings. Find out more at www.consultantsconsultant.com.au or ludiccreative.com
Red Thread Stories is a Brisbane-based consultancy. We assist people to share and listen to each other’s stories so as to create more cohesive, productive, and satisfied communities, corporations, teams, and individuals. Our partners have extensive experience in training, business management, psychology, community development, alternative health and environmental science. Our varied backgrounds enable us to meet the needs of diverse organisations and communities. We believe stories are an important tool to enrich our understanding of ourselves, our community, work team, or organisation. We are passionate about creating inclusive spaces which enable people to listen and safely share stories. We focus on creative and interactive ways of doing this. “For a group or community to exist they must have a shared story.” Kris Plowman, member, Red Thread Stories

Session Description

In this workshop participants will explore and engage with the successes and failures of commissioning their creative work to businesses and corporations. Red Thread Stories will utilise their facilitated story methods to tease out stories of success, struggle, and the learning involved with translating creative story work into the world of business; corporate or community. The learning will be directly related to the DOING! Our work is inclusive, interactive and embodied. Participants will engage in the processes and applications of our work and will be given the opportunity to share and listen to stories.

If people got the “best” of your session, what would they leave with?

Upon completion participants will have shared and listened to stories; will have laughed; will have learnt from each other’s experiences; will feel less isolated as a creative consultant; will have new strategies to engage businesses; will be energised.

Dr. Gary Wohlman

Mastering Authenticity & Audience Rapport

Dr. Gary Wohlman is the founder and director of Wohlman Wellness & Coaching and Amber Phoenix Pty Ltd. He is an innovative, international presentation coach who travels the world training CEOs, managing directors, senior managers and executive committees of leading organisations, as well as professional speakers and entrepreneurs in a wide range of industries. His streamlined approach to facilitating personal and corporate communication breakthroughs combines over 30 years of performance-based leadership training, team-building and platform skills.

Dr. Wohlman holds a combined B.A. degree in Psychology and Pre-Med from Johns Hopkins University, as well as a Ph.D. in Transpersonal Psychology & Expressive Arts from the International University of Professional Studies. His proprietary method of body therapy, the “Wohlman Method for the Whole Person,” has received National Accreditation by the Department of Education & Training in Australia.

Session Description

In this interactive and engaging presentation, Dr. Gary Wohlman will work with participants to identify and shift key challenges that they face in delivering their messages with greatest impact. He will provide various tools that members will be able to immediately put into practice, including: His proprietary “Speech Cycle Template” The Grid System for “walking your talk” His “Double-Extreme” technique for exaggerating and releasing limiting communication styles; Assistance in delivering one’s signature speech; A guide for embodying new self-talk.

Dr. Wohlman’s unique approach is body-centered, and integrates the latest research in accelerated learning and whole-brain thinking. It is designed to both maximise the effectiveness of live presentations and also transform the abilities of the presenters.

If people got the “best” of your session, what would they leave with?

Streamlined speech preparation; More audience engagement and impactful delivery; Strengthened stage presence and congruence; Mastering facilitation skills. All will come away with increased skillsets in the areas of: making better live presentations, resolving conflicts, building their teams, and improving communication – both professionally and personally, and throughout all stages of their lives.
Jenny Hutt
Putting the ‘play’ back into role play

Session Description
Well-run role-plays of real life situations can invigorate the learning environment. Yet some people ‘hate’ role-play - they find it dull, artificial, embarrassing, even exposing. In my experience role-plays can be relevant, fun, engaging and moving. But their success depends on creating an authentic play space which values warm up and spontaneity. This experiential workshop will engage participants in action methods, demonstrate approaches to role play and introduce underlying principles.

If people got the “best” of your session, what would they leave with?
Participants will leave with: Ways to help a group warm up to playful yet real learning and An introduction to the concepts of ‘warm up’ and ‘spontaneity’

Julie Harris and Sonja Ott
The SV Other Annual Report Stories

Session Description
Julie Harris and Sonja Ott both work for Sustainability Victoria (SV), a State Government agency that seeks to guide and change the behaviour of Victorians to use our resources sustainably. Julie works as a Program Manager in the Education for Sustainability team and Sonja is a Project Manager in the Renewable Energy team. Julie and Sonja were both participants of SV’s Leadership Program in 2010. As part of the program the idea of SV’s Other Annual Report Story (OARS) was born. It came out of many conversations about the difficulties of capturing, measuring, reporting and valuing SV’s behaviour change successes in an organisation where greenhouse gases and tonnes of waste diverted from landfill dominate the reporting landscape. The SV OARS commenced as one of four participant projects in SV’s Leadership Program in 2010 and is now continuing as a regular feature on the annual reporting program.

If people got the “best” of your session, what would they leave with?
People will learn about the positive outcomes of articulating, sharing and celebrating personal success stories within an organisation that works in the area of behaviour change where hard measures of performance such as tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions saved often fail to reflect significant achievements. Participants will get inspired and motivated to use creative methods of reporting such as story telling in organisations. Most importantly participants will be able to share in the fun we had telling, sharing and learning from our organisation’s stories.
Practitioner Workshops

Martin Butcher
Visioning the future

Session Description
In this session participants will collaborate in one of four different creative methods to express their vision of a sustainable city. They will present their vision to the others in the group, and evaluate the effectiveness of each method to use with those not experienced or comfortable with creative expression.

If people got the “best” of your session, what would they leave with?
They would have experienced participating in a creative process, as well as assessing three others for effectiveness. In this manner they will have worked collaboratively with others in the group in an action research project that will provide each individual unique and unknowable insights.

Natalie McDonagh and Jess Connor
New Ways of Seeing, New Ways of Thinking

Session Description
“Kindly let me help you or you will drown,” said the monkey putting the fish safely up a tree’ - Alan Watts. Working internationally as design practitioner, consultant and lecturer, Natalie repeatedly witnessed the machinations and effects of individual and organisational ‘monkey mind’. Convinced the arts can significantly extend modes of mind, in 1999 Natalie established a pioneering design practice dedicated to art-based learning. Tested in long term programs of organisational development, and supported by doctoral research, her methods repeatedly proved able to extend workings of mind and heart. Natalie facilitates learning programs, and designs thinking tools and learning materials used by consultants and facilitators to benefit themselves and their applied practice with clients. Eight years ago, after participating in an organisational L&D program created and led by Natalie, Jess adopted these tools and methods, now using them extensively as a consultant and facilitator for more creative, emergent outcomes.

If people got the “best” of your session, what would they leave with?
• Insight into their habits of mind and how this helps/hinders ways of seeing and thinking
• Fresh perspective on a live situation they are handling - New pathways for imaginative, useful action in their situation
• A new way to benefit their own development and their applied practice with clients
• A new example of the significance of first language telling
Rho Sandberg and Vanessa Toy
The Grit in the Oyster

Session Description
This workshop explores methods for working with disturbance and helping organisations, leaders and their staff to make the most of unwelcome and unexpected experiences. They will introduce a way of harnessing the potential for change in situations that interrupt our usual and often habitual ways of seeing and engaging with the world.

If people got the “best” of your session, what would they leave with?
A new way of responding creatively to apparent problems and frustrations in the workplace. Practical skills for helping people appreciate and access the opportunities inherent in problem scenarios.

Robert Chaffe
“Upside down and inside out”
getting lasting results from all involved

Session Description
My vocation is land and water management to realise sustainable communities based on one-earth. Over 40 years the need to husband our land has grown as we find more ways to exploit ever diminishing resources. Many ways have been tried to bring about lasting change; the most successful have been those which empower people to take control of their destiny though building community competency and capacity and the use of many ways to reach agreed goals. In short, using change to succeed. My mission in the past 25 years has been to develop ways and means to do this. Effective engagement is one way provided the facilitator is ready as the journey follows many pathways and challenges that have not been faced before. Several major regionally based projects I have been involved with as a facilitator in the past 5 years have shed new light onto principles and practices that really work.

Session Description
Using the skills and knowledge of the community effectively through “story telling” to develop and appreciate the complexity of living and working in the 21st century while inspiring action which expects diversity and honours a wide range of input from others.

If people got the “best” of your session, what would they leave with?
Inspired to try their own version of the methods that work.
Susan Ryan is a creative pioneer who helps organisations grow and develop through the evolution of their leadership. Artelier was founded as a way of intersecting her love for the creative arts to the human development field. Susan has adapted the artists’ process as a workable self development tool which enables clients to access their inner knowing, and create from their highest future potential. She works through creative intelligence workshops, executive and team coaching, consulting and is a speaker on the subject. The scope of her knowledge stems from diverse disciplines including metaphysics, new science theory, philosophy, artists, behavioural science and is integrated within all her work.

**Session Description**
An art based experiential session where you will learn the secret process used by the great artists, scientists, entrepreneurs throughout history where you create your life from your highest future potential.

**If people got the “best” of your session, what would they leave with?**
A deeper connectedness to their innate creative nature; a deeper self awareness; a process to follow for congruent decision making; a broader perspective of the bigger picture of life; sensory acuity; self trust; a relaxed body and open mind; a sense of freedom!

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Tina Christensen
The power of play - it’s no longer just for the kids

Hi I’m Tina Christensen. Having successfully combined work as an artist exhibiting internationally and being a transpersonal art therapist running a practice with 121 clients, facilitating groups & soon to be retreats in beautiful places, I’m clear, I love to play and my clients walk away with the same joy. That’s it. I get results. ‘No pain - no gain’, is a left brain phenomena. ‘All gain - no pain’, is a right brain phenomena. It is a frontier little understood in Australia. Tapping into the individual’s creative resources of the right brain is the next realm of human potential exploration. The learning is not linear, the outcomes are exponentially not linear. I will share real outcomes, an experiential process which is yours to take with you and more. This is the playground I work in. I invite you to come and join me for a bit on the adventure.

**Session Description**
Experiential content is an art therapy based process that can be done in pairs or as a whole group depending on numbers which is designed to have aha moments rise. Participants walk away with a resource in their toolkit for moments that usually require calorie stacking minties... spoken content

• background of the emergence of the power of play as a working title & reality creating exquisite shifts in being, in lives, in human potential
• givingcase studies - individuals, group dynamics
• why (if it’s not already obvious) why despite it being loads of fun, it works!

**If people got the “best” of your session, what would they leave with?**
Wow. That’s so cool. I never thought I could learn so much from having fun. I could use that to centre myself when I’m off-centre. I could share that. I want to know more.