

Meme McDonald

Brief resume

Meme grew up in the country, trained as an actor in the city, then directed epic theatre in the outdoors, before writing books, nine of them so far, which have received six major literary awards. Her latest novel is *LOVE LIKE WATER* (Allen & Unwin). www.mememcdonald.com

Extended Resume

Meme has written nine books (most recently the novel *LOVE LIKE WATER* also published in Slovenia) that have received six major literary awards in Australia. Two of these books – *MY GIRRAGUNDJI* and *NJUNJUL THE SUN* - have been adapted for stage and toured nationally. Other writings include the ABC online documentary, *A YEAR ON THE WING*; co-writing/directing rock musicals *RIFF-RAFF* (performed with Men at Work) and *XENOPHOBIA* (performed with Real Life) and numerous theatre productions; co-writing a feature filmscript based on the bestselling book - *MY GIRRAGUNDJI* – written in collaboration with Boori Monty Pryor. Meme recently wrote and directed the short film, *WARRIMA – Shake a Leg Dance* for YouthWorx Productions.

Meme trained at the Victorian College of the Arts Drama School and began her career directing and writing as Artistic Director of WEST Theatre Company. She then specialized in epic theatre in outdoor locations, developing the concept and directing the landmark production *WADERBIRDS* - staged beside Mangere Harbour Auckland, Aotearoa/New Zealand, then under Westgate Bridge in Melbourne, on Town Beach Broome, Australia, and in parkland in Kurshiro, Japan. This production told the story of the migratory birds through large-scale puppet imagery, original composition, dance, and fire sculpture. More recently, she was Artistic Director of *CONNECTING IDENTITIES* – a three year arts project based in the City of Greater Geelong that included a *MEMORY BANK* of 36 three-minute films directed by Malcolm McKinnon, now housed online; and directing *MOUTH TO MOUNTAIN*, the 54 kilometre arts relay, carrying water from the mouth of the Barwon River to the top of the You Yangs, featuring performance events at dawn, midday and dusk.

Meme was creative consultant on *THE WAY OF THE BIRDS* animation (based on her children's book, and winning Best Film Class C Cinanima International Animated Film Festival Portugal) directed by Sarah Watt; co-produced the short film *ROMA* directed by Jane Oehr; and has had eight exhibitions of her photography. Meme has a Bachelor of Arts from Queensland University and a Master of Arts from the University of Melbourne.

www.mememcdonald.com