



# HIGHER FASTER LOUDER!

DIRECTED BY MATT SCHOLTEN

## Education Mini-Pack

25 AUGUST — 2 SEPTEMBER 2023  
The Theatre, Bulimba-ja Arts Centre

### About the Play

JUTE Theatre Company brings you *Higher Faster Louder*, a new play born from the remarkable experiences of Marilyn Marsh-Booth, one of the world's first female commercial pilots during the transformative era of women's liberation in the 1960-70s. Fast and furiously funny, this play challenges the status quo and persistent gender barriers that continue to linger in our modern world.

*Higher Faster Louder* reminds audiences that true change often comes from courage and perseverance, embracing the unknown, and pushing the boundaries of possibility. Be brave and never give up on your dreams.

Prepare to be moved as Marilyn's story unfolds on stage, flying the highs and the lows of what it takes to change the world. The sky is not the limit—it's just the beginning.

### About the Playwright

Marilyn was born in West Yorkshire in 1946, a year after the end of the second world war. Her parents owned a fish and chip shop. She went to grammar school, but was sufficiently disinterested in more study, to turn down the opportunity of free university. There was no career guidance in those days... Her mother found her a job in an office, which she hated. This spurred her on to leave home and go and work in Europe, which eventually resulted in a 30-year career in aviation.

Upon retirement from aviation, Marilyn explored many other careers, including opening and running her own personal training studio. She became very interested in theatre and saw many shows at JUTE Theatre Company before volunteering in various roles, such as ushering, ticket sales and assistant stage manager. Marilyn decided to attend an acting course with JUTE, which she enjoyed, but she felt acting was not for her. JUTE offered Marilyn a place on the Write Sparks playwriting course, which she accepted, and at the culmination of the course, submitted a full script. This led to a three year writer-in-residence with JUTE, resulting in the production of the work, *Higher Faster Louder*.



Turn the page for activities, and discussions.

### Cast

Suellen Maunder  
Julia Forsberg  
Elizabeth Slaterry  
Kyle Walmsley

### Creative Team

Director Matt Scholten  
Set & Costume Designer Peter Keavy  
Lighting Designer Sam Gibb  
Sound Designer Wil Hughes  
Projection Designer Russel Milledge  
Dramaturgy Kathryn Ash  
Production Manager Sam Gibb  
Stage Manager Esther Elder  
Director Intern Adria Cunningham  
Sound Design Intern Brennan Ridge  
Photography/Videography Colin Pett  
Poster Artwork Caroline Mudge  
Set Construction: Just the Man Handyman and Home Maintenance

### Genre

Comedy

### Running Time

Approx. 1hr 25 min with no interval

### Audience Information

Contains occasional coarse language, sexual innuendo, mild strobe lighting effects, Haze, machine sound effects, airplane simulation and depiction of an extreme weather event.

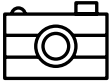
## Before the show



The play is set in the United Kingdom from 1946 to early 1970s, a period of great social change for women. Research some of the issues women faced in the workplace during this period - in the UK and in Australia- including gender discrimination for careers, gender expectations for marriage and children, and laws that discriminated against women.

Who were the first female aviators? Explore statistics for the percentage of women who are commercial airline pilots today. Why do you think that careers in aviation are still dominated by men?

Discuss possible design elements of the show (lighting, sound, projection, set, costume) and make predictions about this production of *Higher Faster Louder*. eg. How might the design elements create a sense of history and place within the storytelling? For example, how would you depict an aeroplane cockpit?



Discuss what is meant by the term 'creative team'. Discuss the different roles in the creative team, and who does what and how they must work together?



Watch a video about the development of *Higher Faster Louder*. (Note that some of the creatives/cast in this Creative Development did not end up working on the final production) Consider what sort of impact the process described in the video had on the final production?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bx\\_A7Q3ldHY&ab\\_channel=JUTETheatreCompany](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bx_A7Q3ldHY&ab_channel=JUTETheatreCompany)

## Post-show activities

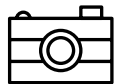


Discuss this moment in the play:

**Narrator (MM):** Look! The world isn't staring at you. The world is watching you....Noisy Girls change the world!

Do you have role models? If so, how do they help you? If not, how does that make it hard to achieve what you want to achieve? Do you have a particular career in mind?

What obstacles did Marilyn have to face in order to be a commercial pilot? Do you think there will be obstacles on your own career path? What do you think about the message Marilyn has given you through her play about overcoming obstacles?



Look at the production photos and designer sketches at [jute.com.au/backstage](https://jute.com.au/backstage). Discuss how design was used in the play. Discuss the use of light, space, projection, and sound. Can you identify any symbolic meaning in these design choices? Can you describe the director's vision for the work?

<https://jute.com.au/backstage/backstage-higher-faster-louder>



Consider the play's characters; how are the multitude of characters identified through voice, costume, physicality and movement? How have the designers and the director's choices helped to deliver a sense of flow, symbolically representing space and time?

Consider the structure of the work:

Can you identify each stage of a 3 Act Structure in the work; Set up, Disturbance (inciting incident), Obstacles, Crisis, Climax, Resolution?

The original script did not have a narrator. Why do you think the playwright decided to create a narrator for the work? What was the true role of *Higher Faster Louder's* narrator? Why do you think writing an autobiographical play could be tricky?



JUTE Theatre Company is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

"Higher Faster Louder - Production of a New Regional Theatre Work" is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

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