

## **Media Release: Puppet Scrambles, Forced To Self Isolate, Wants To Be A Unicorn Instead - Calls On Public To Dance.**

TUESDAY 24 MARCH, 2020: Puppet Scrambles, who is immunocompromised and therefore at high risk for contracting COVID-19, is worried that staying at home is going to make him – and others – bored and lonely, so he's calling on the public to dance ... like a unicorn.

"I'm not only worried for myself, but for others whose immune systems are suppressed. Despite our health challenges, many of us love going out and about," said Scrambles, the red monster.

"Personally, I love to dance," he said.

"Lately I've been wishing I was someone else. I've been wishing I was one of the 80% of the population who will easily fight off the virus.

"I wish I was a unicorn instead. I've been feeling that a lot," he said.

Larrikin Puppets, the popular puppetry arts company Scrambles works for, has been rallying around Scrambles during this hard time, particularly challenging given all of their live shows have been cancelled.

Puppet Marina, blue monster aged 3, said she wished Scrambles didn't want to be a unicorn.

"We all love Scrambles just the way he is," she said.

"He might worry from time to time, but he's a friendly monster who loves to dance and is well loved by all the children and families who meet him.

"But sometimes to be happy it helps to just pretend you're someone else – just for a little while and just for fun!

"So we've decided that we'd all join Scrambles and instead *pretend* to be unicorns", she said.

Larrikin Puppets has decided to launch its new song *Dance Like A Unicorn* to spread cheer not fear during these tough times. However, because no one is currently able to physically dance near Scrambles, they're forced to get creative with the music video.

They're calling on everyone – no matter what age and how abled bodied – to dance like a unicorn in support of vulnerable, high-risk people who are isolated at home.

"We're putting together a music video in complete isolation without any physical contact from other people, including professional filmmakers," said Scrambles.

"We'll be teaching people the dance via Zoom then asking them to video record themselves doing the dance to send to us for the music video.

"All they need to do is wear something unicorn related, for example, a onesie, a head band, a t-shirt, pyjamas.

“Everyone is welcome to participate – and we’re encouraging high-risk and immunocompromised children and adults like me to take part,” he said.

Marina is super excited about seeing everyone dancing like unicorns.

“Dancing like a unicorn is super fun and this music video will be really funny and make lots of people happy,” she said.

“Those who take part will be among the first to hear our new song. Scrambles and I sing in it and it’s really fast and fun,” she said.

To dance like a unicorn for Larrikin Puppets’ music video, email Elissa [elissa@larrikinpuppets.com.au](mailto:elissa@larrikinpuppets.com.au) or DM them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/LarrikinPuppets](https://www.facebook.com/LarrikinPuppets)

**Media Contacts:** Scrambles and Marina are available for radio, print or podcast interview. To arrange, contact Brett - 0430 086 835, [brett@larrikinpuppets.com.au](mailto:brett@larrikinpuppets.com.au) or Elissa on 0418 786 986.

## About Larrikin Puppets

Larrikin Puppets is Founder & Principal Puppeteer Brett Hansen and Artistic Director & Co-Puppeteer Elissa Jenkins. Together they provide zany and crowd pleasing live comedy-variety puppet shows, story time puppet shows, a puppet MC service, puppetry for film and TV, sock puppet making craft workshops and hands on puppetry performance training workshops.

As children’s entertainers, they have already had \$13,100 worth of gigs cancelled with many more likely to cancel (plus no new bookings).

They have decided to launch their debut song *Dance Like A Unicorn* to raise local and global awareness of the current plight of immunocompromised people during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Elissa is immunocompromised. She has a rare eye disease and, for two years, has been battling to save sight in her left eye. Upon advice from her doctor, Elissa is currently unable to socialise nor perform for children and families. She has to self-isolate until Australia’s COVID-19 pandemic is under control.

This year Larrikin Puppets expected to:

- Launch *Dance Like A Unicorn*, their debut children’s album of 11 songs including high production quality music videos and a new touring live show.
- Launch *Hijabi Girl: A Musical Puppet Show*, a touring school production.
- Star in a possible TV show.
- Continue their lucrative and loved live puppet shows and workshops.

Instead, they will:

- Launch *Dance Like A Unicorn* as a 4 song EP to children and families, including fun music videos.
- Complete the development and production of *Hijabi Girl: A Musical Puppet Show*, with many online teasers, ready for a live, but late launch.
- Launch their own online Larrikin Puppets TV channel.
- Launch online live streamed puppet shows and story times for children and families.