

Madam Nightingale is a new theatrical arts synthpop duo comprising of emerging artist Phaedra Gunn and musician **David O'Toole – [see full CV here](#)



At their debut musical performance 'Taking Flight' Madam Nightingale won 1st prize at the sounds of St Kilda battle of the bands competition at TheatreWorks during St Kilda festival 2020 (pictured above [and video here](#)). They were then selected to appear at PAVE and other Victorian art/music festivals during March-May 2020 but sadly the pandemic ended those opportunities.

Madam Nightingale however were selected to participate in 2020's [hillsceneLIVE](#) – an artist development program sponsored by the Yarra Ranges council – and performed their second show 'Flight of Fancy' at the hillsceneLIVE arts festival (online due to COVID19 - [see video here](#) and pictured below) at Burrinja Cultural Centre.



Developed with mentoring by their assigned producer, HSL director Toni Main (0402301710 | hello@hillscenelive.com), the short 20-minute theatrical act 'Flight of Fancy' was very well received by sponsors: "it was such a committed and immersive vision brought to life" – Gareth Hart, CEO, Burrinja Cultural Centre.

The premise for 'Flight of Fancy' was to explore topical themes of fear, frustration, isolation, resilience and ultimately redemption examining how humanity reacted to the pandemic on an intimate emotional level and imagined the potential for societal/personal growth post-pandemic. Using digital overlay (abstract visual and word art video at 50% opacity broadcast over livestreamed performance), bricolage sculptural props, and stage lighting the livestream audience was taken on a magical journey of light, colour, sound and movement to bring Madam Nightingale's ethereal and emotional synthpop song-cycle to life. Madam Nightingale are currently seeking further creative development opportunities via various arts development grants to expand 'Flight of Fancy' into an hour-long, innovative, AV/AR enhanced synthpop-opera to tour across Australia in '2023.

Contact Madam Nightingale on 0408588990 | MadamNightingaleSingsStories@gmail.com for bookings.

**David identifies as a queer and disabled (renal disease) artist.