

OSAKA, KANSAI, JAPAN
EXPO
2025

Australian Pavilion Proposal

**World Expo:
Osaka, Japan
2025**

'Pieces of Peace'

Presented by

Lusi Austin of
Lemon Tea Theatre
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‘Pieces of Peace’ is a combination of dialogue, song and music to underscore the idea that **collaboration among diverse communities can lead to a more harmonious and prosperous future.** This theme is woven throughout our narrative, illustrating how **shared experiences and mutual respect can bridge cultural divides and foster understanding.**

Through the voices of a Teen Girl, an Australian Soldier, and an Aboriginal Man, the story reflects on themes of reconciliation, cultural identity, and the importance of understanding history. **We learn how small acts of kindness by people in one community, can end enmity between nations.**

Using the story of the Cowra-Japan relationship, we highlight the kindness shown by Australians towards Japanese people - including caring for Japanese graves and the establishment of memorials like the Australian Japanese cemetery and a World Peace Bell - to symbolise the enduring friendship between Australia and Japan.

Pieces of Peace

Pieces of Peace

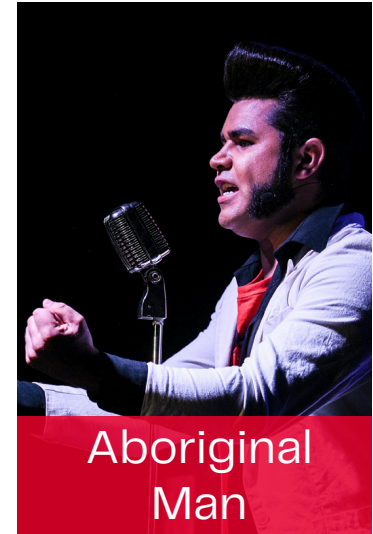
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平和のかけら

The work

Pieces of Peace is a shortened form of Lusi Austin's original work 'Intertwined': this has been revised and curated specifically for World Expo 2025.



'*Pieces of Peace*' is a story of three characters whose lives intertwine through the perspectives of three characters: a Teen Girl, an Australian Soldier, and an Aboriginal Man. Each character shares their experiences related to the town of Cowra, Australia.

The story begins with the Teen Girl expressing her initial reluctance to visit Cowra, expecting a typical beach holiday. However, upon arrival, she learns about the historical significance of Cowra as the site of the largest POW breakout during World War II, where over a thousand Japanese prisoners attempted to escape, leading to both tragedy and acts of compassion.

The Australian Soldier recounts his experiences as a guard during the Cowra PO Breakout, reflecting on the complexities of shame and honour associated with the event. He highlights the kindness shown by some Australian soldiers and townspeople towards the Japanese prisoners, including caring for their graves, fostering an enduring legacy of reconciliation between Australia and Japan.

The Aboriginal Man shares his connection to Cowra, discussing his family's history and the impact of historic policies on Indigenous communities. He emphasizes the importance of cultural identity and the wisdom passed down from his Elders, expressing pride in his heritage while also embracing diverse musical influences.

As the narrative progresses, the characters collectively convey themes of peace, understanding, and the potential for collaboration between cultures. The Teen Girl concludes with a hopeful vision for the future, advocating for unity and the importance of working together to create a brighter, more inclusive world. '*Pieces of Peace*' serves as a poignant exploration of history, cultural identity, and the sustainable bonds that can be formed through shared experiences, diversity and mutual respect. The story is told through dialogue and three songs.

Performers:

Teen Girl: Aylie Corkery (Young, Regional NSW)

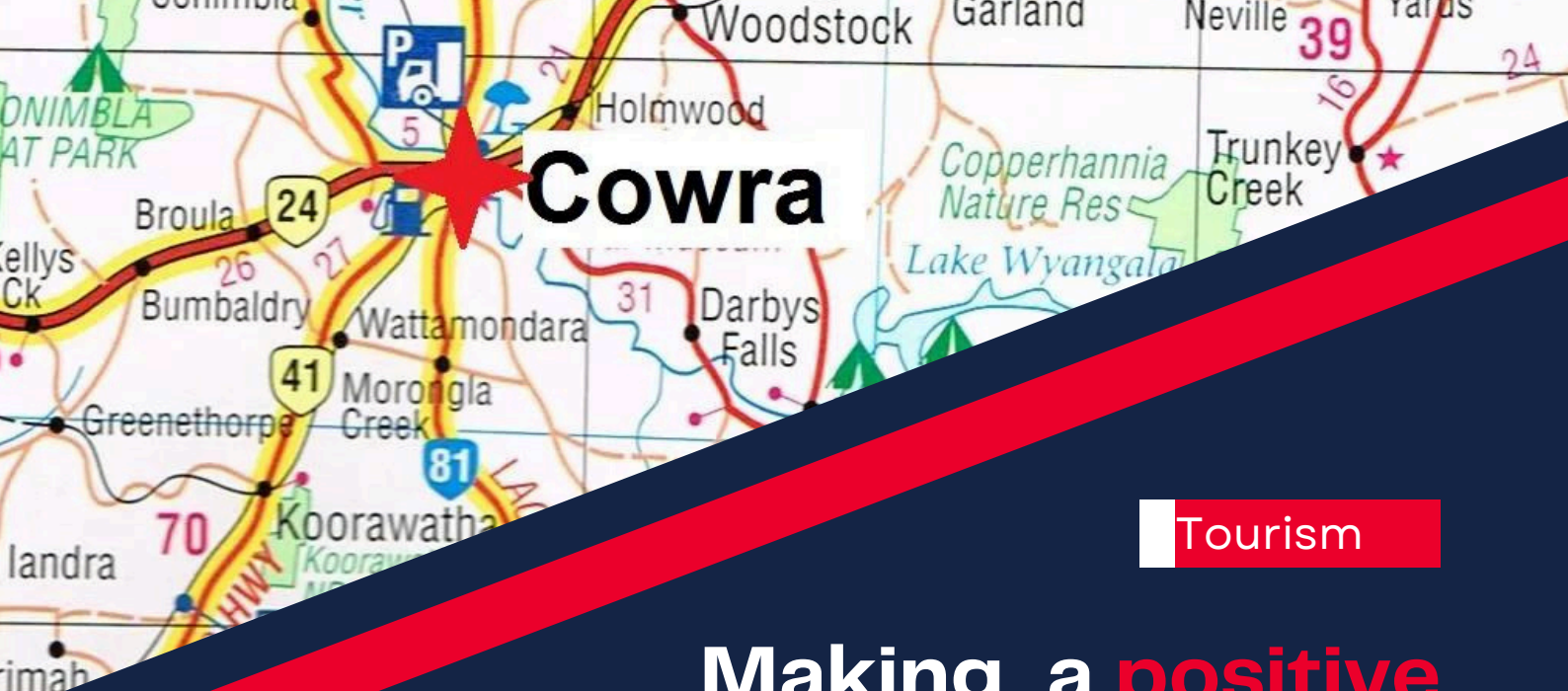
Australian Soldier: Ashley Diprose (Mudgee, Regional NSW)

Aboriginal Man: Jerikye Williams (Queanbeyan, Regional NSW)

Keyboard: Liam Gildea (Bathurst, Regional NSW)

Writer/Creative Director: Lusi Austin (Cowra, Regional NSW)

Duration: 28 mins



Tourism

Making a positive impact on Australian Tourism

Showing *Pieces of Peace* at the World Expo can provide several significant benefits for tourism between Australia and Japan:

Cultural Exchange Promotion: The performance highlights the historical and cultural connections between Australia and Japan, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of each other's cultures. This can encourage Japanese tourists to visit Australia and vice versa, enhancing cultural exchange.

Increased Awareness of Cowra in Regional NSW: By showcasing Cowra's unique story, particularly its historical significance and the ongoing friendship between the two nations, the performance can put Cowra on the map as a contemporary, must-visit destination for Japanese tourists interested in history and culture.

Strengthening Bilateral Relations: The themes of reconciliation and peace resonate with both nations, reinforcing the importance of their relationship. This can lead to increased diplomatic and cultural initiatives that promote tourism, such as joint marketing campaigns and exchange programs.

Attracting Japanese Tourists & Marketing Opportunities:

The narrative's focus on the Japanese experience in Cowra, including the Japanese War Cemetery, Australia's World Peace Bell and the Japanese Garden, can attract Japanese tourists who are interested in their cultural heritage and historical connections to Australia.

Exposure at the World Expo will provide a platform to market both Cowra and broader Australian tourism offerings to a global audience, particularly targeting Japanese visitors who may be interested in exploring Australia.

Event-Driven Tourism: The performance can lead to the organisation of related events, festivals, or exhibitions in both countries, creating opportunities for tourists to further engage with the cultural narratives presented in 'Pieces of Peace.'

Long-Term, Sustainable Tourism Partnerships: The collaboration between Australian and Japanese entities to present this work can pave the way for long-term partnerships in tourism, leading to joint initiatives that promote travel between the two countries.

Educational Tourism: The themes of peace, reconciliation, and cultural understanding can attract educational groups and institutions interested in learning about the historical context and its implications for modern society, further boosting tourism.

The Bottom Line for Tourism: 'Pieces of Peace' in the Australian Pavilion at the World Expo could serve as a catalyst for enhancing tourism between Australia and Japan, fostering deeper connections and mutual appreciation that benefit both nations economically and culturally.

When 'Intertwined' (the full show from which Pieces of Peace has been derived was premiered in 2024, it:

*** SOLD OUT three shows**

*** Had three STANDING OVATIONS**

*** Was attended and praised by MP Ben Franklin (President of the Legislative Assembly), Steph Cooke MP (Member for Cootamundra NSW Shadow Minister for Water NSW Shadow Minister for Crown Lands) and Cowra Mayor Ruth Fagan all sharing on social media about their experience attending the show.**

How does the work of 'Pieces of Peace' align with World Expo 2025's themes?



Pieces of Peace would serve as a powerful tool for engagement, education, and cultural exchange at the Australian Pavilion in Osaka, contributing to the Expo's overarching goals of fostering global connections and understanding.

'*Pieces of Peace*' embodies World Expo's vision of fostering understanding, compassion, and collaboration for a better future.

It could have far-reaching impacts, promoting cultural understanding, peace, and reconciliation while engaging audiences in meaningful dialogue about history, community and diversity.

> Designing Future Societies for Our Lives

Pieces of Peace highlights the importance of drawing lessons from historical events to build inclusive and harmonious societies, promoting healing and empathy.

> Saving Lives

This work can be viewed as a means of preserving well-being, emphasising the role of compassion and understanding in nurturing a safe and supportive environment for all individuals.

> Connecting Lives

The story illustrates the power of cultural exchange and shared experiences, promoting dialogue and relationships among diverse communities to foster global interconnectedness.

> Empowering Lives

This work demonstrates the strength found in cultural identity and community engagement, showcasing how individuals can draw empowerment from their heritage and work collectively for positive change.

> The Osaka Theme Week Frame Work that *Pieces of Peace* fits best in is 'Connecting Lives, Challenges for Enriching Society'

Lasting impacts of 'Pieces of Peace'

Cultural Diplomacy

The narrative of this work can serve as a tool for cultural diplomacy, enhancing the relationship between Australia and Japan. By sharing a story that highlights historical connections and mutual respect, it can foster goodwill and strengthen bilateral ties, promoting collaboration in various sectors such as education, tourism, and trade.



Engagement through Cultural Expression

The incorporation of music and performance elements could enhance visitor engagement, making the experience at the Australian Pavilion interactive and memorable. This artistic inclusion could attract a wider audience, including younger generations, and encourage them to explore the themes of *Pieces of Peace* further.



Empowerment of Diverse Voices

Our story features diverse perspectives, including those of a Teen Girl, an Aboriginal Man, and an Australian Soldier, showcasing the rich tapestry of Australian society. Presenting these voices can empower marginalized communities and promote inclusivity, encouraging visitors to appreciate and respect cultural diversity. This representation of inclusion and diversity aligns with the Expo's goals of promoting global unity and understanding, making it a fitting addition to the pavilion.



Empowerment & Resilience

The themes of empowerment and resilience, particularly through the Aboriginal Man's reflections on culture and community, resonate with broader narratives of overcoming adversity and celebrating heritage. This message can inspire visitors and encourage them to reflect on their own identities and connections to their cultures.



How will 'Pieces of Peace' connect to Australia's strategic objectives for Expo 2025 Osaka?

This work positions Australia as a progressive, culturally rich, and compassionate nation that is engaged with the world and committed to building a better future for all.

Australia's strategic objectives for Expo 2025 Osaka



Deepen Australia's relationship with Japan

- Strengthen strategic, economic and people-to-people ties between Australia and Japan
- Collaborate with Japan on shared regional objectives



Create new opportunities for Australia

- Promote Australia's dynamic and innovative economy on a global platform
- Maximise trade and investment outcomes across priority sectors
- Inspire travel to Australia for leisure, business and education to grow the visitor economy
- Highlight Australia's contribution to solving global challenges, including with regional partners



Project a modern Australia to the world

- Showcase Australia's vibrant, creative and diverse society
- Embed First Nations perspectives, experiences and interests
- Reflect Australia's leadership on gender equality and inclusion



Cowra is well regarded as the 'spiritual home' of the Japan-Australia relationship. The Cowra story, and relationship it has afforded Australia and Japan, will be deepened and strengthened by Pieces of Peace being presented on a Japanese stage. It will present another opportunity for Cowra locals to connect with partners such as members of the Seikei Student Exchange program ('Tommy' HIDEKAZU TOMITSUKA), Atsuko Arai (Japanese soprano singer who Lusi has met with before in Cowra) and give a chance to collaborate with other Japanese artists.

It will also be an opportunity to showcase and promote Australian culture on a global platform whilst using the power of story and song to hopefully inspire audience members to travel to Australia for leisure, business or educational opportunities.

Pieces of Peace showcases Australia's vibrant, creative and diverse society and has embedded First Nations perspectives, music and acting.

This work can serve as a catalyst for a number of initiatives that enhance Australia's international presence and foster sustainable development of the Japan-Australia relationship.

Partners and Collaborators

After an incredibly successful premiere of Intertwined (the full length version of this work), Lusi confirms support from:

- Arts OutWest (NSW Regional Arts Development Organisation) as an auspicing agency
- The Cowra Breakout Association whose 80 year legacy of friendship and reconciliation with Japan is ongoing
- Tommy (Hidekazu Tomitsuka) from Seikei and the Seikei Student Exchange Program
- Cowra Council



Reviews of Intertwined - the full version from which Pieces of Peace was adapted

“...fine and important work” -
Professor Peter Read (Author
of Down There with me on the
Cowra Mission)

“The Cowra Breakout Association wholeheartedly supports Lusi's application for the Australia-Japan Foundation Grant. This funding will facilitate Lusi and three talented actors from her company, Lemon Tea Theatre, to participate in the Australian Pavilion Cultural Program at the World Expo in Osaka in 2025. Lusi's participation in this prestigious event”.

- Graham Apthorpe Chair of the 80th Anniversary of the Cowra Breakout Committee

“The show all around was spectacular. Congratulations to Lusi and the entire team. You all should be incredibly proud!”

- Ben Franklin MP (President of the NSW Legislative Council) after watching Intertwined

“Director/Writer/Composer extraordinaire Lusi Austin through skill, grit, wit and cleverness has brought together a stellar lead + ensemble cast to recreate Cowra NSW social, political and cultural histories.”

-The Corridor Project

About the Creator

Lusi Austin

Lusi is a Fijian/Australian woman living and working on Wiradjuri Country, Cowra Regional NSW.

Her purpose is to use her multi-disciplinary creative arts practice to explore inter-generational, cross-cultural work as a pathway to reconciliation. She uses song, music, playwriting and story in order to develop professional, authentic dramaturgy that seeks to uncover grass-roots community narratives and return them to a wider audience in layered arts practice.

She has written and self-published the first children's book about the Cowra POW Breakout called 'Jack's Visit to Cowra', has written, produced and directed the incredibly successful play 'Intertwined' (premiered Cowra Civic Centre 2024) and has been involved with the Cowra POW Breakout Association for many years.

Lusi's lyrics featured in the World Peace Suite (composed by Nicholas Gentile 2020) were performed by the Cowra Vocal Ensemble with the accompaniment of the Sydney Youth Orchestra in Cowra in 2023. It was also performed and sung in Cowra for the Sakura Matsuri Festival by the Sydney Sakura Choir.

Lusi was the guest speaker for World Youth Day 2023 and was the recipient of the Rotary Club of Cowra's prestigious World Peace Day Award (2023).



Ben Franklin MP (President of the NSW Legislative Council) and Lusi Austin at the premiere of Lusi's play Intertwined in Cowra

