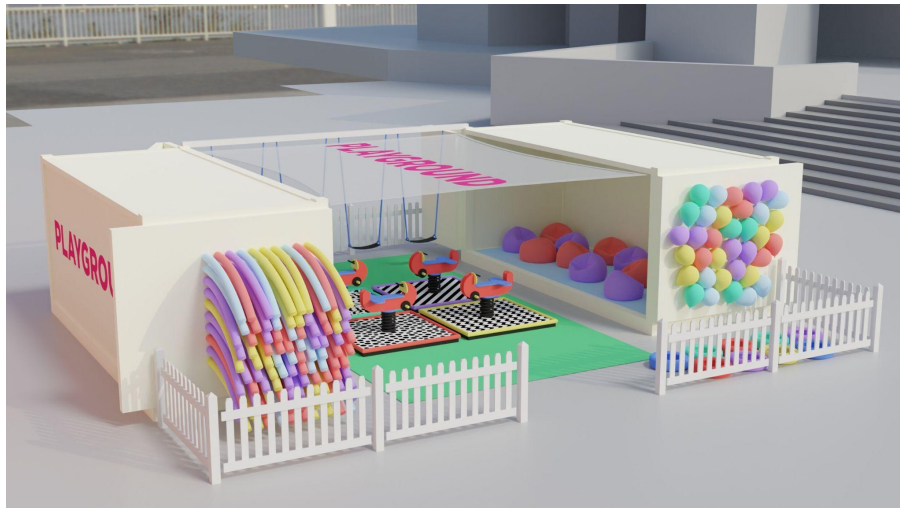


Mirage Mahal **Playground VR Announcement** **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



Mirage Mahal is set to delight with a charming new virtual reality show for Fringe World with Playground VR.

Mirage Mahal, the Perth-based award-winning 3D and virtual reality (VR) studio behind the highly acclaimed RabbitHole VR show is embarking on another ambitious adventure with a spectacular new VR experience called **Playground VR**. Set to premiere at Fringe World this January 2022, it will be a unique experience that will enthrall audiences with a sense of nostalgia and child-like wonder.

In 2020, 1500 participants took the leap and experienced Fringe World's first-ever virtual reality show, RabbitHole VR, where users deep dived into a digital abyss to make their fortune. For their efforts, Mirage Mahal was recognised with three Fringe World 2020 Awards (Film & Multimedia Weekly Award, Film & Multimedia Overall Award and the Adelaide Fringe Tour Ready Award). Mirage Mahal has continued working with architectural firms, production houses and agencies creating renders, animations and everything in between within the 3D space, with a lingering goal to up the ante for Fringe World 2022 and create an experience befitting of its past success.

With a completely new show conceived, produced and built all in-house at Mirage Mahal, **Playground VR** takes the wonder and joy we felt as children at the local playground imagining limitless fantasies beyond the humble sand and equipment we played upon, and turns it into a reality - eliciting what it felt like to let your mind run free, all the while playing against your friends in a thrilling pair of experiences in their cheerful play arena located in the hub of Northbridge at the Perth Cultural Centre, right next to Pica Bar.

Playground VR invites people to don Oculus Quest headsets to enter the virtual playground. Participants will be launched into a thrilling race around a track that draws inspiration from the city we love, and for those with a keen eye, includes a few surprising easter eggs to be found. In the second experience, using handheld controllers, they'll flap their wings and take to the skies, soaring through the heavens as they collect a swag of jewels along the way.

Director & creative producer **John Trewenack** says: "Playground VR tugs at something deep inside us all, our inner child who wasn't burdened by the reservations of adulthood, who lived in the moment and made their own fun, who dreamt of magical worlds to escape to within their mind. That freedom used to be a memory, but with virtual reality we can jump start that feeling once again, and remind ourselves of the joy that it was to be simply, childish."

Mirage Mahal also understood that a sonic soundscape would be a key element in creating this charming interactive virtual playground and engaged ARIA award winner and Birds of Tokyo multi-instrumentalist Glenn Sarangapany (Panda Candy) to write the soundtrack. The incredible music created by Glenn is full of nostalgia and whimsy, beautifully complementing the experiences it was made for.

The final result will be a Fringe World show like no other on the programme that will allow people to dip into the candy-hued, fantastic space of virtual reality. Cheaper than the Royal Show, more fun than an arcade game, Mirage Mahal invites Perth into their arena with **Playground VR** set to run almost non-stop during the Fringe World season.

The response to RabbitholeVR:

"Local clever clogs Mirage Mahal"

- Simon Collins, The West Australian

"A truly inspired and rather bewildering journey to be taken on thanks to Mirage Mahal."

- Christopher Spencer, Fringefeed

"In my view, they've done an amazing job."

- Lachlan Serventy, Pelican magazine

Playground VR premieres on Friday 14th January 2022 and runs through until 13th February 2022.