



# AGAPI

## & OTHER KINDS OF LOVE

Inspired by Plato's *Symposium*, *Agapi & Other Kinds of Love* is a Hip-hop Opera embedded in the Ancient Greek storytelling tradition. Greek-Australian poet Luka Lesson shines as he draws on his heritage to take us on a journey through the Ancient Greek kinds of love.

*Agapi* begins with Socrates telling a banquet of friends everything he learned from a mysterious lover named: Diotima. The gods then take the audience on a journey - collapsing time and space to arrive in modern day Athens, where the two reincarnations of the Ancient lovers fall in love (again) in the midst of a riot. Self-love, erotic love and familial love all collide with statues of Aphrodite, Molotov cocktails and the Parthenon steps. *Agapi* flips between the modern and ancient worlds using song, poetry, rap and light to reveal how love prevails despite the trials and tribulations of the ages.

Scored by composer James Humberstone (Sydney Conservatorium), *Agapi* shifts musically between Ancient Greek sounds, Modern Greek Hip-hop & Sci-Fi synths inspired by Greek composer Vangelis (Bladerunner).

**WATCH THE AGAPI TRAILER**

**LISTEN TO THE AGAPI SHOW RECORDING**

### Premiere Season Audience Member Feedback:

"This was one of the highest calibre and most transformative live performances I have attended in my life".

"What an extraordinary, incendiary and soulful evening. It was all class, from start to finish."

"What stunned me was the use of the contemporary in a traditional storytelling mode. The best part was the way modern and ancient/traditional influences collided into a glorious spectacle of story, song, colour and sound. Simply magical."

**70-minute show for solo storyteller accompanied by 2 musicians. For traditional theatre spaces, outdoor venues & amphitheatres.**

***Agapi* is an epic yet compact show with an agile ensemble of 3: Luka Lesson and two supporting musicians, plus sound technician, lighting tech and production/tour manager. The lighting technician can be hired locally.**

**A solo show version is also available for bookings.**

**BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES**

**LUKA@THEFUTUREANCIENTS.COM**

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**THEFUTUREANCIENTS.COM/AGAPI-INFO**

**PRESENTED BY THE FUTURE ANCIENTS**

Premiered at the  
National Museum of  
Australia during the  
exhibition:

Ancient Greeks:  
Athletes, Warriors &  
Heroes  
April, 2022



## TEAM AGAPI



### ELLA FENCE

Ella Fence has been compared to PJ Harvey. Her sound is sensory, her stage presence unapologetically demanding, her vocals passionately soaring, her musicality: deeply impressive.

In *Agapi & Other Kinds of Love*, Ella plays keys & synths, trigger beats and sounds using Ableton Live



### LUKA LESSON

Luka Lesson is a poet, rapper and educator of Greek heritage and former Australian Poetry Slam Champion. Luka has featured at the Nuyorican Poet's Cafe (NYC), performed with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and toured with UK rappers Akala & Lowkey.

In *Agapi & Other Kinds of Love*, Luka is the writer and the storyteller.



### GRETA KELLY

Greta Kelly, is a Brisbane based musician and producer with a background in education who performs with and manages a number of culturally diverse projects, and has produced several multi-arts productions.

In *Agapi & Other Kinds of Love*, Greta plays circle drum, shah kaman, violin and voice. She also loops each of these instruments live.



### Agapi Composer: James Humberstone

Born in London, James Humberstone migrated to Australia in 1997 after completing a degree in composition at the University of Exeter. In 2013 Humberstone completed his PhD and was appointed Lecturer in Music Education at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Today he works in the fields of composition, music education and technology research, as well as experimental music.

### Agapi Lighting Designer: Laura Jade

Laura Jade is an Australian illumination artist and interaction designer whose work fuses the multidisciplinary fields of art, biology, illumination design, neuroscience and BCI (brain-computer interface). Laura exhibited at the 2017 Athens Digital Art Festival in Greece and has had her work presented at many Australian festivals including Vivid, BEAMS, Woodford Folk Festival and Sydney Science Festival.

