



**Carla Thackrah**  
**See TEa Productions**

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Carla is an award-winning musician, screen composer and filmmaker. She has 20 years full-time professional orchestral experience, ten years of that as a principal flute with the Opera Australia Orchestra, based at the Sydney Opera House. She has performed as guest principal with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra (SSO), West Australian Symphony Orchestra (WASO), the Queensland Symphony Orchestra (QSO), and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra (ASO). She has also performed with contemporary and world music ensembles including David Ahern's A-Z Music, the Lindsey Kemp Contemporary Dance Co., Seymour Group, Tango Paradiso, Doyna, Tucana Flute Ensemble, Elektra Collective Unconscious (ECU).

Carla has studied at the University of Sydney, Sydney Conservatorium of Music, and, in London, at the Chelsea School of Art, Guildhall School of Music and Royal College of Music. She has a Masters degree in music and film from the Queensland University of Technology and a Doctorate in Media and Communication from the University of Technology Sydney which incorporated a major series of multimedia sound and video portraits as part of her degree. She has taught both filmmaking and music at the Queensland University of Technology and held a casual position as filmmaker in the Faculty of Education, University Technology Sydney.

She runs her own sound and video art production company - See Tea Productions - that specialises in the making of arts documentaries, sound and video art and creating music and sound for film. *The Art of Sound*, for string quartet and narration was made for ABC Radio National. The multi award-winning documentary, *Sex, Drugs & String Quartets* was broadcast on ABC and NZ TV, shown at many international film festivals and won Carla an Australian Guild of Screen Composers award for Best Music for a Documentary in 2005. Earlier films have won awards at WOW, Byron Bay Film Festival and Gold Coast Experimental Film Festival. She has also written scores for several short films and one series, *Frocks Off* for SBS TV, which was nominated for an Australian Guild of Screen Composers award.

[Carla's visual and sound art website](#)

[Carla's music website](#)

## Selected EDUCATION

- 2017 - 2020      Graduated Doctor Creative Arts at University of Technology Sydney in Media & Communication.
- 2003              Graduated Master of Fine Arts, Queensland University of Technology – Music and Digital Media.
- Post-graduate Performance Studies - London Guildhall School of Music and Drama, UK
- Study for Bachelor Of Visual Arts, Southern Cross University.
- Study for Bachelor of Music - Sydney Conservatorium of Music
- Graduated Bachelor of Arts - Sydney University  
Anthropology, Psychology, Sociology, Education

## Major PRIZES AND GRANTS

- 2009              Awarded ABC TV, Screen Australia, Pacific Film and Television Commission funding to research and write 1 hour film documentary "True Crimes of the Lone Avenger"
- 2007              Awarded Australia Council for the Arts grant to create DVD "Circus Sweet" – film maker/composer
- 2006              Awarded Arts Queensland Professional Development grant to travel to Argentina to record CD of tango music with local musicians – flautist performer
- Nominated - "Best Music for a Documentary" - Australian Performing Rights Assoc/Aust. Guild Screen Composers, SBSi TV "Frocks Off" 50 min Doco. (Dir: Rosetta Cook)
- 2005              Awarded - "Best Music for a Documentary" - Australian Performing Rights Assoc/Aust. Guild Screen Composers for "Sex Drugs and String Quartets" 30min dramatised documentary ABC TV. Prod/Dir/Writer/Composer.
- 2004              Awarded Arts Queensland major grant to write music and create film "Circus Sweet" - for live ensemble and film projection for contemporary ensemble Topology
- Official Selection, "Sex, Drugs and String Quartets" Dir/Composer/Writer/Prod. Documentary Sarasota International Film Festival USA  
Brisbane International Film Festival Australia  
Commonwealth Film Festival, Manchester, UK.  
Awarded - - Gold and Judges Award, Qld. Aust. Cinematographers Society  
Awarded - Highly Commended, National Aust. Cinematographers Society
- 2002              Awarded Arts Queensland major grant to film "Sex Drugs and String Quartets" – film maker/composer
- Awarded Pacific Film and Television Commission development funding to write short film drama script "Digital Tangos"
- 2000              "Tuning" 4.38min - Dir/Writer/Composer/Ed/Prod - short drama  
Awarded - Best Film - Byron Shorts Film Festival  
Awarded - Best Film - Gold Coast National Experimental Film Festival  
Awarded - Best Editing - WOW Film Festival Competition

## Selected PUBLICATIONS - Broadcast Performance of DIGITAL MEDIA , FILM & THEATRE

- "Last Tango in Sunnybank"** 20min drama. Composer. (Dir: Rosetta Cook) Shown Brisbane International Film Festival
- "Yatra"** 10min documentary. Composer. (Dir: Alun Hoggett)
- "True Crimes of the Lone Avenger"** – ABC TV development funding to research and write 1 hour documentary. Writer/Director.
- "One Tango Moment"** - 1 hour arts doc. Dir/Writer/Ed/Cinematographer/Prod. Shown at Chauvel Cinema, Sydney
- "Circus Sweet"** – 30 min. Music video - commissioned by Topology Ensemble, Brisbane  
Prod/Writer/Editor/Composer. Released on DVD
- "Fastness of Forgetting"** – film maker (Composer & Concept Dr Christine McCombe) released on DVD
- "Bitter Sweet Buenos Aires"** – 30 mins arts doc. Prod/Dir/Cinematographer/Editor/Writer. Numerous screenings.
- "Frocks Off"** – 50 mins. SBSi TV mini docs. Composer (Dir: Rosetta Cook) Shown SBS TV
- "Chaplain's Eye"** – 50 mins. Mime production touring to Adelaide Festival Arts. Composer. (Dir: Ira Seidelstein)
- "Circus Sweet"** – 30 min. Music and projected digital video - commissioned by Topology Ensemble, Brisbane  
Prod/Writer/Editor/Composer. Live performance with Topology – Queensland University Technology, The Block Theatre

**"Sex, Drugs and String Quartets"** - 30min dramatised documentary – Shown ABC TV, NZ TV, Commonwealth Film Festival, UK, Brisbane International Film Festival, Sarasota International Film Festival,,USA. Prod/Dir/Writer/Composer.

**"The Art of Sound"** –30 min radio doco. Writer/Composer/Dir/ Prod. Broadcast ABC Radio National.

**"The Boy"** - 5 min drama. Composer – (Dir: Sandra Graham)

**"Digital Tangos"** 15 min Drama. PFTC development funding. Writer

**"Tales of Love"** - 30 Min. arts documentary. Dir/writer

**"Tuning"** – 5 min short drama - Dir/Writer/Composer. Shown Gulg Coast Film Festival, BASC Film Festival, WOW Film Festival, Byron Bay Film Festival

**"Passages"** – 5 min short doco. Dir/Writer/Composer. Shown BASC Film Festival

**"Looking for Richard"** - 4.05 min drama. Composer. (Dir: Ariane Pfannenberg).

**"Sandlines"** – Composer. CD Rom by London based artist Paul Brown. Shown at Montreal Film Festival.

**"Tracks"** – Writer/composer/animations. CD Rom for Byron Bay Paterson Hill Action Group

**"Jerusalem"** – Composer. CD Rom by artist Wendy Mills

### **Selected EXHIBITION / PERFORMANCE Flautist**

- 2014 - present Performances and recordings and European tour with Elektra Kollektive Unconscious
- 1998 – present Flautist and Dancer with Tango Paradiso - tango orchestra performing regularly at festivals and concerts
- 1990 – 2005 Session musician for film and TV – over 15 years
- 2000 – 2005 Queensland Orchestra – freelance principal flute engagements over 2 years
- Flautist with Tucana Flute Quartet tour to USA, performing contemporary Australian works  
25th American National Flute Convention, Chicago.
- Member of Opera Australia touring company "OzOpera" performing "The Magic Flute" at the Adelaide Festival and nationally.
- 1984 – 1996 Principal Flute – 10 years full time position with the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra, Sydney Opera House  
Sydney Symphony Orchestra, West Australian and Adelaide Symphony Orchestra – freelance over 10 years  
Seymour Group Contemporary Ensemble. Flautist  
Lindsay Kemp Contemporary Dance Company national tour performing "Midsummer Night's Dream". Flautist  
A-Z Music. Contemporary Music Ensemble directed by David Ahern. Flautist

### **Selected PUBLICATIONS / RECORDINGS as Flautist, Composer or Film maker**

- "Circus Sweet"** - composer 30 min recorded by contemporary ensemble Topology released on DVD
- "Fastness of Forgetting"** – film maker (Composer & Concept Dr Christine McCombe) released on DVD
- "Tango Paradiso Argentino"** - flautist. traditional tangos recorded in Argentina. CD released by See Tea Productions
- "Tango Paradiso"** - flautist. tango ensemble recording traditional tangos. CD released by See Tea Productions
- "The Art of Sound"** – composer/writer. Broadcast ABC Radio National
- "Earthgods"** – composer/performer. CD released by See Tea Productions, for flute, violin and electronics
- "Sandlines"** – composer. released on CD for the Liverpool Biennale of Art, UK
- Tucana Flute Quartet - ABC Classic FM. Various contemporary Australian works
- Sydney Symphony Orchestra - Messian "Eclairs Sur l'au da la "  
Conductor David Porcelain
- Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra - Puccini "La Boheme Director Baz Lurhmann, Conductor Julian Smith
- Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra - Humperdinck "Hansel and Gretel" - Conductor Gyorgy Fischer
- Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra - Mozart "Bicentennial Celebration" - Conductors Christopher Hogwood, Richard Bonyne, Gyorgy Fischer and Carlo Rizzi

Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra - Meyerbeer "Les Huguenots" - Conductor Richard Bonyngne - Joan Sutherland Farewell performance. Live broadcast to Covent Garden, UK.

Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra - Wagner "Die Meistersinger Von Nurnberg" - Conductor Sir Charles Mackerras

Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra - Leher "Merry Widow"  
Conductor Richard Bonyngne

### **Selected TEACHING**

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- 2006 - 2010 Part time lecturer in film making at the Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane.
- Part time lecturer in music at Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane. – various subject areas – Cultural Production, Professional Practise, one on one instrumental classes to performance majors, Free Art Music Improvisation
- Extensive teaching practise in schools and privately

### **Selected GENERAL POSITIONS**

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- 2003 – present Manager organising and promoting Tango Paradiso - tango orchestra performing regularly at festivals and concerts
- Director of Tango Paradiso Dancers – theatre and dance troupe performing regularly at festivals and concerts
- 2010 Production Manager – A Brush with the Real World. An interactive animated show for kids. For the Brisbane Powerhouse children's festival Powerkidz and the State Library of Queensland.
- 2008 - 2011 General Manager and committee member – Sydney City Farm. Sydney based group lobbying State Government to allocate part of Callan Park Rozelle for a large scale, community city farm. Manager and writer of the website, strategic thinking, chair of meetings, letter writing, membership drives, general communications, media liaison. During my management, membership was increased from 10 to 1500. <[www.sydneycityfarm.org](http://www.sydneycityfarm.org)>
- Musical Director for "The Palais" by Richard Vella and Urban Theatre Works - Sydney
- Board Member, Opera Australia. 1 year. Representative for the players of the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra on the board of Australia's national opera company.
- President of the Players Committee of the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra. 3 years working for the interests of the players of the orchestra based in the Sydney Opera House. During my presidency, the dangerous and artistically compromised state of the orchestra pit was brought to public attention and agreements were made to improve conditions in the pit. Also the first Enterprise Bargaining Agreement negotiated under my leadership.

### **Professional MEMBERSHIPS**

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- Full member of APRA - Australian Performing Rights Association  
Associate Represented Composer of AMCOZ - Australian Music Centre