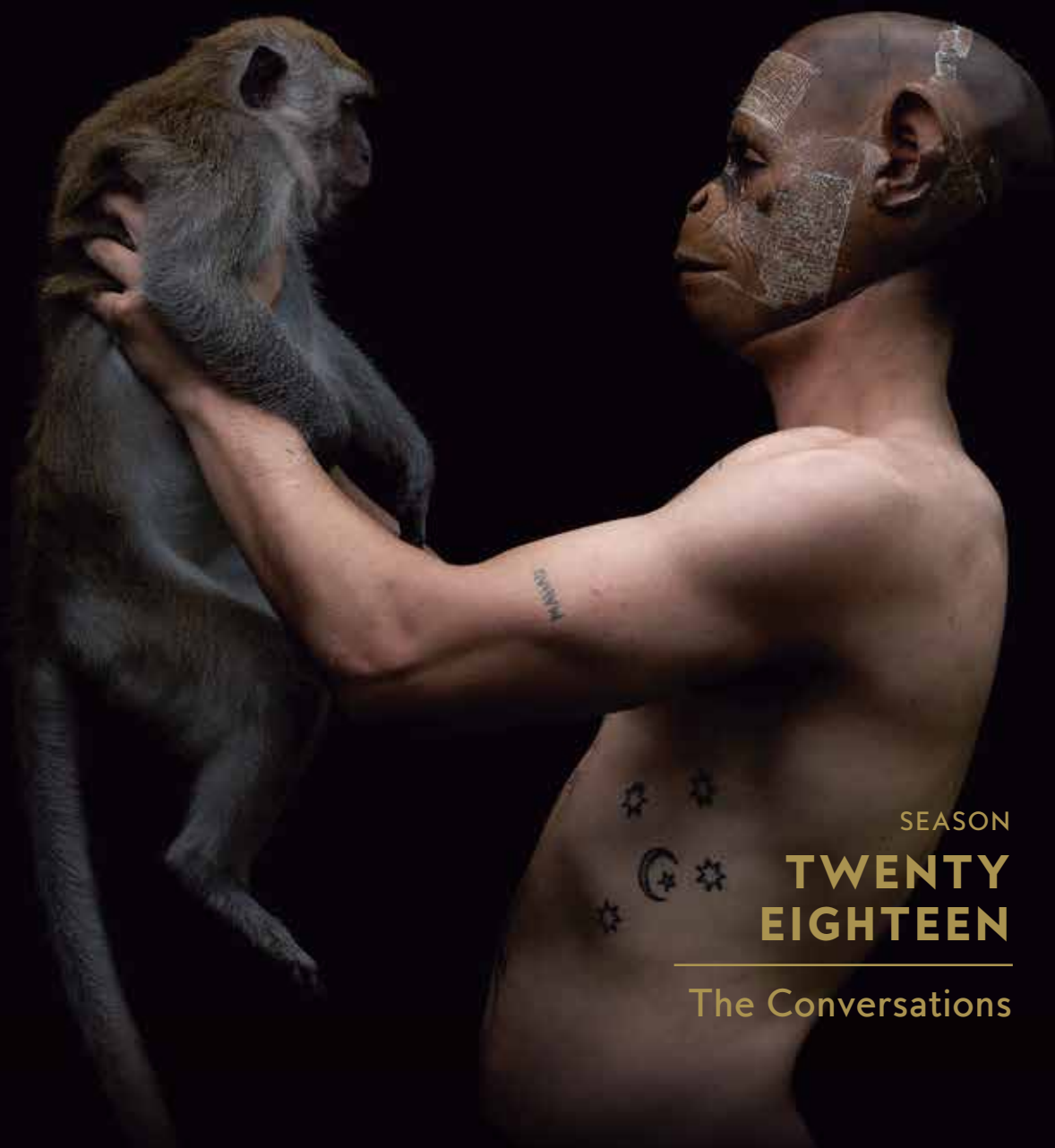


BLACK SWAN
STATE THEATRE
COMPANY



SEASON

**TWENTY
EIGHTEEN**

The Conversations



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PRINCIPAL PARTNER

RioTinto

COVER IMAGE The image on the cover of our season brochure is a work by award winning WA artist, Abdul Abdullah. He is making a mark in the art world nationally and internationally and is probably most well-known for being an Archibald Prize finalist for his portrait of Waleed Aly. We chose this photograph, titled *restitution (of self)*, as we feel it speaks to the power of theatre. Holding a mirror up to nature, asking questions of ourselves and ultimately creating a new conversation.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR



We are very excited to present to you our 2018 season – the first season that embodies the new vision of Artistic Director, Clare Watson.

A season of celebration, collaboration and above all, conversation. Clare has assembled a terrific line up of classic and contemporary works that sit side by side, in a series of mini festival 'feasts' for our audience.

In 2018, we celebrate our world class Western Australian artists, as well as bringing the best works from the world stage to WA. We have been in conversation with the broader theatre sector and taken on board their feedback in developing new opportunities for Western Australian artists. As such, we have some exciting collaborations with our small to medium sector colleagues, as well as our national colleague companies.

Collaboration is at the heart of Black Swan and to that end, we thank our government, business and philanthropic partners, who are dedicated and much valued members of the Black Swan family. The state government is a key supporter of the company, through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. In partnership with the federal government, through the Australia Council for the Arts, this support has enabled Black Swan to implement our new artistic vision and generate jobs for Western Australian artists.

Our Principal Partner Rio Tinto, who after an impressive 20-year history of collaboration, has renewed their support for the company in 2018 and will continue the journey with us. They, along with other business and government partners, facilitate our growth and help position Black Swan on the national stage, while maintaining our state-wide impact.

Our deeply passionate philanthropic supporters, led by our Founding Patron, Janet Holmes à Court and our Production Fund Founding Partners, Nicola and Andrew Forrest and the Minderoo Foundation, are the lifeblood of our company. We thank them all for collaborating with us to present our season to you.

In 2018, we invite you to be a part of the conversations.

MARK BARNABA AM
Chair

WHY SUBSCRIBE?



BEST SEATS

Access the best seats during the subscriber priority booking period 28 August – 31 December 2017.



PREMIUM SERVICE

Our staff are here to make buying your subscription easy and hassle free. From making sure that you are seated next to friends, to free exchanges that you may require during the year. We are here to make sure you have the best theatre experience possible.



GREAT SAVINGS

We have made subscribing even cheaper in 2018. If you are a 2017 subscriber, we will reward you with greater discounts on your 2018 subscription. Make sure you select the 'Welcome Back' package for these extra savings. You can also book additional tickets throughout the year at subscriber prices.



UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

Consider a Closing Night subscription package and party with us, to toast the end of the season where you'll enjoy fine wine and canapes with the cast and creative team. You will also be invited to attend exclusive play briefings, special events and other opportunities throughout the year for rare behind-the-scenes glimpses.



BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

We also provide subscribers with special discounts and offers from our incentive partners including other arts organisations, cinemas, restaurants and business partners. You will receive a full list of these discounts with your subscription package.

As a subscriber, you are helping us produce high quality work and are playing a vital role in supporting live theatre in Western Australia.

Thank you for being part of the Black Swan family!

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S WELCOME



There is nothing more thrilling than the alchemy of theatre. Sitting in your seat and being invited into entire worlds created for you by brilliant artists. Thinking about who we are and the choices we make through the lens of a character, realised by the

extraordinary talent of an actor. The theatre invites our empathy and strengthens our compassion. The impossible becomes possible. And theatre can be ridiculously fun, the kind of fun that's infectious.

This season is designed to catalyse and contribute to the big conversations. In curating the season, we began with the question – what should we be talking about right now, as Western Australian citizens, as citizens of the world, as humans? And so, we have lovingly put together for you our 2018 season: The Conversations.

This is a year at the theatre that promises to be adventurous, ambitious and highly entertaining. There's toe tapping tunes, the greatest Australian classic and three world premieres. On stage, we'll be entertained by actors that you know and love, some brand-new faces will grace our stages and we'll be joined by 400 members of our local community to help us tell a story.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful team at Black Swan: so passionate and dedicated. And to extend my thanks to the creative community of Perth: inspirational, world class artists. And of course, to the Black Swan subscribers and audience, you have our standing ovation.

In 2018, The Conversations begin in the theatre but they continue with you, so come and spend a night at the theatre with us. In fact, come and see it all.

CLARE WATSON
Artistic Director

"I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being."

Thornton Wilder

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR PARTNER



Wesfarmers Arts

BE PART OF 'THE CONVERSATIONS'

Consider these show pairings as part of your subscription package and join in 'The Conversations'. We'll enrich each pairing with pop up activities and discussions, podcasts and film screenings. In 2018 at Black Swan, it's like a festival all year round!

CONVERSATION 1: *The boys are back in town*

SUMMER OF THE SEVENTEENTH DOLL + HIR

Our greatest Australian classic and a hilarious cutting edge, new American play sit side by side. Both plays begin with men returning home only to find things have irrevocably changed. These men are grappling with their own identities, within these shifted realities.

Join us for a panel discussion, 'Talking FIFO & DIDO' (Thursday 17 May, 6pm) or come to our special extended dinner performance of *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* (Saturday 12 May).

CONVERSATION 3: *Together in electric dreams*

YOU KNOW WE BELONG TOGETHER + SKYLAB

A production about the beauty and complexity of living with Down syndrome and a sci-fi comedy set in Esperance in 1979, join together to love hard and dream big. These are plays about belonging.

Hear first-hand accounts of Skylab ground zero (Thursday 30 August, 6pm) and check out our pop-up Skylab museum.

CONVERSATION 2: *Hit me with your best shot*

ASSASSINS + THE EVENTS

A glorious, big Sondheim musical and a contemporary British play with songs, both look at what can happen when individuals become disenfranchised. Extremism and gun violence are under the lens and the healing power of music is celebrated.

Join us for a talk about music as medicine (Thursday 28 June, 6pm) and keep an eye out for a talk by Dr Anne Aly.

CONVERSATION 4: *Girls just want to have fun*

IN THE NEXT ROOM, OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY + XENIDES

A comedy set in the 1880s about the vibrator, meets a top dollar musical about a 1980s game show hostess. We look at the roles and representation of women across a century.

Join us for a panel discussion (Thursday 1 November, 6pm) and a dance floor film screening of *Dirty Dancing*.

"I'm the only girl
in town...who's got
everything she
wants right here."

Olive



Select *HIR* as the pairing to this production and join
THE CONVERSATION: *The boys are back in town*,
including a FREE panel discussion on Thursday 17 May at 6pm.



SUMMER OF THE SEVENTEENTH DOLL

by Ray Lawler

Summer of the Seventeenth Doll is one of the most significant plays in Australian theatre history. This new Western Australian production will mark its presentation by every state theatre company in the country.

Set in 1950's working class Melbourne, 'The Doll' revolves around the events of the seventeenth summer where two mates, on yet another 'layoff' season, come back to 'live it up' in the city with their girlfriends. However, this summer, things begin to change.

'The Doll' is the ultimate 'sex in the city' saga – seething with passion, disappointment and heartbreak, where not even love can protect those who refuse to see the realities of the changing world around them. With 'FIFO' and 'DIDO' now being a normal part of life for many Australian families, this play is more relevant to our audience than ever before.

“(Lawler) has written a play so superbly true to Australian thought and the Australian scene...We know their faces, their voices – we share their dreams, we understand their failures”. *The Argus*, on the world premiere in 1955 at the Union Theatre, Melbourne

**05 MAY
TO 20 MAY**

**HEATH LEDGER
THEATRE**

DIRECTOR
Adam Mitchell

**SET & COSTUME
DESIGNER**
Bruce McKinven

LIGHTING DESIGNER
Trent Suidgeest

**COMPOSER/
SOUND DESIGNER**
Ben Collins

CAST INCLUDES
Michael Cameron
Vivienne Garrett
Amy Mathews
Kelton Pell
Alison van Reeken

SUITABILITY
15+

WARNING
Adult themes.

An extended 'dinner' interval will be held on the evening performance of Saturday 12 May. We invite audience members to enjoy dinner at the theatre during this performance. Further information will be sent to you closer to the date.

PRODUCTION PARTNER



BUSINESS ADVISORY PARTNER



SUPPORTED BY
THE LOCAL LARRIKINS

IMAGE Amy Mathews as Olive
and Kelton Pell as Roo

HIR

by Taylor Mac

HIR (a gender-neutral pronoun of “his” and “her,” pronounced “here”) is an audacious dive into the dysfunctional-family playpen of American theatre. A highly intelligent, heartfelt and humorous portrayal of a family in crisis.

Isaac returns home after serving a three-year stint in Afghanistan, only to discover his family household in revolt. His father, Arnold, has suffered a stroke rendering him nearly speechless. His mother, Paige, has become a gender studies aficionado. And his younger sister, Max, is now his younger brother. Isaac suddenly finds himself at the centre of a very different kind of war zone.

Taylor Mac's subversive comedy about a middle-class family in transition is fresh, feisty and emotionally gripping – it's like 'The American Dream' is stuck in the American reality. Darkly comic – like “Roseanne on acid”!

“The jaw-dropping brilliance of Taylor Mac’s script, an exercise in take-no-prisoners imagination and hilarious writing.” *Huffington Post*

PATRONS CLUB

Janet Holmes à Court AC
Michela and Adrian Fini
Ungar Family Foundation
Stan and Jean Perron
Simon Lee Foundation

10 MAY
TO 27 MAY

STUDIO UNDERGROUND

DIRECTOR

Zoe Pepper

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Lucy Birkinshaw

COMPOSER/ SOUND DESIGNER

Ash Gibson Greig

CAST INCLUDES

Will O'Mahony

Jack Palit

Igor Sas

Toni Scanlan

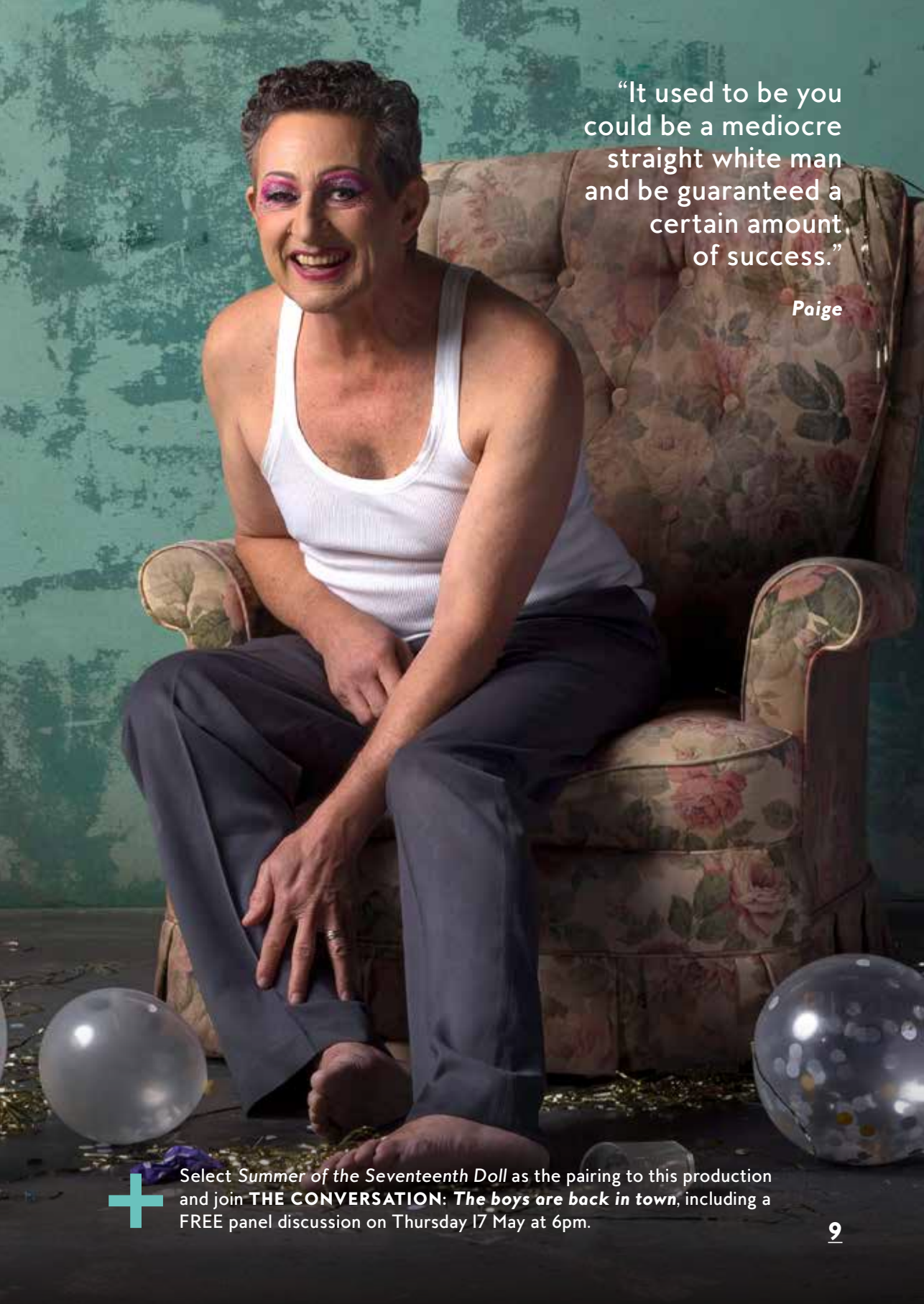
SUITABILITY

16+

WARNING

Adult themes,
strong language.

IMAGE Igor Sas as Arnold

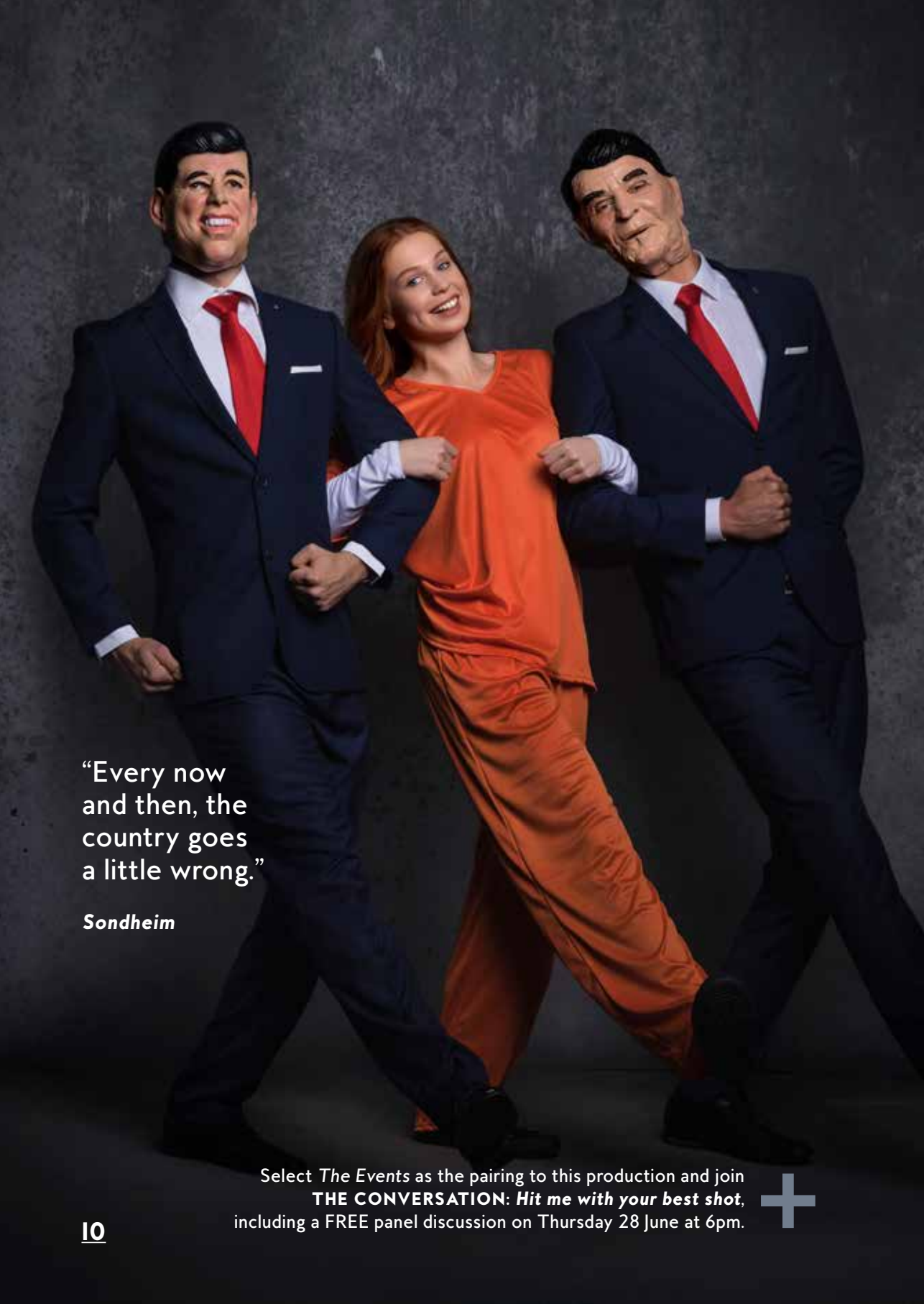


“It used to be you
could be a mediocre
straight white man
and be guaranteed a
certain amount
of success.”

Paige



Select *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* as the pairing to this production and join **THE CONVERSATION: *The boys are back in town***, including a FREE panel discussion on Thursday 17 May at 6pm.

A full-page photograph of three people walking towards the camera. On the left is a man with a young face, smiling, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and red tie. In the center is a woman with reddish hair, smiling, wearing a bright orange jumpsuit. On the right is a man with an older face, also smiling, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and red tie. They are all walking in a similar pose, with their arms slightly out. The background is a dark, textured grey.

“Every now
and then, the
country goes
a little wrong.”

Sondheim

Select *The Events* as the pairing to this production and join
THE CONVERSATION: *Hit me with your best shot*,
including a FREE panel discussion on Thursday 28 June at 6pm.



ASSASSINS

MUSIC & LYRICS BY

Stephen
Sondheim

BOOK BY

John
Weidman

ASSASSINS is based on an idea by Charles Gilbert, Jr.

Building on Black Swan's success in presenting contemporary musical works (Next to Normal, Clinton: The Musical), comes the multiple Tony Award-winning theatrical tour-de-force, Assassins.

In a fairground, a rogue's gallery of nine misfits gather. The Proprietor of the game entices them to play, promising that their problems will be solved by killing a President of the United States, with the song "Everybody's Got the Right". A revue-style portrayal follows of the many and varied ways that each of the men and women have committed (or attempted to commit) the ultimate crime. It is a highly entertaining diorama of America's cult of celebrity through the ages and the means that some have used to obtain it.

Sondheim (*Into the Woods*, *Sweeney Todd*) is considered a 'titan of musical theatre'. This work personifies his signature blend of intelligently stunning lyrics and beautiful music, embracing a range of American musical traditions from the 1860s to the 1980s, from marches to spirituals, to folk and rock. Bold, original and alarmingly funny, *Assassins* is a timely reminder that those in power ignore the marginalised in society at their peril.

"... begins with an invitation to "C'mon and shoot a president" and then goes considerably further."

New York Times

**16 JUN
TO 01 JUL**

**HEATH LEDGER
THEATRE**

DIRECTOR

Roger Hodgman

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Jangoo Chapkhana

COSTUME DESIGNER

Lynn Ferguson

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Mark Howett

CAST INCLUDES

Mackenzie Dunn

Brendan Hanson

Geoff Kelso

SUITABILITY

16+

WARNING

Adult themes,
coarse language,
simulated executions
and gun violence.

Playwrights Horizons, Inc. –
New York City produced
ASSASSINS Off-Broadway in 1990.

Licensed exclusively by Music
Theatre International (Australasia).

All performance materials supplied
by Hal Leonard Australia.

IMAGE Mackenzie Dunn as
Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme
Models: Jarrod Draper and
Andrew Coshan

PROJECT PARTNER



PERTH
THEATRE
TRUST

ASSOCIATE PARTNER



simplisite
BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

SUPPORTED BY
THE WHITE SWANS

THE EVENTS

by David Greig

The Events was the sleeper hit of the 2013 Edinburgh Festival and Clare Watson was instrumental in bringing this mesmerising theatre work to Australia in 2016, to direct its premiere for the Sydney Festival. After successful seasons in Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne, this acclaimed production is set to have its Perth premiere.

One of Australia's most powerful actors, Catherine McClements (*Water Rats*, *Rush*), plays Claire, a vicar and leader of a community choir that regularly meet in a local town hall. When a young man enters the hall and opens fire, her beloved community – and the ideals that sustain it – is blown apart.

Set in the wake of the tragedy, a conversation unfolds between Claire and the young man. She is unpacking her rage, her fears and ultimately, her forgiveness. The young man is something else: the voice of the alienated, an enemy within and a lost generation. In an era of uncertainty and inexplicable events, questions are asked and resolutions sought. Could he have been stopped?

David Greig (*Midsummer: A Play with Songs*) has written a beautiful story of hope and healing. *The Events* will be performed with a different Perth community choir at each performance. It is an extraordinary blend of theatre and music.

"[the] community chorus-the 'one big crazy tribe'- lifted the show... finding a beautiful harmony we so desperately need."

Daily Review

**21 JUN
TO 08 JUL**

**STUDIO
UNDERGROUND**

DIRECTOR

Clare Watson

**SET & LIGHTING
DESIGNER**

Geoff Cobham

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Luke Byrne

COMPOSER

John Browne

CAST INCLUDES

Johnny Carr
Catherine McClements
Perth community choirs

SUITABILITY

16+

WARNING

Adult themes,
strong language.

*A Belvoir, Malthouse and
State Theatre Company
of South Australia
production, presented
by Black Swan State
Theatre Company*

IMAGE Catherine McClements
as Claire

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR PARTNER



PATRONS CLUB

Janet Holmes à Court AC
Michela and Adrian Fini
Ungar Family Foundation
Stan and Jean Perron
Simon Lee Foundation

“A moving
exploration of
community and
healing.”

★★★★

*The Sydney
Morning Herald*



Select *Assassins* as the pairing to this production and join
THE CONVERSATION: *Hit me with your best shot*, including
a FREE panel discussion on Thursday 28 June at 6pm.

“There will be song.
There will be dance.
There may even be
karaoke.”

Clare Watson



Select *Skylab* as the pairing to this production and join
THE CONVERSATION: *Together in electric dreams*, including a
FREE panel discussion on Thursday 30 August at 6pm.



YOU KNOW WE BELONG TOGETHER

by Julia Hales
and collaborators

We fall into it, out of it and find it everywhere. It's a battlefield, an open door and it's even in the air. But what does finding love really mean to you?

You Know We Belong Together is a story of love; a theatrical celebration of this incredible force of nature that strikes like lightning into our hearts. Family, friends and lovers, Julia Hales offers a deeply personal account of her own experiences of love as a daughter, actor, dreamer and person with Down syndrome.

Bringing with her the voices and aspirations of a community rarely seen on stage, *You Know We Belong Together* is an uplifting performance with video, dance and song. As the Studio Underground is transformed into Julia's own private realm, it becomes a place where dreams could be brought into reality.

A Black Swan State Theatre Company, Perth Festival and DADAA co-production.

**WORLD
PREMIERE**

**OI MAR
TO 04 MAR**

**STUDIO
UNDERGROUND**

LEAD ARTIST

Julia Hales

DIRECTOR

Clare Watson

**WRITING &
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR**

Finn O'Branagáin

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Joe Lui

SUITABILITY

15+

This project has been supported by the Australia Council for the Arts and LOFT, an initiative of The Blue Room Theatre, supported by the State Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

A Perth Festival Commission.

A Rio Tinto WA Stories Project.

IMAGE Julia Hales, lead artist

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR PARTNER



PATRONS CLUB

Janet Holmes à Court AC
Michela and Adrian Fini
Ungar Family Foundation
Stan and Jean Perron
Simon Lee Foundation

SKYLAB

by Melodie Reynolds-Diarra

**WORLD
PREMIERE**

**16 AUG
TO 02 SEP**

**STUDIO
UNDERGROUND**

DIRECTOR

Kyle J Morrison

CAST INCLUDES

Alan Little

SUITABILITY

12+

WARNING

Some strong language.

Originally developed by Ilbjerri's Black Writers Lab; Moogahlin's Yellamundie National First Peoples Playwriting Festival, Playwriting Australia's National Play Festival with Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company.

A Rio Tinto WA Stories Project.

IMAGE Alan Little as Nev
Models: Lara Seko and
Yiannis Mourish-Sifandos

The launch of a science laboratory into Earth's outer orbit was hailed as a miracle of the modern age. But what was really going on up there? The nature of the experiments conducted was kept top secret...

It's July 1979. NASA's Skylab is hurtling towards Earth, about to crash land near Esperance in remote Western Australia. Nev, Jem and the kids have no idea that their world is about to change: reality shifts, conspiracy theories abound and a pink horse appears out of nowhere. The town's white fellas start behaving strangely too, with apologies for taking black fellas' land and handing over all money owed.

Dreamtime meets *Monkey Magic* in this fantastical comedy where things that were once considered impossible, become not only possible, but real.

Based on a true story - only the facts have been changed to protect the innocent!

For the first time, Black Swan is collaborating with Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company to present this world premiere of a new Western Australian sci-fi comedy.

"The idea of sci-fi is not new, we have been writing songs and dances about the stars and beyond for centuries. I feel fiction and nonfiction is speculative, maybe the past, present and future all exist now?" Melodie Reynolds-Diarra, Playwright

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries

PATRONS CLUB

Janet Holmes à Court AC
Michela and Adrian Fini
Ungar Family Foundation
Stan and Jean Perron
Simon Lee Foundation

“With our thoughts,
we make the world”

Monkey Magic



Select *You Know We Belong Together* as the pairing to this production and join **THE CONVERSATION: *Together in electric dreams***, including a FREE panel discussion on Thursday 30 August at 6pm.

“Sarah Ruhl’s brilliant play is,
to put it mildly, an eye-opener.”

★★★★

The Guardian



Select *Xenides* as the pairing to this production and join
THE CONVERSATION: *Girls Just want to have fun*, including a
FREE panel discussion on Thursday 1 November at 6pm.



IN THE NEXT ROOM, OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY

by Sarah Ruhl

In the Next Room, or The Vibrator Play is a sassy play about power and passion. Sarah Ruhl re-imagines the curious chapter in the early history of psychotherapy, when women were treated with a certain mechanical device. And thus began the peculiar history of the vibrator...

Set in the 1880s, just after the advent of electricity, *In the Next Room* takes place in the adjoining parlour and consulting room of Dr Givings, who specialises in treating “hysteria” in women. Brisk, clinical and efficient in manner, he obsesses on the marvels of technology and what it can do for his patients. Although highly observant, he fails to notice that his wife, Catherine, is feeling neglected. Seeking the companionship of her husband’s patients, she soon begins to discover the truth about what goes on ‘in the next room’.

A fantastically funny and marvellously entertaining bodice ripper about true love and orgasms. Nominated for three Tony Awards and a Pulitzer Prize, this is a play guaranteed to hit the spot!

“Insightful, fresh and funny, the play is as rich in thought as it is in feeling.” *New York Times*

ASSOCIATE PARTNER



**20 OCT
TO 04 NOV**

**HEATH LEDGER
THEATRE**

DIRECTOR

Jeffrey Jay Fowler

**SET & COSTUME
DESIGNER**

Alicia Clements

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Lucy Birkinshaw

**COMPOSER/
SOUND DESIGNER**

Ash Gibson Greig

CAST INCLUDES

Rebecca Davis

Jo Morris

Tariro Mavondo

SUITABILITY

16+

WARNING

Adult themes.

IMAGE Models: Adriane Daff and
Moreblessing Maturure

XENIDES

by Clare Watson
and collaborators

Xenides is a top dollar musical that peers behind the glitz, the glamour and the fabulous prizes of Australia's favourite game show, Wheel of Fortune.

It's time to take another spin and revisit Adriana Xenides, the darling of 'TV Week' and glossy magazines, who made a visit into almost every lounge room across Australia. She wore 4000 dresses, turned 200,000 vowels, traversed 500km in killer heels and always beamed that million-dollar smile. Adriana won our hearts, and after 19 years, won a place in The Guinness Book of World Records for being the longest serving gameshow hostess.

Xenides gives voice to the woman we all knew but who was largely misunderstood and misrepresented. Her story is operatic in scale: rags to riches, the migrant's journey, the fairytale princess and the tragic icon, who died far too young.

This hotly anticipated new work by Clare Watson and her team of talented collaborators features a wonderful mash-up of '80s songs, from TV theme tunes to Bonnie Tyler's "Total Eclipse of the Heart", alongside an original composition by electronic power-pop group, The Twoks. An energetic Australian musical exposé that is both hilarious and tender, a tribute and a protest.

Xenides is the second in a triptych of '80s celebrity portraits (alongside I Heart John McEnroe and The People's Princess), conceived by Clare Watson and created by Uninvited Guests.

**WORLD
PREMIERE**

**25 OCT
TO 11 NOV**

**STUDIO
UNDERGROUND**

DIRECTOR

Clare Watson

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Xani Kolac

SET DESIGNER

Zoë Atkinson

CAST INCLUDES

Lisa Adam

**COLLABORATORS
INCLUDE**

Adriane Daff

Virginia Gay

Sophie Ross

Katherine Tonkin

SUITABILITY

16+

WARNING

Adult themes.

IMAGE Model: Chanell Moso

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR PARTNER



PATRONS CLUB

Janet Holmes à Court AC
Michela and Adrian Fini
Ungar Family Foundation
Stan and Jean Perron
Simon Lee Foundation

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a gold sequined dress and a large diamond bracelet, is smiling and holding a cutout of her own head on a stick. The cutout shows her with a different hairstyle and a wide smile. The background is a textured, dark purple wall.

“He told me I
was going to be
a movie star...
but I wanted to
be a doctor.”

Xenides



Select *In the Next Room*, or *The Vibrator Play* as the pairing to this production and join **THE CONVERSATION: *Girls Just want to have fun***, including a FREE panel discussion on Thursday 1 November at 6pm.



SUBSCRIBE & WIN!

Through the generosity of our business partners, we once again have great prizes for subscribers to win.

**Subscribe online at
tickets.bsstc.com.au**

for a minimum of 2 people, to either a 4-Play package or more, by 31 January 2018 and you will automatically be in the draw to win!

FIRST PRIZE

Win a return flight for two to the UK/Europe on Singapore Airlines.

Valued at \$3,588



SECOND PRIZE

Win a jewellery voucher from Rohan Jewellery.

Valued at \$2,000



THIRD PRIZE

Win a complimentary night at Rendezvous Hotel Scarborough.

Valued at \$500



To view full competition terms and conditions visit bsstc.com.au



HOW TO BOOK

Once you have selected your plays go to

tickets.bsstc.com.au

It's simple and secure.

However, if you prefer to fill in a booking form and send it in, we still have this option available. To download, go to bsstc.com.au/subscriptions.

SUBMIT YOUR BOOKING



ONLINE

Got to tickets.bsstc.com.au to commence your online booking.



MAIL

Black Swan State Theatre Company
PO Box 337, Northbridge WA 6865



EMAIL

Attach and send to tickets@bsstc.com.au



IN PERSON

Drop off your booking form in person at our Black Swan office in the State Theatre Centre at Level 1, 182 William Street, Perth between 9am and 5pm (Monday to Friday). Entry is via a narrow gate and external stairs. Lift access is available from 10am, head to the State Theatre Centre box office for directions or call 6212 9300.

NOTE Black Swan's subscription period is a very busy time for the company. Subscriptions will be processed in order of receipt. Please allow four weeks for processing and delivery.

2018 CALENDAR

TOGETHER IN ELECTRIC DREAMS

YOU KNOW WE BELONG TOGETHER STUDIO UNDERGROUND (SU)

Co-production with Perth Festival and DADAA

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1 March 7.30pm	2 March 7.30pm	3 March 7.30pm	4 March 5pm

THE BOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN

SUMMER OF THE SEVENTEENTH DOLL HEATH LEDGER THEATRE (HLT)

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					5 May 7.30pm PVI	
7 May 7.30pm PV2	8 May 7.30pm PV3	9 May 7.30pm ON*	10 May 7.30pm	11 May 7.30pm S	12 May 7.30pm ♠	
	15 May 6.30pm Q, E	16 May 6.30pm C, E	17 May 7.30pm T	18 May 7.30pm	19 May 2pm M, A 7.30pm	20 May 5pm CN

♠ Extended 'Dinner' interval on this show. Dinner options/cost to be advised closer to the date.

HIR STUDIO UNDERGROUND (SU)

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			10 May 8pm PVI	11 May 8pm PV2	12 May 8pm ON*	
	15 May 7pm E	16 May 7pm E	17 May 8pm T	18 May 8pm	19 May 4pm M 8pm	
	22 May 7pm Q, E	23 May 7pm E	24 May 8pm	25 May 8pm	26 May 4pm M 8pm	27 May 5pm CN

HIT ME WITH YOUR BEST SHOT

ASSASSINS HEATH LEDGER THEATRE (HLT)

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					16 June 7.30pm PVI	
18 June 7.30pm PV2	19 June 7.30pm PV3	20 June 7.30pm ON*	21 June 7.30pm	22 June 7.30pm	23 June 2pm M 7.30pm	
	26 June 6.30pm Q, E	27 June 6.30pm C, E	28 June 7.30pm T	29 June 7.30pm	30 June 2pm M, A 7.30pm	1 July 5pm CN

LEGEND

PV Preview performance

ON* Opening night *Invitation Only*

Q Post-show Q&A

T 'The Conversations' panel (6.00pm)

A Audio description service and tactile tour

C Captioned performance

E Early evening performance

S Auslan signed performance

CN Closing night

M Matinee

THE EVENTS STUDIO UNDERGROUND (SU)

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			21 June 8pm PV	22 June 8pm ON*	23 June 8pm	
	26 June 7pm E	27 June 7pm E	28 June 8pm T	29 June 8pm	30 June 4pm M 8pm	
	3 July 7pm Q, E	4 July 7pm E	5 July 8pm	6 July 8pm	7 July 4pm M, S 8pm S	8 July 5pm CN

TOGETHER IN ELECTRIC DREAMS

SKYLAB STUDIO UNDERGROUND (SU)

Co-production with Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			16 August 8pm PVI	17 August 8pm PV2	18 August 8pm ON*	
	21 August 7pm E	22 August 7pm E	23 August 8pm	24 August 8pm	25 August 4pm M 8pm	
	28 August 7pm Q, E	29 August 7pm E	30 August 8pm T	31 August 8pm	1 September 4pm M 8pm	2 September 5pm CN

GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN

IN THE NEXT ROOM, OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY HEATH LEDGER THEATRE (HLT)

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					20 October 7.30pm PVI	
22 October 7.30pm PV2	23 October 7.30pm PV3	24 October 7.30pm ON*	25 October 7.30pm	26 October 7.30pm	27 October 2pm M 7.30pm	
	30 October 6.30pm Q, E	31 October 6.30pm C, E	1 November 7.30pm T	2 November 7.30pm	3 November 2pm M, A 7.30pm	4 November 5pm CN

XENIDES STUDIO UNDERGROUND (SU)

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			25 October 8pm P	26 October 8pm P	27 October 8pm ON*	
	30 October 7pm E	31 October 7pm E	1 November 8pm T	2 November 8pm	3 November 4pm M 8pm	
	6 November 7pm Q, E	7 November PRIVATE VIEWING	8 November 8pm	9 November 8pm	10 November 4pm M 8pm	11 November 5pm CN



Be part of the conversations and stay tuned for dinner events, dancing, film screenings, panel discussions, lectures and pop-up museums.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES

Black Swan is committed to giving our loyal subscribers significant savings and access to the best seats in the house.

If you are a concession card holder, you will find even greater value in the ticket packages.

All packages are available to be purchased online at tickets.bsstc.com.au or through the completion of our booking form, available to download as an editable PDF from our website: bsstc.com.au/subscriptions

And of course, if you have questions or need assistance with your play selection, you can always call us on 6212 9300.

	ALL SUBSCRIBERS		WELCOME BACK SUBSCRIBERS		NEW SUBSCRIBERS	
	CLOSING NIGHT* <i>Including programme + VIP post-show cast party</i>		STANDARD/ ADULT <i>(in-season)</i>		CONCESSION ^ <i>(in-season)</i>	
	NO. OF PPL	PRICE PER PACKAGE	NO. OF PPL	PRICE PER PACKAGE	NO. OF PPL	PRICE PER PACKAGE
7-PLAY COMBO 3 HLT & 4 SU		x \$743		x \$407		x \$339
6-PLAY COMBO 3 HLT & 3 SU				x \$360		x \$297
6-PLAY COMBO 2 HLT & 4 SU				x \$334		x \$282
5-PLAY COMBO 3 HLT & 2 SU				x \$313		x \$255
5-PLAY COMBO 2 HLT & 3 SU				x \$287		x \$240
5-PLAY COMBO 1 HLT & 4 SU				x \$261		x \$225
4-PLAY COMBO 3 HLT & 1 SU				x \$266		x \$213
4-PLAY COMBO 2 HLT & 2 SU				x \$240		x \$198
4-PLAY COMBO 1 HLT & 3 SU				x \$214		x \$183
4-PLAY STUDIO 4 SU ONLY				x \$188		x \$168

	PREVIEWS/ MATINEES		STUDENT # <i>(all performances)</i>	
	NO. OF PPL	PRICE PER PACKAGE	NO. OF PPL	PRICE PER PACKAGE
7-PLAY COMBO 3 HLT & 4 SU		x \$339		x \$224
6-PLAY COMBO 3 HLT & 3 SU		x \$297		x \$192
6-PLAY COMBO 2 HLT & 4 SU		x \$282		
5-PLAY COMBO 3 HLT & 2 SU		x \$255		x \$160
5-PLAY COMBO 2 HLT & 3 SU		x \$240		
5-PLAY COMBO 1 HLT & 4 SU		x \$225		
4-PLAY COMBO 3 HLT & 1 SU		x \$213		x \$128
4-PLAY COMBO 2 HLT & 2 SU		x \$198		
4-PLAY COMBO 1 HLT & 3 SU		x \$183		
4-PLAY STUDIO 4 SU ONLY		x \$168		

HLT Heath Ledger Theatre productions

SU Studio Underground productions

PLEASE NOTE

* Closing Night VIP hospitality packages are priced equally for all subscribers and are a growing opportunity to mingle with other subscribers, the company and the cast. Includes complimentary programmes and entry to VIP post-show cast party.

^ Concession pricing applies to Pensioners, Seniors Cards, Seniors Health Cards, Health Care Cards and Veterans' Affairs Cards (one ticket per card holder).

Student pricing applies to secondary and full-time tertiary students (one ticket per card holder).

Subscribers and patrons must have a valid concession or student card, as they may be asked for the relevant documentation upon entry to the theatre.

You Know We Belong Together is not included as part of subscription packages, but can be purchased as an add-on to any subscription for \$36.

CHANGE OF ARTIST

Black Swan reserves the right to withdraw or substitute artists as necessary.

PRIVACY POLICY

Black Swan respects the privacy of individuals in accordance with the Privacy Act.

SINGLE TICKET PRICES

Single tickets will be on sale from Tuesday 2 January online at tickets.bsstc.com.au or visit the State Theatre Centre box office.

HEATH LEDGER THEATRE	
PREMIUM	\$88.00
STANDARD	\$83.00
CONCESSION ^ / PREVIEWS/ MATINEES/ GROUPS 8+	\$67.00
STUDENT #	\$35.00
STUDIO UNDERGROUND	
STANDARD	\$55.00
CONCESSION ^ / PREVIEWS/ MATINEES/ GROUPS 8+	\$50.00
STUDENT #	\$35.00

Premium seats are in the Stalls, rows D-J, seats 7-24.

GIVE THE GIFT OF THEATRE



Add some drama into the life of someone special with a theatre subscription. You don't need to select plays or dates for the gift recipient, just call Black Swan on 6212 9300.

Single ticket gift vouchers are also available.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

GETTING TO THE STATE THEATRE CENTRE

PARKING

There are three parking locations near the State Theatre Centre:

- State Library Car Park, 15 Francis Street
- Cultural Centre Car Park, 2 Roe Street
- Roe Street Car Park, 68 Roe Street

TRANSPORT

The State Theatre Centre is directly opposite Perth Train Station, and the new underground Perth Busport, which can be accessed from three ground-level entrances at King Street, Queen Street and Yagan Square. Transperth's Blue CAT buses also travel frequently from the CBD to Northbridge.

Pick up and set down only points are available outside the State Theatre Centre on William Street.

THEATRE TASTES & TIPPLES

The State Theatre Centre of WA features a number of licensed bar and function facilities, offering a selection of beer, wine, soft drinks and snacks for performances in the Heath Ledger Theatre and the Studio Underground. Bars open one hour before the production. Black Swan also has several restaurant partners around our Northbridge neighbourhood. For more information visit Theatre Taste & Tipples on our website.

ACCESS

Black Swan and the State Theatre Centre provide equal access for all patrons.

We offer:

- an infrared hearing system for hearing impaired patrons.
- an Audio Description Service and tactile tours for vision impaired patrons.*
- Personal Captioning devices for hearing impaired patrons.*
- Wheelchair seating and wheelchairs available for patron use.

Lifts serve the Main Foyer and Studio levels, and accessible toilets are located throughout the venue. Assistance animals are welcome in all areas of the Centre.

The Companion Card is recognised for all performances. Companion cardholders will not be charged for their carer. Please mention your Companion Card when booking your tickets.

For more information, go to statetheatrecentrewa.com.au or call 6212 9200.

*Selected performances only

ACCOMMODATION

Make a night of your theatre experience and receive a 10% discount when you book a hotel room with Adina Apartment Hotels. Better yet, the offer is valid for all TFE Hotels around Australia! Visit our website to find out more or use the code TH9391961 when booking online.

*Terms and Conditions apply. Subject to availability.



KEY PROGRAM AREAS

Black Swan's work on stage is underpinned by the work that we do off stage, in the areas of artistic development, education and regional engagement. Each of these programs ensure that we are developing Western Australian artists, engaging with a state-wide audience and enriching the educational experiences of students.

ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT

Black Swan's artistic development programs promote Western Australian artists, create stories significant to the community and develop career pathways for artists. Many emerging and mid-career artists are mentored within the company, across all of our productions in both the Heath Ledger Theatre and Studio Underground.

Our **Resident Artists Program** provides artists within specific areas of expertise, sustained engagement with Black Swan across the year. Working alongside Artistic Director Clare Watson, these artists develop leadership skills, collaborate on developing future programs and take on key creative positions throughout the season, as well as providing mentoring to emerging artists.

We are committed to developing artists in their early years of practice and employing new graduates from WAAPA, offering them the opportunity to work alongside established artists and help kick-start their professional careers. For many of these graduates, Black Swan gives them their professional debuts.

Black Swan supports new writing through our **Emerging Writers Group**, where local playwrights can apply for a year-long, intensive support program, with the aim of developing their work. Each year, six new writers are supported through this successful program and the company has given world premieres to a number of the plays that have emerged. We also commission Australia's leading playwrights to develop new works that engage meaningfully with the Western Australian community and reflect our unique position in the world.

As part of our commitment to the WA theatre sector, Black Swan works with small-to-medium arts organisations and independent artists, to produce work that promotes collaboration, conversation and a broader sense of community. Underpinning our work in artist development is Black Swan's **Artistic Reference Group**, a group of highly experienced individuals, who provide feedback and guidance, in order to promote a sustainable local theatre community.

The Emerging Writers Group is supported by the Malcolm Robertson Foundation.

EDUCATION

Black Swan is committed to supporting educators in developing a lifelong love of theatre. We are accessible to both metropolitan and regional school communities with selected performances at the State Theatre Centre, student and teacher workshops, quality teaching resources and in-school experiences that align with the curriculum. Heavily subsidised student tickets and school subscription packages are offered, in addition to work experience, internships and student ambassador programs.

Education program supported by Feilman Foundation, Crown Foundation and Packer Family Foundation.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

As a state theatre company, Black Swan aims to embed theatre in the lives of the community of Western Australia, regardless of location. Our regional engagement programs seek to support vitality, pride and capacity building in regional and remote communities. We engage with our regional communities in multiple ways throughout the year - through the annual live broadcasts from the Heath Ledger Theatre, touring and bespoke community engagement activities. Underpinning this strategy is the appointment of regional ambassadors who act as a conduit between the company and their community.

Regional Engagement program supported by Rio Tinto, Chevron, Water Corporation and Thrifty Car and Truck Rental.

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



REGIONAL PARTNERS



FOUNDATION PARTNERS



ARTISTIC COLLABORATIONS

At Black Swan, collaboration is integral to what we do.

We achieve more with the collaboration and support of our peers, locally and nationally. Our thanks to the following arts organisations working with us in 2018 to share 'The Conversations' with you.

THE EVENTS

A Belvoir, Malthouse and State Theatre Company of South Australia production presented by Black Swan State Theatre Company.



YOU KNOW WE BELONG TOGETHER

A Black Swan State Theatre Company, Perth Festival and DADAA co-production.



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries

SKYLAB

A co-production between Black Swan State Theatre Company and Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company.



FITTER. FASTER. BETTER.

A St Martins project presented by Black Swan State Theatre Company.



THE GOOD PLAY CLUB

A Blue Room Theatre and Black Swan State Theatre Company initiative.



Black Swan works closely with WA's leading performing arts training institution, the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. As well as offering internships and work placements for students, we engage a large number of graduates across all aspects of our productions, thus providing a pathway from training through to their professional careers.

OUR PEOPLE

FOUNDING PATRON

Janet Holmes à Court AC

CHAIR

Mark Barnaba AM

DEPUTY CHAIR

Kate O'Hara

TREASURER

Craig Yaxley

DIRECTORS

Alan Cransberg

Nicola Forrest

Rob McKenzie

Kellie Parker

Vicki Robinson

Linda Savage

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Clare Watson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Natalie Jenkins

EMERITUS ARTIST

Andrew Ross

DIRECTOR OF NEW WRITING

Jeffrey Jay Fowler

LITERARY DIRECTOR

Polly Low

ARTISTIC COORDINATOR

Chantelle Iemma

FINANCE MANAGER

Amanda Luke

INTERIM PRODUCTION MANAGER

Collin Best

WORKSHOP MANAGER

Les Hickford

TECHNICAL MANAGER

Alex Fisher

WARDROBE MANAGER

Lynn Ferguson

CUTTER

Marie Nitschke-McGregor

WARDROBE ASSISTANT

Louise Arcus

PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER

Monique Beaudoire

PARTNERSHIPS COORDINATOR

Jordan Nix

PHILANTHROPY MANAGER

Andree McIntyre

PHILANTHROPY COORDINATOR

Amber Craike

MARKETING & AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Maria Sioulas

MARKETING COORDINATOR

Chantel Dyball

TICKETING & SUBSCRIPTION OFFICER

Amy Welsh

PUBLICIST

Irene Jarzabek

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Jessica Knight

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ACCESS MANAGER

Alena Tompkins

PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE

Michela Fini

Gina Lisle

Sue McDonald

Fred Nagle

Mimi Packer

Chris Ungar

OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES

LONDON Henny Finch

NEW YORK Stuart Thompson

ARTISTIC

REFERENCE GROUP

Nicola Forrest

Andrew Lewis

Caroline McKenzie

Andrew Ross

Jack Thompson AM

Dr Richard Walley OAM

Thanks to the following for their contribution to the development of images for the promotion of the 2018 season:

PHOTOGRAPHY

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Clare Mac, Katie Wilson

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Tyler Hill, Ruby Smedley

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Karla Hart, Caytlin Eades, Patrysha Mourish-Sifandos, Janet Baker from Australian Formal Wear, Helmet House, plus the team at Black Swan's workshop, where the photo shoots took place.



JOIN OUR DONOR FAMILY

We thank our generous donors, giving circles and subscribers for their support.

A MESSAGE FROM JANET HOLMES À COURT AC, FOUNDING PATRON:

"I believe it is extremely important for Western Australia to have a State Theatre Company. I would like to think that all politicians, community leaders and Western Australians recognise the importance of the Arts and that they will realise it is impossible to have innovation without a vibrant Arts sector. The Arts need to be accepted as a fundamental part of life. Help me make this vision a reality, by supporting Black Swan and the future of the Arts in WA."

A MESSAGE FROM NICOLA AND ANDREW FORREST AND THE MINDEROO FOUNDATION:

"The Minderoo Foundation is thrilled to support the establishment of the Black Swan Production Fund as Founding Partner. The Production Fund will provide an ongoing platform for Black Swan to develop breathtaking original theatre productions of scale and ambition. We look forward to seeing the artistic vision of Clare unfold."

We thank Janet Holmes à Court for her passion and support for developing the cultural landscape of Western Australia.

Nicola and Andrew Forrest and the Minderoo Foundation's generosity has assisted our development as the state theatre company.

Thank you to our board, philanthropy committee and donors who give in many ways and show outstanding commitment to the performing arts and our philanthropy program.

BLACK SWAN PRODUCTION FUND

A future fund designed to ensure we can develop works of exceptional quality in Western Australia.

Thank you to our inaugural Production Fund major donors:

- Minderoo Foundation
- Mimi & Willy Packer
- Tim Roberts Giving
- Angela Roberts
- Tony Grist
- Ungar Family Foundation
- Katrina & Craig Burton

PATRONS CLUB

The Patrons Club have shown outstanding generosity in supporting the Studio Underground and artist development.

Thank you:

- Janet Holmes à Court AC
- Michela & Adrian Fini
- Ungar Family Foundation
- Stan & Jean Perron
- Simon Lee Foundation



PACKER FAMILY
FOUNDATION

FEILMAN
FOUNDATION



PLAY YOUR PART

Help us to create work that inspires and transforms.

In order to embark on a new journey, we need the support and passion of people like you. Sponsorship and philanthropy made up over 27% of our income in 2016 and helped us to deliver exceptional theatre experiences throughout Western Australia. Donations enable us to enhance the quality of our productions and provide new opportunities to develop our artists and audiences.

We invite you to become part of the Black Swan family. Simply add a tax deductible donation to your 2018 subscription booking. Thank you!

JOIN OR CREATE A PRIVATE GIVING CIRCLE

WHITE SWANS

Michela Fini, Sandy Honey and Sallie-Anne Manford lead this successful group, to collectively enrich WA's growing enthusiasm for the arts. Thank you White Swans!

LOCAL LARRIKINS

Janet Holmes à Court created Local Larrikins to continue investment in WA's cultural vibrancy, by telling our stories and engaging young Western Australians with theatre. Thank you Larrikins!

LEAVE A LEGACY

Legacy Leaders help ensure WA theatre remains sustainable for generations to come. A bequest cements a legacy in your memory and marks a meaningful bond with theatre. Show your support of the experiences that have brought joy into your life. You can be acknowledged now for your future generosity.

IMAGE Benj D'Addario and Daisy Coyle, *The Lighthouse Girl* (2017). Photo: Lee Griffith.

Thank you to our patrons who choose to support Black Swan as donors, or by leaving a bequest.

Every donation makes a difference.

To make a donation, bequest or enquire about being part of a giving circle, please contact Andree McIntyre, Philanthropy Manager on 0417 187 025 or at andree@bsstc.com.au.



FITTER. FASTER. BETTER.

Part live art experience, part game, part work out.

This is a boot camp for adults run by children. An intergenerational project, touring to schools and communities in metropolitan and regional Western Australia.

Originally devised by Clare Watson for St Martins Youth Arts Centre.



IMAGE Model, Avani Zheng. Photo: Rebecca Mansell.

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT Alena Tompkins, Education & Community Access Manager on 6212 9310.

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



REGIONAL PARTNERS



FOUNDATION PARTNERS





We saw the potential twenty years ago.

As principal partner of our state theatre company we're committed to sharing local stories, developing emerging talent and inspiring regional audiences. It's a role we're proud to play.

RioTinto

**BLACK SWAN
STATE THEATRE
COMPANY**



THE THEATRE WE CREATE

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



GOVERNMENT PARTNER



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries



Black Swan State Theatre Company is supported
by the State Government through the Department
of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

PRODUCTION FUND PARTNER



minderoo

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR PARTNER



Wesfarmers Arts

BUSINESS ADVISORY PARTNER



AIRLINE PARTNER



FOUNDATION PARTNERS



PACKER FAMILY
FOUNDATION

FEILMAN
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NEWSPAPER PARTNER

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REGIONAL PARTNERS



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D I G I T A L

PRIVATE GIVING

PRODUCTION
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PATRONS
CLUB

WHITE
SWANS

LOCAL
LARRIKINS

ENCORE
DONORS

IS MADE POSSIBLE BY

GOVERNMENT PARTNER



Black Swan State Theatre Company is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

REGIONAL PARTNER



PRODUCTION PARTNER



PROJECT PARTNER



ACCOMMODATION PARTNER



ASSOCIATE PARTNERS



SEASON PARTNERS



SEASON PARTNERS



ENTERTAINMENT PARTNER



WINE PARTNER



BEER PARTNER



NEIGHBOURHOOD DINING



CONTACT US TO LEARN HOW YOUR BUSINESS CAN
BENEFIT FROM A BLACK SWAN PARTNERSHIP



SHOW BUSINESS

For over 25 years we've partnered with business to create theatre for our community.

A Black Swan sponsorship can provide many opportunities.

EXPOSE your brand to audiences across Western Australia

STRENGTHEN your stakeholder relationships by hosting guests at the theatre

CONNECT with our influential board, other sponsors and donors

ENJOY our world-class theatre productions and exclusive sponsor events

TAILOR the sponsorship to align with your business objectives

DEMONSTRATE your commitment to the community

2018 sponsorship packages start at \$15,000.

Contact Monique Beaudoire on 6212 9300 or monique@bsstc.com.au to discuss how a Black Swan sponsorship can help you do business.





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SWAN
STATE
THEATRE
COMPANY**

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#blackswanSTC
#theconversations