

A BLACK SWAN, PERTH FESTIVAL AND DADAA CO-PRODUCTION

YOU KNOW WE BELONG TOGETHER

by Julia Hales
with Finn O'Branagáin
and Clare Watson

AT

HEATH LEDGER
THEATRE

20 → 31
MAR MAR



BLACK SWAN
STATE THEATRE
COMPANY



'19

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FEATURING

CAST INCLUDES

Julia Hales	LEAD ARTIST
Joshua Bott	PERFORMER
Patrick Carter	PERFORMER
Tina Fielding	PERFORMER
Mark Junor	PERFORMER
Melissa Junor	PERFORMER
Lauren Marchbank	PERFORMER
Hermione Merry	INTERVIEWEE

CREATIVES

Clare Watson	DIRECTOR
Finn O'Branagáin	WRITER & ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
Tyler Hill	SET & COSTUME DESIGNER
Joe Hooligan Lui	LIGHTING DESIGNER
Rachael Dease	COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER
Laura Boynes	MOVEMENT DIRECTOR & ARTIST SUPPORT
Michael Carmody	VIDEO DESIGNER
Katie Moore	STAGE MANAGER
Anastasia Julien-Martial	ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
Deborah May	DRAMATURG
Lincoln Mackinnon	FILM MAKER
Anna Reece	ORIGINATING PRODUCER PERTH FESTIVAL
Simone Flavelle	ORIGINATING PRODUCER DADA

Auslan Interpretation provided by Bryony Calender

Black Swan State Theatre Company acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nations who are the traditional owners and custodians of country on which the State Theatre Centre of WA stands. We pay our respects to all of Perth's First Peoples, to their ancestors and Elders. It is a privilege to be together on Noongar country.

DURATION:

70mins
(NO INTERVAL)



A note from the DIRECTOR

You Know We Belong Together is a live documentary on stage presented by lead artist, Julia Hales. Julia and I were introduced in 2017 by Perth Festival artistic director Wendy Martin. It turns out that Wendy is quite the matchmaker; we hit it off instantly. Julia had already been researching and developing a work about finding love – some of her research interviews feature in *You Know We Belong Together*.

In our first meeting, Julia told me about her years of acting experience with DADAA, her training at WAAPA, her love of *Home and Away* and her wish ‘to make a show to help remind non-disabled people that people with Down syndrome are complex and emotional people, like them. That they also have regular desires like love and acceptance’. She was about to commence work with co-writer Finn O’Branagáin.

Down syndrome is a chromosomal condition that occurs at conception. It’s also called Trisomy 21. Typically, our chromosomes pair up – like a whole series of microscopic

love stories. Trisomy 21 occurs when the Chromosome 21 pair is joined by a third to become a threesome. So, Julia and all of the wonderful artists that join her on stage – Lauren, Josh, Tina, Melissa, Mark and Pat – have one more Chromosome 21 to most of the audience. At a biological level, these artists have something extra. And Julia and her ensemble have certainly brought something extra to our process of creating this production – it has been one of the most invigorating and inspiring creative environments I’ve ever had the pleasure of working in.

While this is a play about Down syndrome that calls with no uncertainty for inclusivity, understanding and better representation of disability on screen, it is also a completely universal story about love, about loss, about family and about friendships. You’re about to make some new friends. We’re glad you’re here because you know that we belong together. Enjoy the show.

Clare Watson

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Black Swan would like to thank Brian Heller and the Arts Angels, Cathy Penglis and our Black Swan Student, Metro and Regional Ambassadors. We would also like to thank the team at the State Theatre Centre of Western Australia for their support and assistance.

Special thanks to DADAA and Perth Festival for collaborating in this pioneering initiative to break down barriers in disability arts and to introduce exciting new voices to our audiences.

Thanks to Madeline Stuart, Rosanne Stuart, Hermione Merry and family, Michael Cox, Taylor Anderton, Down Syndrome Western Australia and a huge thank you to all the team at *Home and Away* and Channel Seven especially Lynne McGranger, Ray Meagher, Julie McGauran and Geoffrey Nottage. Thanks to The Hales family, Emily and Lily, Lynn and Gordon, Charlie Fox, Jan Gothard, Lisa Mills, Brad Martin, Fiona Smith, Megan Roberts, Jess Darlow, Jeremy Smith and Morwenna Collett. Thanks to Mike Perjanik for his kind permission to use the *Home and Away* theme music and lyrics. *Finding Love* film clips courtesy of the artists and DADAA’s Mixed Reality project. *I Am Okay With It* courtesy of Lauren Marchbank and DADAA’s Mixed Reality project.



CAST



Julia Hales LEAD ARTIST

Julia Hales is a performer and writer with a 20-year history of working with DADAA to develop and realise her artistic goals. She is a highly valued member of DADAA's staff and facilitator of arts workshops. Julia is also active in the WA Down syndrome community, volunteering to work with babies and toddlers with Down syndrome and regularly speaking at Down Syndrome WA events.

Julia began developing as a performing artist with DADAA in 1997 and in 1998 was supported to audition for the WA Academy of Performing Arts' one-year course, to which she was accepted. She is a dedicated performer who creates works focused on universal desires of identity, fame and love. She is in constant pursuit of performance opportunities and skill development and has since co-devised her own work and performed at the State Theatre Centre of WA, The Blue Room Theatre, PICA and on ABC radio. She also performed with KCAT in Callan, Ireland in 2008.

In 2015 Julia was accepted into the Arts Access Australia and Australia Council for the Arts' SYNC leadership program. In 2015 and 2016 she worked on the DADAA/Hydra Poesis project, Digital Dialogues and began the process of researching and developing a new performance work, *Finding Love*. A grant from the Australia Council for the Arts in 2017 gave her the opportunity to collaborate on the writing and workshopping of this work with playwright Finn O'Branagáin.

An opportune meeting with Perth Festival artistic director Wendy Martin in early 2017 led to a meeting with Clare Watson, artistic director of Black Swan State Theatre Company. Julia's work quickly evolved into a Perth Festival, Black Swan, DADAA co-production for Perth Festival 2018. A Blue Room Theatre LOFT grant extended Julia's creative development process with a workshop of the re-titled work, *You Know We Belong Together* with Finn O'Branagáin, Clare Watson, Laura Boynes, Lauren Marchbank and Joshua Bott in November 2017 and January/February 2018.



Joshua Bott PERFORMER

Joshua Bott is a dancer and visual artist who has been dancing all his life. He is the youngest of a family of ten and has two sisters who are professional dancers. Joshua has been mentored by dancer Sete Tele and is currently a core member of DADAA's Tracksuit Performance Group, performing three new works with them over the past three years.



Patrick Carter PERFORMER

Patrick Carter is a Perth-based artist and performer. He first worked with DADAA's The Lost Generation Project in 2007 and 2008, demonstrating adeptness in a multitude of art forms including painting, dance, performance and musical composition. His works have been presented in a number of group exhibitions including *Beyond the Western Edge*, Kalgoorlie and *HERE&NOW13* at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery. Most recently, Patrick's digital work *Dance* was part of New Light Festival in Adelaide and ENLIGHTEN Festival in Canberra. He is

currently creating a new digital work *Bloom*.



Tina Fielding PERFORMER

Tina started her theatre career with Poles Apart Theatre Company in Mandurah in 2014, performing in their show *The Journey*. From there she became one of the core ensemble actors and worked on *The Good*, *The Bad* and *The Ugly*. Tina also worked with world-renowned dancer and performer Claire Cunningham as part of the 2016 Perth Festival's PIAF Connect, in partnership with DADAA. In 2017, Tina worked on DADAA's Mixed Reality project with mentor Laura Boynes and creatively developed a new digital work titled *Star Of The Night*.



Mark Junor PERFORMER

Mark Junor started life in England but left when he was just 23 months old to come to Australia. His dad is Scottish and his mum English and he has a brother called Graham, who is in Victoria now with his family. Mark went to school in Perth where he lived and got a job with Good Samaritan Industries, working there for 10 years, most of the time in the kitchen. He says: "I fell in love with Melissa and asked her to marry me. We will have been married 19 years in September. I enjoy living in Augusta with my wife. We have lots of friends and get to do lots of things together."



Melissa Junor PERFORMER

Melissa Junor was born in Perth. Her mother is from Papua New Guinea but of Chinese origin. Her father was English. She has a younger brother called Stuart. She went to school in Perth, but moved around because her dad was a teacher and the family moved with his job. Melissa had a job working for Target Distribution Centre after she left school. She met Mark at a Dancing for the Disabled class in Perth and married him in September 2000. The couple now live in the pretty holiday town of Augusta where they have their own house and look after themselves.

Melissa says: "I like being independent and sharing my life with Mark".



Lauren Marchbank PERFORMER

Lauren Marchbank found her true passion for dancing at the age of five and she has since trained in a variety of dance genres, including ballet, contemporary and hip hop. She has been a member of DADAA's Tracksuit Performance Group for four years. In 2017, she choreographed and performed her own solo at The Crown Theatre, and choreographed a solo work, *I Am Okay With It* for STRUT's SHORTS season. She also performed in *Inventories of Bodies in Movement* with French artist Christine Fricker. The filmed component of *I Am Okay With It* is included in *You Know We Belong Together*.

CREATIVES



Clare Watson DIRECTOR

Clare commenced in the role of Artistic Director of Black Swan State Theatre Company in October 2016 and made her directorial debut with *Let the Right One In*. Her other credits with the company since then include *Our Town*, *Xenides*, *The Events*, and *You Know We Belong Together*. Previously, Clare was Artistic Director at St Martins collaborating with children and teenagers. Her recent work includes *I saw the second one hit*, *Gonzo* (Malthouse Theatre) and *FITTER. FASTER. BETTER.* (Dance Massive, Junction Arts Festival, Malthouse Theatre). She directed the critically acclaimed *What Rhymes with Cars*

and *Girls* for Melbourne Theatre Company in 2015, which received four Helpmann nominations including Best Director. The production has recently enjoyed a national tour.

In 2014 Clare was Female Director-in-Residence at Malthouse Theatre and she is an MTC Women Directors Program alumna. Her stage credits also include *Gonzo*, *I Heart John McEnroe* (Uninvited Guests/Theatre Works – winner Green Room Award for Best Ensemble, and five nominations including Best Director); *The Man with the September Face* by Kylie Trounson (Full Tilt/Arts Centre); *Smashed* by Lally Katz (Stables); and *Hotel* (Melbourne Fringe Festival – winner Best Director). Her mainstage work has also included *Lungs* by Duncan MacMillan at Melbourne Theatre Company and *The Events* by David Greig for Malthouse and Belvoir, Sydney Festival and Adelaide Festival.

Clare is a graduate of Directing at the Victorian College of the Arts. She is a trained teacher and worked in high schools in Victoria for 15 years and was also Education Manager at Malthouse Theatre.



Finn O'Branagáin WRITER & ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

A 2012 graduate from NIDA's Graduate Diploma of Dramatic Arts (Playwriting), Finn O'Branagáin's work has been presented nationally; at The Women in Theatre and Screen's Festival Fatale, The World Theatre Festival, ATYP, Metro Arts, JUTE theatre and Mudlark Theatre Company, the National Young Writers' Festival, Wordstorm, 2High, and the Nightwords festival at the Sydney Opera House.

Recent works include *Medusa*, which she wrote as part of Black Swan's emerging writers group, premiered at The Blue Room Theatre, award

winning *Interrupting a Crisis* which she directed and dramaturged for Ribs at The Blue Room Theatre, Bondi Feast and Subiaco Arts Festival, *Selkie* at The Blue Room Theatre. She produced and co-wrote with Scott Sandwich award-nominated *Tamagotchi Reset and Other Doomsdays* at The Blue Room (developed at Bundanon Trust with support from JUTE Theatre Company), performed and co-wrote award-nominated *The Epic* with Tom Hogan, which has returned from a national tour. She is currently under commission with Terrapin Puppet Theatre Company. Finn is also a former co-Artistic Director of Crack X Festival.



Tyler Hill SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

Tyler is a graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (BA Performing Arts, Set & Costume Design) and alumni of the Black Swan Resident Artist Program. After winning the David Hough Award for Outstanding Achievement in Design (WAAPA, 2016), he was seconded to Sydney Theatre Company's *The Hanging* and then engaged as Design Assistant for the Perth Festival 2017 Opening Ceremony *Boorna Waanginy: The Trees Speak*. His design credits include *Our Town*, *Hir*, *The Eisteddfod*, *Endgame* (Black Swan), *You Know We Belong Together* (Black Swan, Perth Festival and DADAA), *Actéon*, *Trouble in*

Tahiti (Lost & Found Opera) *Tom Vickers and the Extraordinary Adventure of his Missing Sock* (Spare Parts Puppet Theatre and WA Museum). Tyler's film credits include *Dirt Music*, *Otherlife*.



Joe Hooligan Lui LIGHTING DESIGNER

Joe is a graduate of Murdoch University (BA Arts), current Black Swan Resident Artist and the Spirit of the Fringe. He is a regular and contributing part of the professional and independent theatre industry in Perth as a writer, sound designer/composer, director and lighting designer. His theatre credits with the company include: *I Am My Own Wife* (Director and Sound Designer/Composer), *The Lighthouse Girl*, *Venus in Fur* (Lighting Designer) and *LOADED: A Double Bill of New Plays* (Sound Designer/Composer). Joe is a founding member and the creative leader of Renegade Productions. Renegade Productions has

earned success and recognition in the independent theatre sector of Perth as a company that creates thought provoking, socially conscious work that pushes the boundaries of both form and content. Credits with Renegade as Writer/Director include: *Unveiling: Gay Sex for Endtimes*, *The Book of Life*, *Letters Home*, *Laryngectomy*.



Rachael Dease COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER

Dease's artistic practice encompasses art music, film and theatre scoring, installation and songwriting. She won the inaugural Martin Sims Award at Fringe World, the Melbourne Fringe Music Award and received critical acclaim at New York Fringe Festival for her contemporary song cycle *City of Shadows*. Her composition and sound design for theatre include the Helpmann Award-nominated *It's Dark Outside* (The Last Great Hunt), *Ghost In My Suitcase* (Barking Gecko), *Sunset* (Strut Dance/Maxine Doyle) and *Rest* (WAYTCO). Installation includes *Black Mass* (PICA) *Winter Feast* (Dark Mofo), *Museum of Water*

(Perth Festival), and *Like Embracing Ice* (Fremantle Arts Centre). Dease was awarded the 2017 DCA Performing Arts Fellowship, won the Performing Arts WA award for Best Music for *Let The Right One In* (BSSTC) and been a Besen Fellow at Malthouse Theatre. She has been a resident artist at PICA, Proximity Festival, Lumen Studios Italy and The Arctic Circle.



Laura Boynes

MOVEMENT DIRECTOR & ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Laura is a graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (BA Honours Dance). Her theatre credits include: *You Know We Belong Together* (Black Swan, world premiere season), *Actéon* (Lost and Found Opera), *Trigger Warning* (Sally Richardson). As a dancer Laura has performed nationally and internationally in contemporary dance, theatre, experimental music, site-specific and opera works. In 2009-2013, she was a performer for Buzz Dance Theatre. As choreographer, she has independently created multiple short and full-length works and

co-directed large commissions for dance companies such as LINK Dance Company, Buzz Dance Theatre, CO:3 Youth Ensemble, and the WA Academy of Performing Arts. She has been awarded 2014 Winner Australian Dance Award for Outstanding Achievement in Youth and Community Dance. Other awards include: Look the Other Way – Buzz Dance Theatre – in collaboration with Cadi McCarthy 2016 - Most Outstanding Dancer (Dance Australia Critics Choice) for *SousVide* presented at the Adelaide Fringe Festival.



Michael Carmody VIDEO DESIGNER

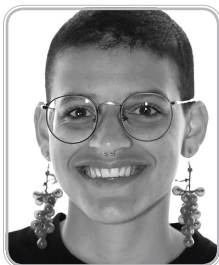
Michael is an Australian artist based in Melbourne and Perth. His credits as Video Designer with the company include: *Assassins*, *You Know We Belong Together* (world premiere season) and *Let the Right One In*. As a video designer for performance he has worked on projects that include Julian Morris' *Lift* and *Separate* national comedy tour (Live Nation), *Gonzo*, *I Saw the Second One Hit* (St Martins/Malthouse Theatre), *I Call My Brothers*, *The Waiting Room* (Melbourne Theatre Company), *Hart* (She Said Theatre/The Blue Room), *Fallen* (She Said Theatre/Sport For Jove), *Silver Rain: Illuminated Opera* (White Night Melbourne, 2016).

In 2017 Michael was dramaturg and video designer on the award-winning St Martins production *For the Ones Who Walk Away* (Best Live Art – Melbourne Fringe 2017, Winner 2018 Green Room Award for Design in Contemporary and Experimental Performance).



Katie Moore STAGE MANAGER

Katie is a graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (BA Performing Arts). She has worked with the company on *Hir*, *Assassins*, *Skylab* (Regional Tour, 2018) and the world premiere of *Xenides*. Other theatre credits include Perth Festival 2019: *The Nature Of Why*, The Blue Room Theatre: *Threshold*, *Tissue*. She has recently returned from NSW after working as Logistics Coordinator for Sydney Festival. Katie is an enthusiastic collector of earrings.



Anastasia Julien-Martial

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Ana graduated last year from Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (AD Live Production and Management Services). They have worked with the company on the world premiere of *Xenides* and *Our Town*. Festival and events credits include: Fringe World Festival 2018 *House of Joys*, *You're Welcome*, *Miss Westralia*. Fringe World Festival 2019 *Endless Answers: Limbs*. Ana identifies as non-binary and prefers they/them pronouns.

KEY PROGRAM AREAS

Fronted by the leadership of our Artistic Director, Clare Watson, we are creating a strong brand of theatre that portrays a uniquely Western Australian voice. One that reaches out and speaks to who we are and who we want to be.

In a place as vast as WA, we have the entirety of our State's story to tell, and we know the absolute importance of sharing it with both our own community and the world.

Our ambition is for Black Swan to match the beauty and boldness of the state that we call home. We will continue to be audacious, ambitious and authentic. We will explore our city and our State to find new ways to inspire audiences and help shape the broader narrative of what it means to be Western Australian.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

From our home in the State Theatre Centre, we reach far and wide. From regional cities to small towns and remote areas, we aim to anchor theatre, and its ability to bring people together, in the lives of communities large and small. Whether it's supporting regional areas through touring, community engagement, live broadcasts or ambassadorships – these are all vital ways of connecting with the heart of these communities.

EDUCATION

Enabling students to experience theatre has been pivotal in the flourishing of our local arts scene. More importantly, it's where our youth build their confidence, their voice and continue to develop who they are. Through workshops, productions and mentorships in schools, at both a metropolitan and regional level, and of course their attendance at our shows, we are creating a stronger connection with culture and identity.

ARTIST DEVELOPMENT

As these generations develop, giving emerging artists the means to explore and experiment is critical to establishing careers. Whether it's through our Emerging Writers Program or partnerships with WAAPA, we're committed to immersing these talents in our productions, to help them shine under the spotlight. Our Resident Artists work closely with the Artistic Director in collaboratively curating the season. They are emerging and established Western Australian artists who work on productions in their area of expertise and contribute to activation activities throughout the year.

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YOU KNOW WE BELONG TOGETHER

Collaborators: Simone Flavelle (DADAA),
Julia Hales (actor), Clare Watson (Black Swan)
and Wendy Martin (Perth Festival)

Photo: Toni Wilkinson



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