



Introductory Notes

1. Introductory information

Event name: Welcome To Your New Life

Event presenter: State Theatre Company, South Australia.

Event date and time:

The audio-described performance is on **Monday 20th November 2023** at 6.30pm with a touch tour commencing at 5.30pm.

A Q & A will follow this evening's performance.

Event location:

The production takes place in the **Space Theatre** at the Adelaide Festival Centre.

Runtime: Approximately 2 hours (including a 20-minute interval)

Event synopsis: Part musical, part diary, this theatre piece explores the issues of motherhood and childbirth. Asking 'What does it effect?' and answering, 'Only everything!' this play seeks to understand, 'How do we grasp the mystery of it?'

Anna Goldsworthy is a pianist, a perfectionist, and a writer. Adapting her book for the stage, she invites us on a triumphant journey that investigates the dizzying wonder and excitement of pregnancy, intermingled with the comedy, poetry and occasional horror of this new state of being. Should she indulge her craving for sausage after sixteen years of not eating meat? Will her birth plan involve Enya or hypnosis, or neither? And just how worried should she be about her baby falling into a composting toilet?

This production plunges us into this life-changing adventure, expertly juggling the accompanying joy and anxieties and demonstrating the kicking required to return to the surface.

Audio Describers: Hen Vaughan and Jules Fielke

2. Set description

The Space Theatre is configured to create a corner stage, with audience seating bordering two sides of a square playing space.

The two side walls meet a shorter flat wall at the centre back – the furthest away visible point – and in the centre of this wall there are two large white double doors, with an oversized doorknob on each one, set about 2m above the floor.

The stage is set like a nursery, with many of the objects out of scale as if seen through eyes of a tiny baby. Overhead, an oversized mobile anchored to the ceiling, displays a round illuminated ring that dangles large colourful shapes – of a cloud, a bird, a star, sun and moon. The walls and the floor feature wide grey and white stripes.



Large wooden letter and number blocks, big enough to sit on, are stacked casually along the side walls. At the rear of the left wall is a white bookshelf, featuring a series of 3 x 2 cubes. The shelves contain three storage cubes one a teal colour, the other orange and the third yellow, with the individual letters W, K and S, alternating from side to side. The remaining three cubes are filled with large bright and colourful book spines, large pull along wooden toys and a guitar on a stand.

On the right side of the room a small white toy piano sits on top of a block. and a larger piano, in the same light plywood hue as the wooden blocks, faces the audience. Large musical notes decorate the front of the piano.

In the centre of the room is a wide circular mat made up of tessellating grey and coloured diamonds in orange, pink, yellow, and teal. A round grey armchair with soft cushions sits in the middle of the mat under the large mobile overhead. A soft grey-green blanket is draped across the curved back of the armchair.

When not engaged directly in the dialogue, members of the cast sit on the blocks placed against the walls, watching the action unfold. At times they also move the blocks carrying them onto the mat, angling the sides to reveal the numbers of weeks as the pregnancy progresses, and later the blocks display the age of the baby. The cast also play a variety of musical instruments, from the toy piano and guitar, to the larger piano and two xylophone's which also rest atop blocks, one to either side of the stage. The music for the show was composed by Alan John and much of it is played live on stage by the actors.

During interval the stage is pared back and becomes minimal – the bookshelf, guitar and most of the letter blocks have been removed. The remaining blocks are lined up along the walls on either side of the double doors. The grey armchair is placed to the left side of the stage, opposite the piano. The scene is lit in cool, pale blue light.

3. Characters and Costumes

ANNA is played by **Erin James**. She has short dark brown hair parted on the right, with a slight wave, cut in a bob. She is slight and lithe. She wears a red short sleeved top, blue jeans with turned up cuffs and soft light brown shoes/ loafers. In Act 2 she adds a pale beige coloured long line cardigan to her outfit.

Erin is always ANNA, the happy and excited though anxious newly pregnant protagonist.

The other actors, Kitty and Matt, play multiple roles, moving quickly from one character to another. There is no time for costuming changes, so character is established through dialogue and physical changes. They both vocalise for **Rupert**, the dog and various Voiceovers.



Kathryn (Kitty) Adams has long brown hair that she wears caught back in a low bun at the nape of her neck. Kitty wears a dark green button through long sleeved shirt, blue jeans, and grey runners with white soles. She plays several roles, including that of **MOGGY** (ANNA's Grandmother).

She also plays ANNA's dad (**Pop**), her sister (**Sash**), her pregnant friend (**Grace**), the **Doctor**, **Vera** the hypnotist, **Nurse Fran** and **Damo** (another new father).

Matt Crook is ANNA's husband and new father-to-be **NICHOLAS**. He has longer brown hair parted on the left and swept back from his forehead, and a close-trimmed beard. He wears a light grey Henley shirt, with small buttons along the tab opening at the neck, dark green corduroy trousers and dark brown shoes with a light-coloured sole.

Matt also plays ANNA's mother (**Baba**), brother **Daniel**, friend **Fiona**, **Dr Monica** the Sonographer and **Lavinia** the midwife and lactation consultant.

The audience is often addressed directly and becomes the beloved **you** of the baby.

4. Creatives

Writer: Anna Goldsworthy

Director: Shannon Rush

Set & Costume Designer: Simon Greer

Composer & Musical Director: Alan John

Lighting Designer: Gavin Norris

Production Designer: Simon Greer

Sound Designer: Andrew Howard

Production Manager: Gabrielle Hornhardt

Stage Manager: Isabella Strada

5. Access information

The production takes place in the **Space Theatre** at the Adelaide Festival Centre.

There is an accessible drop off area located off Festival Drive under the River-bank Footbridge, with a lift to the promenade level.

A designated disability drop off is also available 45 minutes before performances. To access the drop off area, turn onto Festival Drive from King William Road, pass the Festival Plaza car park entrance and stay left, driving through the EOS Hotel visitor drop off loop to arrive at the Space Theatre access drop off.

Adelaide Festival Centre is accessible by public transport, including the tram (stop at Railway Station), trains, buses and a free bus service that operates on a



loop throughout the city and North Adelaide with stops on the corner of King William Road and North Terrace.

You can enter the Space Theatre by foot from North Terrace, Adelaide Railway Station, Adelaide Oval, or King William Road.

From North Terrace, walk down the laneway alongside SkyCity Casino. From King William Road, you can walk over Festival Plaza (there's a lift and escalator down to the Dunstan Playhouse and Space Theatre level) or along the Walk of Fame from Elder Park.

Assistance: assistance is offered by venue staff