

State Theatre Company South Australia

2023 Season Brochure Access Version

Access program supported by Richard Llewellyn Deaf and Disability Fund



Government of South Australia

Arts South Australia

Ngadlu tampinhi Kurna miyurna yaitya yarta-mathanya Wama Tarntanyaku.

Parnaku yaitya, parnaku tapa purruna, parnaku yarta ngadlu tampinhi. Yalaka Kurna Miyurna itu yaitya, tapa purruna, yarta kuma puru martinhi, puru warri-apinhi, puru tangka martulayinhi. Ngadlu tampinhi purkarna pukinangku, yalaka, tarrkaritya.

We acknowledge the Kurna people as the traditional custodians of the Adelaide Plains.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kurna people living today and pay respects to Elders past, present and future.



Executive Director Julian Hobba and Artistic Director Mitchell Butel

Welcome to 2023

Family.

It's a word that conjures so much and it's a concept that's ripe for drama. And comedy.

Looking at family from new angles is at the heart of what is one of the most exciting seasons State Theatre Company South Australia has ever presented.

In 2023, our shows will explore many different and incredible worlds, voices and stories but in them, you'll see families beginning, expanding, falling apart, hoping to heal and new families being formed beyond the biological. Families formed by experience, by resilience, by love, by language, by music.

A dear friend lost her mother this year and at her funeral, our friend relayed a motto her mother had taught her and by which her mother had lived. She said:

“Build families wherever you go. Chosen or otherwise. Community is everything. Care, connect and show up for each other when you need to. Be a mother or a father or a sister or a brother or a carer to those who need one. You will change both their life and yours.”

That's great advice. And it's what makes a great theatre company too.

We have been privileged to be the Artistic Director and Executive Director of this wonderful Company for four and three years respectively now and have relished becoming members of such a great family of tireless and talented staff and artists, all devoted to creating phenomenal, transformative and inclusive theatre.

And we've relished watching our extended family- our brilliant, honest, appreciative, daring and increasingly diverse audience, grow in number over that time too.

You all make family gatherings fun!

So, in this season's year-long family picnic, there are some tasty things laid out on the blankets for you...

An acclaimed, internationally best-selling South Australian novel brought to life in a world premiere; a musical homage to one of the world's greatest singers; two of the hottest and most heart-stopping Australian plays in recent history; an immersive, interactive night of laughter and theatrical magic; a deep dive into the one origin story we all have in common; and a Tony Award-winning classic tragicomedy, marking the return to the stage of one of Australia's most beloved actresses.

And to cap it all off, we're bringing back some of the Company's greatest hits that many missed due to their sold-out status and that many, we know, will want to see again.

We're off to see our relatives this year too – after several of our works premiere in Adelaide, our artists will be visiting our co-producers with seasons at Sydney Theatre Company, Belvoir St. Theatre and Melbourne Theatre Company. We'll stop by at the Theatre Royal in Hobart and, with Country Arts SA, will be travelling all over regional SA and the country as well.

Our subscriber numbers continued to grow in 2022 with people realising that an early subscription means priority access to the best seats in the theatre, huge discounts on ticket prices, and other fantastic benefits, events and offers. We can't bring all our shows back for second seasons, so don't be one of those who saw the "Sold Out" sign last year. Subscribe and have the (first and) last laugh.

"In time of test, family is best", goes the proverb. So, come on over to our place for the best theatre in town. We've got the kettle on.



State Theatre Company South Australia
and Sydney Theatre Company present

Edward Albee's The Goat or, Who is Sylvia?

10 February - 25 February
Dunstan Playhouse

Martin has a marriage and life to envy. A loving wife, a loving teenage son and a celebrated career as an architect that is about to bloom even brighter with an offer to design a 27 billion-dollar dream city in the American Midwest.

Stevie loves Martin, deeply and their house is filled with wit and joy. Until...

As Martin prepares for a TV interview to salute his brilliance, he reveals a secret that could cause the pillars of that house to fall.

Edward Albee's Tony Award-winning dark comedy masterpiece was a huge and Helpmann Award-winning success for State Theatre Company South Australia in the early 2000s but its tales of transgression, desire and betrayal still startle as if they were written yesterday.

In this shattering new production directed by Mitchell Butel (*Girls & Boys*), we welcome Don Hany, the star of *Offspring* and *White Collar Blue*, in the role of Martin, and in her first stage appearance in 25 years, the beloved Logie and AACTA award-winning star of *Love My Way*, *The Secret Life Of Us* and *Bump*, Claudia Karvan, as the fabulous and ferocious Stevie.

The New York Times said "it forces you against your will to reconsider the erotic patterns in your life" and *Variety*: "Albee's tragicomedy throws every convention into question".

But the greatest question will linger... just who or what is Sylvia?

"Claudia Karvan's return to the stage, alongside the brilliant Don Hany, in this dazzling and devastating play, from the man who also wrote *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, is big and wonderful news. Both Claudia and I were knocked out by Marion Potts' hilarious and

jaw-dropping earlier production for STCSA and we've both wanted to explore the play's genius anew ever since. The stars have aligned - I couldn't be more excited." Mitchell

Director

Mitchell Butel

Set Designer

Jeremy Allan

Costume Designer

Ailsa Paterson

Lighting Designer

Nigel Levings

Composer & Sound Designer

Andrew Howard

With

Don Hany

Claudia Karvan

Co Producer

Sydney Theatre Company

Content

Coarse language, adult themes and sexual references.



State Theatre Company South Australia presents

Every Brilliant Thing

By Duncan Macmillan
With Johnny Donahoe

28 April - 13 May
Space Theatre

Sometimes the little things can create something big and beautiful.

A young boy attempts to bring his mother out of depression by making her a list of every brilliant thing in the world. Decades pass, the list grows and what was once a game eventually becomes a new way of looking at the world - a world where there is joy to be found in every corner of our world, if we can open ourselves to the possibility.

If you had to make a list, where would you start?

#1 Ice cream

#2 Water fights

#5 Things with stripes

#25 Wearing a cape

#314 The way Ray Charles sings the word 'You'

#319 Laughing so hard you shoot milk out of your nose

#823 Skinny Dipping

#9998 Watching someone watch your favourite film

Duncan Macmillan's acclaimed interactive comedy about family, love, loss and hope has delighted and moved audiences across the globe and heads to Adelaide in a new production helmed by Yasmin Gurreeboo (*Decameron 2.0*) and starring Jimi Bani (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and *Mabo*).

It's raw, real and intimate and although it may seem like a solo work, this is a show that involves all of its audience (in a non-scary way, you'll love it!) to build bridges and mend hearts.

"One of the funniest plays you'll ever see about depression - and possibly one of the funniest plays you'll ever see, full stop." *The Guardian*

"This is a must-see show; a theatrical experience you will never forget." *Artshub*

“I first saw this charming, funny but deeply affecting show in its premiere New York season and was bowled over by its stealthy simplicity that puts you at ease in order to reach into your very core. Speaking of charm, Jimi Bani has it in spades. A natural storyteller and stage magician. A thrill to welcome Yasmin, the Artistic Director of acclaimed Adelaide company, ActNow Theatre, to make her mainstage directorial debut with us as well.” Mitchell

Director

Yasmin Gurreboo

Set & Costume Designer

Kathryn Sproul

Lighting Designer

Nic Mollison

Composer/Sound Designer

Andrew Howard

With

Jimi Bani

Supported By

Education Giving Circle

Content

Adult themes, references to self-harm and suicide.

See *Every Brilliant Thing* and *Prima Facie* as a double bill – simply choose the same dates when you book.



State Theatre Company South Australia presents

Prima Facie

By Suzie Miller

28 April - 13 May
Space Theatre

Tessa is a gun. And at the top of her game.

A brilliant barrister who defends men charged with sexual assault, she is a gladiatorial master of emotions who can work a courtroom like no other.

But when the tables are turned, her words are called into question and her accusations are now in doubt. The legal system's failure to provide a solid road to justice for women is exposed. And now it's personal.

After gripping audiences all over Australia and recently, in the West End with *Killing Eve's* Jodie Comer, South Australia gets its very own production. Fresh from his acclaimed version of *Glengarry Glen Ross*, David Meador directs Caroline Craig (*Underbelly* and *Eureka Day*) in this heart-stopping one-woman tour de force.

"Miller's play is one of passionate moral intelligence. Having practised both criminal and human rights law, Miller brings that considerable insight to bear in this gripping look at how women are routinely underserved by a legal system rooted in the concept of innocent until proven guilty." *Limelight*

"This is an urgent and compelling work. Run, don't walk."
Time Out

"A searing indictment of the law's treatment of women." *Sydney Morning Herald*

"How great that a new Australian play that has been such a hit and resonated so deeply with audiences gets its South Australian reboot with a team of our finest makers and in Caroline Craig, an actress who has oft electrified Adelaide audiences. A nail-biting and potent tale that will leave an indelible mark on you." Mitchell

Director

David Meador

Set & Costume Designer

Kathryn Sproul

Lighting Designer

Nic Mollison

Composer

Quincy Grant

Sound Designer

Andrew Howard

With

Caroline Craig

Content

Adult themes, including reference to sex and violence.

See *Every Brilliant Thing* and *Prima Facie* as a double bill – simply choose the same dates when you book.



State Theatre Company South Australia presents
a Belvoir St Theatre production of

At What Cost?

By Nathan Maynard

16 June - 1 July
Odeon Theatre

Putalina, Oyster Cove, just south of Hobart, Tasmania. A Palawa man, Boyd Everett, is determined to do right – by his family, by the land, and by his people.

The bones of his ancestor, William Lanne are being returned to him. Boyd has been chosen by the Land Council to light the fire which will reunite Lanne with the “old fellas in the sky... where there’s wallaby bounding everywhere. Where there’s an abalone under every swaying piece of bull kelp. Where there are crayfish under every hanging rock ledge. Where there’s a mutton bird in every burrow.”

But strangers are arriving. Strangers now making claims on all Boyd holds dear, ready to dig up the pain of the past and drag it into the present.

Nathan Maynard’s extraordinary tale of a family and a community in crisis arrives fresh from its acclaimed world premiere at Belvoir St Theatre.

“Urgent, provocative, coruscating and haunting ... theatrical statement of the heart, a must-see.” *Australian Stage*

“A play sculpted from muscle and bone and filled in from the gut... it is smartly pitched and richly rhythmic and never shies away from a laugh (there are many)...” *Sydney Morning Herald*

“A great political tragedy grows out of comic domestic beginnings in this slow-burning play... like all great tragedies, it builds towards pity and terror in its ending.” *The Australian*

“Nathan Maynard is one of the hottest and most talented playwrights working in Australia at the moment. His comic gifts are immense but his capacity for deep drama and suspense is equally monumental. Teaming with other great First Nations artists - Isaac Drandic as

director and designers Chloe Ogilvie and Jacob Nash, alongside a brilliant cast, this show will burn brightly at the Odeon.” Mitchell

Writer & Associate Director

Nathan Maynard

Director

Isaac Drandic

Set Designer

Jacob Nash

Costume Designer & Set Realiser

Keerthi Subramanyam

Lighting Designer

Chloe Ogilvie

Composer

Brendon Boney

Sound Designer

David Bergman

With

Luke Carroll

Sandy Greenwood

Alex Malone

Ari Maza Long

Creative Partner

Belvoir St. Theatre

Content

Frequent coarse language, sexual references and content, strong themes dealing with genocide and trauma, deaths in custody and suicide. Mention of Indigenous people who have died.



State Theatre Company South Australia,
Belvoir St Theatre and Melbourne Theatre Company present

Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill

By Lanie Robertson

25 August - 9 September
Space Theatre

It's 1959. In a small bar in Philadelphia that's seen better days, one of the greatest jazz singers of all-time, Billie Holiday walks onstage. Unbeknownst to her audience, it will be one of her last performances. The jazz trio start to play, her incomparable voice fills the room. The songs flow - *Ain't Nobody's Business If I Do, What a Little Moonlight Can Do, Strange Fruit, Don't Explain, God Bless the Child* - but so do the stories. Tales of her youth and her heroes - of Bessie Smith, Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman and her beloved mother, the Duchess. Hard times, happy times. Love, oppression, addiction but survival, courage and grace. And to the music she keeps returning: "Singin' is livin' to me". With signature charm and wit, she laughs more than she cries, as she tells us how she came to be known as the great Lady Day.

It takes an extraordinary talent to capture another extraordinary talent and in Zahra Newman, audiences will find just that.

After delighting audiences in leading roles onstage in shows like *The Book of Mormon* and *A Raisin in the Sun* and on-screen in *Wentworth*, *Neighbours* and *Rosehaven*, Newman's talent and musical mastery takes full flight in a show the *New York Daily News* calls "a spell-binding tour-de-force - captivating, surprising and satisfying".

"Turns jazz songs and standards into searching, and searing, portraits of life and love gone wrong that cast a shimmering spell." *New York Times*

"It's stunning, it's heartbreaking. The anguish and fury in it is heart stopping." *Huffington Post*

"A legend is forever, and if Lady Day doesn't bring its subject back, it does justice to her enduring spirit." *USA Today*

“Zahra as Billie is guaranteed to be one of the performances of the century. I have always loved both the beauty and melancholy of Billie Holiday’s golden voice and artistry. I have likewise always been in awe of Zahra’s great charisma and skill. And when Zahra sings, like Billie, she reaches to the centre of the earth and up to the heavens. You’ll be in heaven in this cabaret club that we will create in the Space Theatre. Book early to get a table onstage. You’ll never want to leave.” Mitchell

Director

Mitchell Butel

Set & Costume Designer

Ailsa Paterson

Lighting Designer

Govin Ruben

Musical Arrangements

Danny Holgate

Sound Designer

Andrew Howard

Associate Director

Zahra Newman

Co-Producers

Belvoir St Theatre

Melbourne Theatre Company

Presenting Partner

Adina

Content

Adult themes, coarse language, references to sex, racism and drug use.



State Theatre Company South Australia
and Sydney Theatre Company present

The Dictionary of Lost Words

Adapted by Verity Laughton
From the novel by Pip Williams

22 September - 14 October
Dunstan Playhouse

In 1901, the word bondmaid was discovered to be missing from the Oxford English Dictionary. *The Dictionary of Lost Words* is the story of the girl who stole it.

South Australian novelist Pip Williams' internationally bestselling book, comes to vivid life in this world premiere stage adaptation by South Australian playwright, Verity Laughton.

A best-selling multi-award winner (including the People's Choice Award at the NSW Premier's Literary Awards) and chosen for the Reese Witherspoon Book Club, the book has been lauded as an "absorbing, quietly revolutionary novel", "deeply, intrinsically kind (and) a profoundly comforting place to dwell" (*The Age*) and "a captivating and slyly subversive fictional paean to the real women whose work on the Oxford English Dictionary went largely unheralded." (*New York Times*).

Motherless and ever curious, Esme spends her childhood in the Scriptorium – the "Scrippy", a converted garden shed in Oxford where her father and a team of lexicographers guided by Dr James Murray are gathering words for the very first Oxford English Dictionary. She hides beneath the sorting table and catches a word on a "slip" as it falls and soon, she finds other words that have been neglected by the men. Here begins Esme's collection of her own: the Dictionary of Lost Words.

As the years pass, Esme realizes that little importance is placed on recording the words and meanings relating to women's experiences and as her world expands and her circle of friends grows – actresses, suffragettes, market traders, workers, she realises the power in their silenced voices and decides to lend them hers. And on the way, she comes to understand the many meanings of the word "love".

"Full of heart and tenderness, heartbreak and joy, love and loss." *The Herald Sun*

“What a coup for this Company! A hugely popular South Australian novel bursts onto our stage. Verity’s adaptation gets to the rich core of the book while making the story a thing what will sing in the theatre. How equally thrilling to have Jessica Arthur, fresh from her success with *Chalkface*, return to us to direct this beloved, epic, romantic tale that celebrates language and its power. Sure to be a landmark production.”
Mitchell

Director

Jessica Arthur

Set Designer

Jonathon Oxlade

Costume Designer

Ailsa Paterson

Lighting Designer

Trent Suidgeest

Co-Producer

Sydney Theatre Company

Presenting Partner

ECH

Supported By

Commissioning Collective

Content

Coarse language and adult themes



State Theatre Company South Australia presents

Welcome to Your New Life

By Anna Goldsworthy

10 November - 25 November
Space Theatre

When Anna, a pianist and perfectionist, falls pregnant with her first child, her excitement is tempered by the daunting journey ahead. She shares the dizzying wonder and crippling anxiety that comes with creating new life. 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?

Anna Goldsworthy has turned her captivating memoir into a captivating play which combines warmth, humour and surprise to reveal the love that binds families together.

This world premiere production evokes the shock of plunging into a life-changing adventure and the kicking required to return to the surface.

With live songs and a soon-to-be-announced star of the stage in the role of Anna, this charming but delightfully affecting and hilarious account of pregnancy and early motherhood melds *Up the Duff* candour with Lena Dunham-like wit, and will have you laughing, sighing and crying in recognition.

Praise for the memoir...

“Radiant truth-telling, straight-faced, savoury humour and rigorous honesty. It’s simply beautiful, moving and generous – and welcome.”
The Australian

“This is a story at once completely universal and incredibly vivid.”
Sydney Morning Herald

“There are few books that have made me howl with laughter as this one has... A deliciously subversive read.” *Melbourne Review*

“I have a talent crush on Anna Goldsworthy. I admit it. A brilliant writer, musician, teacher, festival director and also, a mother whose love and generosity and good-humoured approach to parenthood and life is a

lesson for us all. How fantastic to see Shannon Rush, director of the brilliant *Cathedral* in 2022, helm her first as Artistic Associate for the Company.” Mitchell

Director

Shannon Rush

Lighting Designer

Gavin Norris

Sound Designer

Andrew Howard

Supported By

Dramatic Women



State Extra - Subscription add on

State Theatre Company South Australia presents

Girls & Boys

By Dennis Kelly

2 August - 5 August
Dunstan Playhouse

She meets him in an airport queue and sparks fly. Their passionate love affair takes them to marriage, a mortgage, and children – an ordinary family life. Her natural working-class wit works to her advantage, and unexpectedly she starts rising above her allotted rung on the British social ladder. The power dynamic between them shifts - imperceptible cracks become yawning gulfs – but when the house they built begins to fall, nothing prepares her for what happens next.

The innocent sounding *Girls & Boys* is a searing one-woman show by Dennis Kelly, the celebrated wordsmith of in-yer-face classics like *Osama the Hero* and *DNA*, as well as the masterful dialogue for Tim Minchin's *Matilda*. A high-wire act balancing comedy and drama which has stunned audiences in London and New York, its stellar solo role is brilliantly filled here by Justine Clarke, whose versatility has seen her adored by audiences for her work on *Play School* to ARIA Award-winning albums and darker, powerhouse turns in *Love My Way*, *Tangle* and *Look Both Ways*.

A ticking time bomb, *Girls & Boys* is an engrossing, edge-of-your-seat play that shifts gears from *Fleabag*-like wit and mischief to harrowing shock in a matter of seconds, and it will leave you breathless.

Whether seeing it for the first time, or revisiting, you won't want to miss this return season of the unanimously praised, breakout hit of the 2022 Adelaide Festival.

“*Girls & Boys* is a clever play intelligently built on quiet passion and no hiding places. It will change your image of Justine Clarke forever – and should result in a swag of awards for her and the production; she is brilliant. Fight for tickets.” *Stage Noise*

“This is an extraordinary work and with Butel directing the magnificent Justine Clarke, it sings tour de force in all directions.” *The Barefoot Review*

“Working with Justine and the team on this knockout and important play was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Her commitment, talent and bravery were mind-blowing to me and all her witnessed her. The first season of this production completely sold out. Do not miss the chance to catch it this time round.” Mitchell

Director

Mitchell Butel

Set & Costume Designer

Ailsa Paterson

Lighting Designer

Nigel Levings

Composer

Alan John

Sound Designer

Andrew Howard

Assistant Director

Rachel Burke

With

Justine Clarke

Creative Partners

Adelaide Festival

Theatre Royal

Sydney Festival

Content

Coarse language and adult themes



State Extra - Subscription add on

State Theatre Company South Australia and Country Arts SA present

Euphoria

By Emily Steel

22 August - 26 August
Odeon Theatre

School teacher Meg wants to start a new festival called “Euphoria” to celebrate everything her country town has to offer. Former student Ethan doesn’t think there’s much to celebrate at all until he meets Annie and hatches a plan for a campervan escape. Meg’s husband Nick wants Meg to slow down, but there’s still so much to do – get grants, make run sheets, hurry to Adelaide to win the support of the Premier. She’s spinning fast. And the rest of the town is beginning to notice.

An Antipodean *Under Milk Wood*, Emily Steel’s *Euphoria* brings to life a South Australian regional community, full of love, pain, complexity and humour, with two virtuosic actors, James Smith and Ashton Malcolm, playing a range of idiosyncratic characters.

After its triumphant season in 2021 and an extensive regional South Australian tour, *Euphoria* embarks on a national tour in 2023 which includes this limited return Adelaide season.

“A must-see...one of the finest pieces of new stage writing to grace an Adelaide stage.” *The Advertiser*

“The seriousness of the issues explored in *Euphoria* are counterbalanced by the extraordinary charm of this tight, entertaining production. Funny, heart-warming, emotive, and thought provoking, *Euphoria* is an outstanding piece of theatre.” *Limelight*

“Audiences loved this show so much in 2021, leading to a sold-out season and 5-star reviews. So many have asked when it was returning to Adelaide. We’re thrilled to answer those calls and we’re so eager to watch this talented team take us into their town and their pain and joy once more.” Mitchell

Director

Nescha Jelk

Set & Costume Designer

Meg Wilson

Lighting Designer

Nic Mollison

Composer & Sound Designer

Andrew Howard

With

Ashton Malcolm

James Smith

Co-Producer

Country Arts SA

Content

Coarse language and adult themes

Stateside

State Theatre Company South Australia is thrilled to support and showcase other great local theatre companies as part of our Stateside program. Stateside productions are made and presented by other companies, however as a State Theatre Company South Australia Subscriber you get 10% off tickets to these magnificent projects, simply make your selection on the booking form.



No Strings Attached Theatre of Disability and
Military and Emergency Services Health Australia presents

My War

By No Strings

6 July - 9 July 2023

Drill Hall, Torrens Parade Ground

A returned Veteran soldier facing the battle after war. A boy living with a disability, submerged in a violent video game. A mother searching for a connection, discovers comfort. But the insults hit like bullets. The slurs drag them down. The sounds fill the air with heaviness. Are they playing a game of truth? The only way to know is to log in.

No Strings and MESHHA present a new work about returning to normality after heavy experiences.

There are some who have logged off, that still keep score.

Director

Paulo Castro

Text

Sharon Mascall and Adam Bullmore (Vet Soldiers) with No Strings cast

Designer

Kathryn Sproul

Music

Mitre Khammash

Lighting Designer

Nic Mollison

Video Artists

Jermaine Hampton

Nic Mollison

Cast

Adam Bullmore

Michaela Cantwell

Paddy Firster

Duncan Luke

Content

Mild coarse language and adult themes.



Caitlin Ellen Moore and Tim Overton present

Dead Man's Cell Phone

By Sarah Ruhl

Slingsby's Hall of Possibility
96 Glen Osmond Rd, Parkside

An incessantly ringing phone in a quiet cafe.

A stranger at the next table who has had enough.

And a dead man - with a lot of loose ends.

Dead Man's Cell Phone is a wildly imaginative comedy about how we memorialise the dead, and how that remembering changes us. The odyssey of a woman forced to confront her own assumptions about

morality, redemption, and the need to connect in a technologically bewitched world.

Join this incredible team of South Aussies for a turn of lyrical satire, bizarre romance and truly magical storytelling.

Supported by Slingsby and Brink Productions.

Dead Man's Cell Phone is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

**Co Producer Caitlin Ellen Moore &
Wickedly Good Productions**

**Director & Co Producer
Tim Overton**

**Set & Costume Designer
Renate Henschke**

**Lighting Designer & Production Manager
Vanessa van de Weyer**

**Composer & Live Musician
Dave McEvoy**

**Cast Includes
Annabel Matheson
Matthew Crook
Shabana Azeez**

**Creative Partners
Wickedly Good Productions
Slingsby
Brink Productions**

Content
Coarse language. References to sex, death and dying.