



## Introductory Notes

### 1. Introductory information

**Event name:** *Blue*, by Thomas Weatherall

**Event presenter:** State Theatre Company South Australia and Celsus in association with Adelaide Festival present this Belvoir St. Theatre Production.

**Event date and time:**

The audio-described performances are on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March** at 2pm with a touch tour commencing at 1pm, and **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024** at 8pm with a touch tour commencing at 7pm.

A Q & A will follow the Tuesday evening performance.

**Event location:**

The production is at the **Scott Theatre**, in the grounds of The University of Adelaide, off Kintore Avenue.

**Runtime:**

The performance run time is approximately 1hr 20 mins, with no interval. It is recommended you arrive at least 15 minutes before your performance start time to ensure you have time to locate your seat.

**Content:**

This performance contains strong language, smoking on stage, references to suicide, and utilizes theatrical smoke and haze. Recommended for audiences 15+.

**Event synopsis:**

*Blue* is set in the modern day and explores the experiences of one character, Mark, played by Callan Purcell.

*Blue* paints a vivid picture of a young man's life, coloured by tragedy, loss, and love. The Program Notes share this from the writer, "This play is not a cry for help, or an exercise in trauma, but more so an opening to a discourse that I believe so many people are in need of."

**Audio Describers:** Kari Seeley and Jules Fielke

### 2. Set description

Theatre access from the foyer is via three steps or a ramp. Two wide aisles slope down from the back of the theatre to the front of the stage, with no steps. The Scott Theatre has a traditional proscenium arch which acts as a portal, providing a frame for the set.

The set is a single large white wedge-shaped stage, like an empty slice of pie crust, with the deep outer edge rising from the back of the stage, like a building wave almost ready to break over the performance area. The white surface is rough, like sea foam. At its widest point the set is just over 10m across the back edge, and



3.6m high. It is around 6.5m deep at the centre point. It is lifted 185mm above the stage floor so the base seems to hover as its thin 'pie-crust' construction sits above a black void.

There are eight stage mics set up around the two sides of the base of the "building wave" which angles in from both sides towards the centre of the front of the stage.

All of the action takes place on this white set. It begins as a sparse, pared back all white modern interior with a light silver chair on the left, a coffee mug, a notepad and some items of clothing in a small pile by the chair, completing the props. Side lighting suggests a room off stage to the right.

Lighting effects are used to create moods of blue tranquil water, or the intense orange and red of fire. Projections of a restless or calm sea across the white set provide evocative context for the on-stage action. The soundscape is equally important supporting the emotional journey of the actor.

### 3. Characters and Costumes

**MARK** is played by **Callen Purcell**, a Wiradjuri man. He has short cropped dark hair, a compact body and wears black or grey track pants and a singlet or t-shirt.

Mark has always wanted to be a writer. His mum's a writer too, and together they'd spend hours reading and writing in their garden. When Mark moves out of his childhood home and into his first share flat, he and his mum stay connected by exchanging letters. When Mark one day receives a letter with the news too painful to bear, he seeks solace in the sea – the source of his fondest yet most agonising memories.

### 4. Creatives

Writer: Thomas Weatherall

Director: Deborah Brown

Set & Costume Designers: Jacob Nash & Cris Baldwin

Lighting Designer: Chloe Ogilvie

Sound Designer & Composer: Wil Hughes

AV Designer: David Bergman

Production Manager: Richard Whitehouse

Stage Managers: Gavin Norris & Stephanie Storr

Mark: Callan Purcell

### 5. Access information

The production takes place in the **Scott Theatre** on Kintore Avenue at the

University of Adelaide. If travelling by car, parking is available at the UPark Gawler Place or on Kintore Avenue for easy access to Scott Theatre.

A designated accessible drop off is available through Gate 13, off Kintore Avenue. A number of Accessible car parks are available on the University grounds to the left of the drop off area.

**Scott Theatre** is accessible by public transport, Bus Stop G1 or G3 on North Terrace –North Side, or Bus Stop T2 North Terrace –South Side. From North Terrace, walk down past the Art Gallery of South Australia and veer to the left after the Café lawns, this lane leads directly to Scott Theatre. Alternately enter from the lights part way down Kintore Avenue, follow the path/road around in a loop (it is slightly uphill) and the theatre is on your right.

**Food and Beverage:** Hubha Hubha café located in the foyer of the Scott Theatre, will be open for drinks, snacks & coffee for an hour and a half prior to each show, including matinees.

SC Pannel wines and Lois Sparkling, STC sponsorship partners, will be served here too!

The Scott Theatre had designated wheelchair accessible unisex toilets.

Assistance: assistance is offered by venue staff