



Introductory Notes

1. Introductory information

Event name: The Questions

Event presenter: State Theatre Company South Australia

Event date and time:

The audio-described performances are Saturday 3rd August 2024 at 2 pm and Monday 5th August at 7.30pm.

Event location:

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

Runtime: 140 minutes (no interval)

Event synopsis: **The Questions** is written by Van Badham and Richard Wise. Inspired by a true story from the COVID-19 pandemic, **The Questions** is a musical where a 'shelter in place' lockdown results in a couple extending their awkward first date indefinitely in his apartment, and the rock band, in the opposite apartment, into an endless rehearsal. How to survive becomes the question as the 3-man band provides musical accompaniment to the action.

Note that none of the characters have names – the band are heard making music and singing and the couple are simply referred to as 'he' and 'she' in the Audio Description.

Note also that there is a Language warning for this play and there are some brief loud alarms.

Audio Describers: Jo Ankor and Carol Wellman-Kelly

2. Set description

The Questions takes place in an inner-city high-rise apartment. The Space Theatre is set with two adjacent banks of seats with the apartment's living area raised and jutting diagonally from a backdrop of orange, red and green skyscraper apartment blocks, the sky just visible between them. The black floor surrounding the raised apartment space represents the outside world.

To the left, we can see right into the apartment opposite through its wall-sized window. That room that is set up for band practise with two keyboards, stools, music stands, microphones, an electric guitar on its stand and a drum kit, all surrounded by scattered boxes, books, coffee mugs and bottles of water. The wall is covered with framed band posters, pinned-up head-shots and assorted pictures. There are doors at each end of the room and a slatted blind can be dropped and closed over the large window.

The living room of the apartment where the action takes place is smart modern minimalist – white walls, three long bars of ceiling beam lights, a pale wooden floor. Centre of the back wall is an all-white kitchenette with oven, concealed bar-fridge,

recessed lighting, sleek silver taps and shiny electric kettle. To the right of the kitchenette is the white front door with a tidy shoe rack and light switch adjacent, and, to the left of the kitchenette, a door marked by a white standing lamp leads to the bedroom area.

In front of the kitchenette, a blond-wood dining table with matching chairs is set for two, with a single orange flower in a glass vase centre.

On the left in the living area is a neat pale-grey sofa with dark grey throw and two fresh white cushions. In front is a polished wooden coffee table carrying a neat stack of magazines. At the far end of the sofa is a small round wooden table and a dark-grey ottoman, with an (implied) window that looks directly across at the Band's apartment.

As day changes to night, scattered windows in the background high-rise buildings light up and stars twinkle in the patch of sky beyond.

3. Characters and Costumes

The apartment resident, a young man in his mid 20's, is played by **Charles Wu** who stands approximately 170cms, with a broad expressive face and wide smile. Hanging to the nape of his neck, his straight jet-black hair is parted in the middle, combed neatly to either side of his face and tucked behind his ears. His lean but muscular build and upright stance is accentuated by a steel blue suit jacket over a pale blue, ribbed polo shirt, tucked into a pair of well-fitting cream chino trousers. Slung across one shoulder is a large leather satchel, fashionably matching his brown leather belt. He wears brown slip-on leather loafers, which he promptly changes for black indoor slides while in his apartment and later a well-worn pair of blue/grey slippers. During the play he replaces T-shirts and changes into a pair of pyjamas, however, his black 'smart' watch never leaves his left wrist and his mobile phone is always close at hand.

The blind-date visitor is an animated young woman, flush with excitement and anxious fast gestures, played by Filipina-Australian actor/singer, **Chaya Ocampo**. Her bubbly personality is matched by her colourful somewhat bohemian attire. She wears a vibrant coloured, waist length, padded jacket with splashes of pink, green and blue. Under this, a soft lilac-purple jumper is tucked into baggy blue jeans with hip pockets. Yellow trainers with pink adidas stripes, complete the outfit. Chaya has waist-length wavy dark hair, which she wears parted in the middle, slicked down and the top portion dragged back into a large shiny alligator clip at the back of her head. Standing approx. 165cms she is fresh-faced with long eyelashes and makeup. She expresses herself with gregarious hand gestures featuring long white fingernails, usually clasping her phone as well, and carries a large red-and-white striped tote bag over her shoulder.

The Band are three young men who rehearse together, slurping from their coffee mugs whilst watching and responding to the antics in the opposite apartment.

The tallest at around 189cms is drummer **Jackson Mac**. His dark skin tone and wiry black hair, teased up into a high square cut, give him a statuesque appearance highlighted by his royal-blue nylon tracksuit jacket and matching pants with yellow



adidas stripes down the arms and legs. Underneath, he wears a white t-shirt with black Japanese text and the image of the 70's cartoon character 'Astro boy.'

Hongkong-Australian **Sam Lau** is keyboard player and primary singer in the band. Sam is approximately 170cms tall with slim build and his mop of jet-black hair flops over one side of his fashionably clear-rimmed glasses. He wears white trousers with speckled black splashes like spray paint, thick black belt and a black band T-shirt with 'Mega Death' printed on the front in pink designer lettering. Later in the play, he wields the electric guitar in black leather jacket with silver zips.

James Bannah Jnr also plays keyboard and is animated, bobbing and getting into the music with a big white smile. He stands around 165cms tall and his slight build is clothed in a long yellow baggy Tshirt under a green and purple paisley-patterned shirt, with sleeves rolled up. His brown pho-leather pants reflect the light in the studio and are coupled with black, thick-white-soled "Dunlop" tennis shoes.

4. Creatives

Charles Wu – the apartment resident

Chaya Ocampo – the invited guest

Musicians - Sam Lau, Jackson Mack and James Bannah Jr

Playwright and Lyricist - Van Badham

Composer and Lyricist - Richard Wise

Artistic Director - Mitchell Butel

Set & Costume Design - Jeremy Allen

Lighting Design - Gavin Norris

Sound Design - Andrew Howard

5. Event details

Event date and time:

Audio described performances of The Children will take place in the Space Theatre at the Adelaide Festival Centre on **Saturday 3rd August 2024** at 2.00pm, with a tactile tour from 1pm, and **Monday 5th August 2024** at 6.30pm, with a tactile tour from 5.30pm. Monday's performance is followed by a Q&A session in the theatre.

Event location:

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

Ticket information: Tickets can be booked through Ticketek or the State Theatre Company SA website.

Runtime: 140 minutes (no interval)

6. Access information

The production takes place in the **Space Theatre** at the Adelaide Festival Centre. Access is through via the Riverbank Concourse. The **Space Theatre** is wheelchair accessible and guide dog friendly. There are accessible toilets in the venue. Please ask at the main reception desk.

Getting to the event: Please contact the **Adelaide Festival Centre** on 131 246 for details on the best access route to the theatre complex.

Assistance: assistance is offered by venue staff

For more information on audio described performances please contact Access2Arts using the email address audio.describer@access2arts.org.au or Voice/Text 0415 090 547. Alternatively speak to one of the audio describers at the theatre.