

2023

THEATRE

ROYAL!

WAGLO

come

RESPECT

We acknowledge the traditional and original owners of the land on which we work and meet, the muwinina people of nipaluna/Hobart, and all palawa peoples of lutruwita/Tasmania. We pay our respect to Elders past and present, and thank them for their custodianship of this unceded land.

Prior to every performance in our venues, you will hear an Acknowledgment of Country from Uncle Jim Everett - puralia meenamatta, a pioneering and unique voice, proudly representing the stories of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. A poet, playwright, activist and Tasmanian Aboriginal Elder, we honour his enormous legacy to arts and culture in lutruwita/Tasmania.




“The art of passing on our knowledge through story is why my peoples have thrived for thousands of years. Art and culture cannot be separated for First Nations peoples - it is our culture lore, our way of life. The Theatre Royal respectfully acknowledges the importance of storytelling and the Country on which the Theatre presents work.”





- Sinsa Mansell



Image by Fostie Hastie


2023 Calendar

-  Theatre Royal
-  Studio Theatre
-  Ian Potter Recital Hall

-  Made in Tasmania
-  Opening Night Event
-  Family Friendly
-  Accessible Performance

FEBRUARY

takara nipaluna

Multiple performances  p. 9

A Deep Black Sleep

23 – 25 Feb  p. 11

MAY

Every Brilliant Thing

4 – 6 May   p. 24

The Motherload

12 – 13 May   p. 25

JUNE

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge

1 Jun   p. 26

The Sunshine Club

23 – 24 Jun  p. 28

SEPTEMBER

Exposed

8 – 9 Sep  p. 38

Possum Magic

11 – 12 Sep   p. 27

HandMADE & MADE TO LAST

21 – 22 Sep   p. 39

Twelfth Night


26 – 30 Sep   p. 40

OCTOBER

The Paper Escaper

5 – 8 Oct     p. 23

Borderlands

28 Oct   p. 42

MARCH

Women of Troy

8 – 12 Mar Ⓟ ▼ 🍌 🍌 p. 12

Hide the Dog

15 Mar Ⓟ ▼ 🍌 🍌 p. 14

Velvet Rewired

22 Mar – 2 Apr Ⓟ p. 17

APRIL

Velvet Rewired

22 Mar – 2 Apr Ⓟ p. 17

Prima Facie

4 – 6 Apr ★ Ⓟ p. 19

Enviroteens

19 – 29 Apr Ⓟ ▼ 🍌 p. 21

JULY

At What Cost?

6 – 8 Jul ★ Ⓟ p. 30

Interloper

13 – 14 Jul Ⓟ ▼ 🍌 p. 22

Ascent

27 – 29 Jul ★ Ⓟ p. 32

AUGUST

Girls & Boys

10 – 12 Aug Ⓟ p. 34

JUST Live on Stage!

16 – 17 Aug Ⓟ 🍌 p. 36

AGE

17 – 19 Aug Ⓟ ▼ 🍌 p. 37

NOVEMBER

BINGO! Stay on the Ball Ladies

2 – 4 Nov Ⓟ ▼ p. 44

Robyn Archer: An Australian Songbook

3 – 4 Nov Ⓟ p. 46

DE



Image by Rosie Hastie

DESIGN

The disruption of recent years has been transformative and the Theatre Royal is responding to change through a process of opening up. Across these buildings - the old and the new - we are rethinking our role and responsibility to artists, audiences, and our community. Opening up to new ideas, conversations and experiences. To be a cultural leader, we need to be engaged with the past and the future.

In 2023, the Theatre Royal Season will share 25 projects that represent diverse artistic forms and ideas. We hope audiences will embrace the adventure of ambitious large-scale productions from festivals and flagship performing arts companies in the Theatre Royal, alongside the new and dynamic work being explored in the intimacy of our Studio Theatre.

While the program is diverse, there are unifying elements. Our First Nations program profiles several projects originating in lutruwita/Tasmania, with Nathan Maynard's *At What Cost?* in NAIDOC week an unmissable centrepiece for the year.

A line-up of powerful female performers and performances is another stand-out, showcasing compelling, relevant stories and virtuosic talent. Meanwhile, a third of our program is work for children and families, including school holiday programs profiling productions by Tasmanian companies. Half of the program is Tasmanian work.

To ensure we invest in the future of Tasmanian storytelling, we will continue our artist residency program RAWspace in 2023. New artists enter our focus and will respond to the new ways and places in which people are creating and consuming art and culture.

Our strong partnership with the University of Tasmania will deliver activities and experiences in 2023, such as public talks and workshops, that provide an additional layer of connection between communities, artists and ideas. This collaboration will realise our shared ambition to be a vibrant centre for culture and ideas, uniting the Theatre Royal and The Hedberg as a performing arts centre for everyone.

I can't wait to see you in the foyer!

Simon, CEO



Blak Led Tours

takara nipaluna

by Nunami Sculthorpe-Green

Following a sold-out breakthrough season in 2022, don't miss this opportunity to learn more about palawa (Tasmanian Aboriginal) history and our city.

Created by award-winning palawa and Walpiri woman Nunami Sculthorpe-Green, this powerful tour gives voice to the palawa perspective and continued presence within this modern city, exposing the layers of history beneath the asphalt.

The walk follows the route taken in 1832 by members of the Aboriginal resistance, retracing their steps as they progressed to the old Government House to negotiate an end to the Black War. As the only Aboriginal-led tour of nipaluna/Hobart, this is a must-do experience.

"You think you know nipaluna/ Hobart until you walk a few blocks of it with someone who understands the bigger picture."

– Australian Traveller

Creator Nunami Sculthorpe-Green

Dramaturg Sarah Hamilton

Original Producer
Performing Lines TAS

NIPALUNA/HOBART

A six-month schedule with dates and times is available on our website.

🕒 **90 mins**

🗣️ Patron advice:

First Nations Peoples please note aspects of the tour deal with Tasmania's dark past and include references to people who have died.

🎫 **Tickets \$60**

Mona Foma, in association with the Theatre Royal, presents IHOS Amsterdam's

A Deep Black Sleep



Renowned performing arts company IHOS Amsterdam returns to its former home in Tasmania with this captivating chamber opera combining live vocal and instrumental music, interwoven with film.

Through the world of a composer torn between artistic values and political expediency in a threatening authoritarian climate, we learn the ultimate cost of compromising one's values. Resonating with current world events, *A Deep Black Sleep* explores nationalism, wall-building and the manipulation of art for political gain.

Underscored by a chamber ensemble of instrumentalists, the rich combination of artistic forms produces a layered story-telling experience. Hobart audiences will remember IHOS for their many large scale, ambitious performance spectacles such as *To Traverse Water*, *Tesla* and *Days and Nights With Christ*.

"An extremely sophisticated production, performed with an audacious and exhilarating disregard for what might be considered the rules of drama."

– The Mercury (To Traverse Water)

Tenor Tyrone Landau

Direction Constantine Koukias & Slavisa Drobnjaković

Music Director Donald Bate

STUDIO THEATRE

Thu 23 - Fri 24 Feb 7:30pm

Sat 25 Feb 2pm & 7:30pm

⌚ **75 mins** (no interval)

🎫 **Tickets** \$25 – \$50



Mona Foma, in association with IHOS Amsterdam, presents

Primordial

For piano and diverse media
by Constantine Koukias

A soundscape that condenses several million years of shifting tectonic forces as the first complex life form on earth emerged.

Primordial is a unique merging of science and sound, composed by Constantine Koukias for Gabriella Smart (piano).

STUDIO THEATRE

Sun 26 Feb 4pm

⌚ **50 mins** (no interval)

🎫 **Tickets** \$20 – \$30

Archipelago Productions and Ten Days on the Island,
in association with the Theatre Royal, present

Women of Troy

Based on the play by Euripides,
adapted by Tom Wright

In this fierce retelling of *Women of Troy*, acclaimed director Ben Winspear directs a stellar cast including Marta Dusseldorp and Jane Johnson, with a compelling composition by Katie Noonan and libretto by Kurdish-Iranian journalist Behrouz Boochani.

Troy is in ruin. The men have been killed. The women, as prisoners, recoil behind wire, fearing their fate but longing for death.

In a radical twist for Western theatre, Euripides' timeless play is told from the perspective of survivors rather than conquerors. Giving voice to the vanquished was a revolution: seizing centre stage from Gods, heroes and royalty, and claiming it for the displaced.

Pro-women and anti-war, *Women of Troy* is the 2,500-year-old play that we need right now.

Director Ben Winspear

Designer Peta Heffernan

Chorus music Katie Noonan

Chorus text Behrouz Boochani

THEATRE ROYAL

Wed 8 - Fri 10 Mar 7:30pm

Sat 11 - Sun 12 Mar 2pm & 7:30pm

⌚ 90 mins (no interval)

🗣 Patron advice:

Suitable for ages 15 years and over. Extreme language warning, with depictions of violence.

🗣 Auslan/Audio Description: *Please see website for further information about accessible performances.*

🎫 **Tickets** \$25 - \$95

Ten Days on the Island and the Theatre Royal present

Hide the Dog

Co-written by Nathan Maynard
(trawlwoolway pakana) &
Jamie McCaskill (Ngāti Tamaterā, Te
Ati Haunui a Pāpārangi, Ngā Puhi)



Intrepid young explorers will delight in this celebration of adventure, friendship and the power of culture – wherever you find it.

Best friends Niarra and Te Umuroa are playing in the bush and meet a very unexpected new friend – the world’s last Tassie Tiger! But they aren’t the only ones on Tigs’ furry heels. To escape some very determined hunters and preserve Tigs’ future, the three adventurers set sail on a magical journey, having to outwit some Māori gods and palawa spirits along the way.

Co-written by Tasmanian playwright Nathan Maynard (pakana) and Aotearoa writer Jamie McCaskill (Māori), *Hide the Dog* is a truly trans-Tasman creation. This world premiere production is directed by Isaac Drandic (Noongar) on a spectacular set by Māori designer Jane Hakaraia.

Hide the Dog is a
Performing Lines TAS production.

THEATRE ROYAL

Wed 15 Mar 6:30pm

⌚ **60 mins** (no interval)

🗣 Patron advice:

Suitable for ages five years and over.

🗣 Auslan/Audio Description: *Please see website for further information about accessible performances.*

🎫 **Tickets \$25 – \$35**

Ten Days at The Hedberg

Ten Days on the Island is back in Hobart from 8-15 March 2023, and the stunning Theatre Royal and Hedberg is our Festival Hub – a place to meet, connect and feast on extraordinary performances.

Our program at the Theatre Royal and The Hedberg features two unmissable shows: *Women of Troy* and *Hide the Dog*. You can read about them on the previous pages.

In a spirit of Radical Optimism, in 2023 we've invited brilliant creatives from near and far to help us make sense of a world in all kinds of chaos: daring and rebellious performers, creators and musicians. Through them, together we'll explore the big themes - life and death, war and refugees and the power of women's and girls' voices, Gods, heroines and mythical creatures... why not?

We're thrilled to partner with the Theatre Royal on these bold adventures.

Lindy Hume, Artistic Director, Ten Days on the Island

FESTIVAL HUB

Alongside the line-up of amazing productions presented throughout the Theatre Royal and Hedberg, the Festival, TR and University of Tasmania are joining forces to create a Festival Hub – a place to get your creative juices flowing in between all of the programs you will be running to and from across the city.

We will bring our beautiful buildings alive with a program of workshops, talks and entertainment in bars, foyers and unexpected spaces. A full schedule will be released closer to the Festival, so sign up to our newsletter and keep an eye on our website.

Organised Pandemonium

Velvet Rewired

"Flawless and exhilarating,
a sensory overload!"

- *The Guardian UK*



Image by Dan O'Brien

The global smash hit discotheque circus returns to Australian audiences. Join Marcia Hines and a dazzling array of performers for an exhilarating night of glitz, glamour, and jaw-dropping circus skills. This winning mix of disco, dance, and circus offers a night at the theatre for all ages and all tastes.

From death-defying acrobatics and trickery to naughty costumes and laugh-out-loud comedy, the show packs more entertainment into one night than a 12-month Netflix subscription! *Velvet Rewired* is a luscious love letter to disco, and you don't want to miss it!

Director Craig Ilott
With Marcia Hines

THEATRE ROYAL

Wed 22 – Thu 23 Mar 7:30pm
Fri 24 – Sat 25 Mar 6pm & 8:15pm
Sun 26 Mar 5pm
Wed 29 Mar 5pm & 7:30pm
Thu 30 Mar 7:30pm
Fri 31 Mar – Sat 1 Apr 6pm & 8:15pm
Sun 2 Apr 5pm

⌚ 70 mins (no interval)

🎫 Tickets \$25 – \$69

Griffin Theatre Company

Prima Facie

By Suzie Miller



After a sold-out season on London's West End, Griffin Theatre Company's original production of Suzie Miller's award-winning tour de force commences its much-anticipated national tour.

Acclaimed actor Sheridan Harbridge commands the stage as Tessa, a criminal lawyer who knows the law permits no room for emotion. To win, you just need to believe in the rules. And Tessa loves to win, even when defending clients accused of sexual assault. But when she finds herself on the other side of the bar, Tessa is forced into the shadows of doubt she has so ruthlessly cast over others.

Prima Facie is an indictment of the Australian legal system's failure to provide reliable pathways to justice for women. It's a work of fiction, but one that could have been ripped from the headlines of any paper, any day of the week. **A must-see.**

"Sheridan Harbridge is superb as Tessa. Combative, controlled and clear-sighted in the first half, her decimation in the second is all the more gut-wrenching..."

– Sydney Morning Herald

Director Lee Lewis

With Sheridan Harbridge

STUDIO THEATRE

Tue 4 - Thu 6 Apr 7:30pm

★ *Opening night event*

⌚ **100 mins** (no interval)

🗣️ **Patron advice:**

Contains descriptions of sex scenes and sexual assault.

🎫 **Tickets \$25 - \$60**

Griffin Partners



TR Production Partner



2023 Staycation

In 2023, we are cramming creativity into every school holiday, with three Tasmanian companies showcasing fantastic productions for children, young people and families.

In addition to the shows, we will present workshop programs at the Theatre Royal and Moonah Arts Centre, giving everyone a chance to get inspired and creative with local artists.

APR Archipelago Productions

**The Carbon Neutral Adventures
of the Indefatigable Enviroteens**

JUL ROOKE

Interloper

OCT Terrapin Puppet Theatre

The Paper Escaper

TR Staycation Partners



The Carbon Neutral Adventures of the Indefatigable Enviroteens

By First Dog on the Moon



From Australia's enormously popular and only marsupial Walkley award-winning cartoonist comes this hilarious environmentally-friendly adventure.

Our superheroes - three teen marsupials (actually, two and a hybrid monotreme) - unite as the Enviroteens - a planet-defending, earth-loving, ever-determined and entirely loveable pack. These three have a mighty job on their hands as they work to save the world from an army of sinister, conniving, evil and polluting villains. But can they save the whole world?

Packed with humour, science and battle jokes, *Enviroteens* is an uplifting show that will spark timely conversations between kids and adults.

Director Ben Winspear

With Caitlin Berwick

STUDIO THEATRE

Wed 19 Apr 5.30pm

Thu 20 Apr 5.30pm

Fri 21 Apr 2pm & 5.30pm

Sat 22 Apr 2pm & 5.30pm

Fri 28 Apr 5.30pm

Sat 29 Apr 2pm & 5.30pm

⌚ **60 mins** (no interval)

🎫 **Tickets \$25 - \$35**

Archipelago Partners

DETACHED



Image by Hamish McCormick



ROOKE

Interloper

With daring acrobatics, mesmerising hula hooping, much silliness and a little bit of magic, *Interloper* is contemporary circus at its most fun and physical.

When an uninvited stranger arrives, we meet a complex individual who struggles to engage with the people around him. *Interloper* is a quirky and heart-warming exploration of belonging and connection in our strange new world. ROOKE is an exceptional team of Tasmanian artists at the top of their game and this family show is an absolute delight.

With Tony Rooke, Mieke Lizotte, Lewie West, Conor Wild, Freyja Wild

STUDIO THEATRE

Thu 13 Jul 11am & 5:30pm

Fri 14 Jul 11am

🕒 **50 mins** (no interval)

👤 **Patron advice:**
Suitable for all ages

🎫 **Tickets** \$25 – \$35

The Paper Escaper



Image by Darcie Richards

This beautiful and bright puppetry work from Terrapin tells a story of determination, friendship and the power of following your own path.

Benny, the plucky puppet protagonist in *The Paper Escaper*, knows they are destined for greater things than a simple pop-up book. But in a world that's trying to squash Benny between its pages – from wily dancing fire to a disillusioned illustrator – they will need the help of new friends to achieve their dreams.

Writer Gita Bezard

Director Sam Routledge

STUDIO THEATRE

Thu 5 Oct 2pm*

Fri 6 Oct 2pm & 5:30pm

Sat 7 Oct 11am & 2pm & 5:30pm

Sun 8 Oct 11am & 2pm

🕒 **45 mins** (no interval)

A Relaxed Performance:

**Please see our website for further information about relaxed performances.*

🎫 **Tickets \$25 – \$35**

Moggie Riot, in association with the Theatre Royal, presents

Every Brilliant Thing

By Duncan Macmillan with Jonny Donahoe



Faced with her mum's depression a young girl compiles a list of every brilliant thing that makes life worth living.

Twenty years on, what started as a simple act of love to get mum through each day has transformed the way she sees the world. In what promises to be the most intimate theatrical experience of the year, *Every Brilliant Thing* takes us through the shadows of mental illness to find joy in the miracles of life's minutiae.

Director Chrissy Best
With Melissa King

STUDIO THEATRE

Thu 4 - Fri 5 May 7:30pm

Sat 6 May 2pm & 7:30pm

🕒 **70 mins** (no interval)

🎫 **Tickets \$25 - \$60**



Image by Rebecca Thomson

never.the.less productions, in association with the Theatre Royal, presents

The Motherload

The Motherload is an interactive live gameshow where two teams compete for the crown of Ultimate Queen Mumma.

For each performance four guest mum 'contestants' join The Motherload host and Team Captains on stage for a series of bizarre, boisterous and downright hilarious tasks torn from the very real experiences of motherhood. Guaranteed to provide laughter, relatability and catharsis for mothers and non-mothers alike.

Co-creators Julie Waddington, Carrie McLean, Bryony Geeves, Melissa King and Rebecca Thomson

Director Julie Waddington

STUDIO THEATRE

Fri 12 May 11am & 7pm

Sat 13 May 2pm & 7pm

⌚ **60 mins** (no interval)

👶 **Patron advice:** *Babes in arms and toddlers on knees are welcome.*

🎫 **Tickets** \$25 - \$55



Illustration © Julie Vivas

Australian Chamber Orchestra

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge

Based on the book by Mem Fox and Julie Vivas

Adapted for the stage by Sandra Eldridge, with original music by Paul Stanhope

Based on the poignant picture book by Mem Fox and Julie Vivas, this delightful production weaves together captivating storytelling with mesmerising music from the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

When Wilfrid learns his favourite resident of a neighbouring old people's home has lost her memory, he sets out to find out what a memory is. With a stunning score performed by a string quartet from the ACO, *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge* is the perfect introduction to live classical music, guaranteed to enchant audiences across generations.

THEATRE ROYAL

Thu 1 Jun 5:30pm

⌚ 30 mins

(plus post-show interaction)

👤 **Patron advice:**

Suitable for children aged two years and over.

🎫 **Tickets** \$25 – \$35

Monkey Baa Theatre Company

Possum Magic

Based on the book by Mem Fox and Julie Vivas
Adapted by Eva Di Cesare and Sandra Eldridge



Illustration © Julie Vivas

The magical stage adaptation of Mem Fox and Julie Vivas' beloved picture book *Possum Magic* is back to celebrate its 40th birthday and enchant a whole new generation of theatregoers.

Combining live action, magic, puppetry and projected animation, Monkey Baa's award-winning creative team have translated the whimsical world and adventures of magic-making Grandma Poss into a captivating experience for the whole family.

Director Sandra Eldridge

THEATRE ROYAL

Mon 11 - Tue 12 Sep 5:30pm

⌚ **50 mins** (no interval)

👤 **Patron advice:**

Suitable for children aged three years and over.

🎫 **Tickets \$25 - \$35**

Monkey Baa Partners



JAMES N. KIRBY
FOUNDATION



HIT Productions

The Sunshine Club



A ground-breaking First Nations musical and instant classic when it premiered in 1999, *The Sunshine Club* is a gloriously energetic, thought-provoking and entertaining night of theatre.

It's 1946 and the war is finally over. Aboriginal soldier Frank Doyle has spent years fighting shoulder-to-shoulder with troops from all over Australia. War-weary and ready for a happy life of simple pleasures like music, love and dance, Frank sets out to change things for the better by setting up *The Sunshine Club*, a place where everyone can come together, laugh and, most importantly, where he can dance with Rose, the beautiful girl next door.

The Sunshine Club harnesses the innate optimism of musical theatre to create an unmissable love story between two young people, and a love letter to a future nation.

"The Sunshine Club... signals a brilliant new landmark in Australian musicals... an unashamedly feel-good musical."

- *The Australian*

Writer & Director Wesley Enoch

Composer John Rodgers

Musical Director Wayne Freer

THEATRE ROYAL

Fri 23 Jun 8pm

Sat 24 Jun 2pm & 8pm

⌚ **150 mins** (with interval)

🎫 **Tickets \$25 - \$90**

Belvior St Theatre

At What Cost?

By Nathan Maynard



Following its world premiere in Sydney, the provocative hit of Belvoir's 2022 season comes home to lutruwita/Tasmania and it couldn't be more timely.

For years now, Boyd's been walking a tightrope - balancing making a living with his responsibilities to Land and People. But something's happening. Every year, more and more folk are claiming to be palawa - folk no one's heard of until now. Where has this missing mob been all these years? Are they legit? Or are they 'tick-a-box'? Who decides? And how?

If Boyd's going to take everyone forward together, they'll have to go back, old mob and new, into the island's knotty past. And they might not like what they find there.

Celebrated pakana playwright Nathan Maynard's story of Country and competing histories expertly disarms its audience before drawing them into the highly contentious and complex debate around identity. It opens eyes, provokes, and bravely asks us all to think about a very contemporary Australian issue.

"A great political tragedy grows out of comic domestic beginnings in this slow-burning play by Nathan Maynard... Like all great tragedies, it builds towards pity and terror in its ending."

- *The Australian*

Writer & Associate Director

Nathan Maynard

Director Isaac Drandic

With Luke Carroll, Sandy Greenwood, Alex Malone and Ari Maza Long

THEATRE ROYAL

Thu 6 - Fri 7 Jul 7:30pm

Sat 8 Jul 2pm & 7:30pm

★ *Opening night event*

Ⓞ **105 mins** (no interval)

ⓘ Patron advice:

Suitable for ages 15 years and over. At What Cost? discusses strong themes such as genocide and Aboriginal trauma, and mentions the names of Indigenous people who have died.

Ⓞ **Tickets \$25 - \$90**

Belvoir Partner



Sydney Dance Company

Ascent



***Ascent* is an inspired triple bill featuring two world premieres from Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela and renowned international choreographer Marina Mascarell, as well as the return of Antony Hamilton's critically acclaimed *Forever & Ever*.**

Brimming with physicality, these works temper contemporary classical with futuristic experimentation. Full of electric movement and emotional force, *Ascent* is an arresting portrait of contemporary dance and its potential to move, excite and activate audiences.

Complete with inventive installations and magnetic musical scores, this creative union is at once forceful, sumptuous and dizzying.

We're thrilled to welcome Sydney Dance Company back to Tasmania in the first of a series of contemporary dance works in our 2023 Season, celebrating the diversity of work made by local and national artists.

"An inventive and adventurous ride... original and evocative."

- TimeOut on Forever & Ever

THEATRE ROYAL

Thu 27 - Sat 29 Jul 7:30pm

★ *Opening night event*

⌚ **90 mins** (with interval)

🎫 **Tickets \$25 - \$90**

SDC Partners





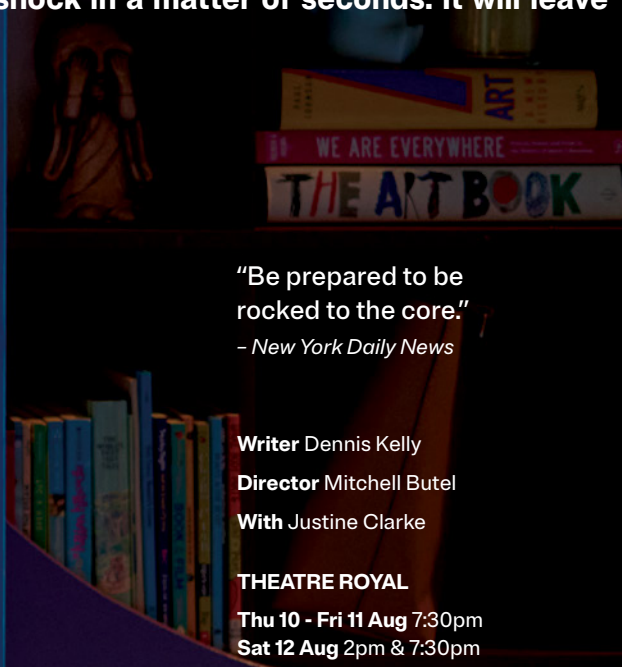
Girls & Boys

By Dennis Kelly

The innocent sounding *Girls & Boys* is a searing one-woman show by celebrated playwright Dennis Kelly. 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.

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 she unexpectedly starts rising above her allotted rung on the British social ladder. The power dynamic between them shifts - the imperceptible cracks become yawning gulfs – but when the house they built begins to fall, nothing prepares her for what happens next.

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



"Be prepared to be
rocked to the core."

– *New York Daily News*

Writer Dennis Kelly

Director Mitchell Butel

With Justine Clarke

THEATRE ROYAL

Thu 10 - Fri 11 Aug 7:30pm

Sat 12 Aug 2pm & 7:30pm

Ⓒ 110 mins (no interval)

🗨 **Patron advice:**

*Family violence themes and
descriptions of graphic violence.*

🎫 **Tickets** \$25 - \$90

Red Line Productions

JUST

(tricking, annoying, stupid, crazy, disgusting, shocking, doomed)

Live on Stage!

Adapted from the JUST book series,
written by Andy Griffiths and illustrated by Terry Denton

Written by Robin Goldsworthy



Image by Robert Catto

Andy Griffiths' universally celebrated book series **JUST** lands on stage in a production that vividly and hilariously brings the stories to life. Every year Andy's school holds a short story competition, but he is always robbed of winning by some dumb story about kittens and sunshine.

This time, Andy sets out to ensure a flawless victory. With everything from invisibility pills and Mudmen, to vomiting dogs and death-defying balloon rides, this won't be for the faint farted. Or the faint-hearted.

THEATRE ROYAL

Wed 16 - Thu 17 Aug 5:30pm

🕒 50 mins (no interval)

🎟 Patron advice:

Suitable for children 8 years and over.

🎫 Tickets \$25 - \$35





Image by Jesse Hunniford

DRILL Performance Company Inc.,
in association with the Theatre Royal, presents

AGE

**What does age mean to young people?
How does it define them? Is it just a number?
AGE is fresh, raw and honest, tackling the
preconceived ideas of what it truly means to
be defined, measured and respected by the
length of time you've spent on this planet.**

This new production assembles junior and senior DRILL company members to create rich stories and observations on contemporary life. This work illuminates what it means to be a young person now.

"The young dancers make subtle shifts between brittleness and supple ease. They are sinuous and sculptural; molten and marble... This is complex, sophisticated, and very attractive work."

- ArtsHub on Leviathan

STUDIO THEATRE

Thu 17 - Fri 18 Aug 7pm

Sat 19 Aug 2pm & 7pm

⌚ **60 mins** (no interval)

🎫 **Tickets \$25 - \$40**



Image by Roy Vandvergt

Restless Dance Theatre

Exposed

Using breath as a metaphor for feeling safe or threatened, agitated or calm, *Exposed* is a thought-provoking marriage of movement, music and our intricate, complex human experience of vulnerability.

Led by Michelle Ryan, Restless is Australia's leading creator of dance theatre by dancers with and without disability. Fresh from appearances at Brisbane and Adelaide festivals, this new work features an evocative score, breath-taking lighting and set design, and a stellar cast of seven diverse dancers.

"Exposed turns intangible emotions and numerous experiences of vulnerability into a cohesive and beautiful dance show."

– Arts Hub

Director Michelle Ryan

Composers Hilary Kleinig
and Emily Tulloch

Lighting & set designer Geoff Cobham

STUDIO THEATRE

Fri 8 Sep 7:30pm

Sat 9 Sep 2pm & 7:30pm

🕒 **50 mins** (no interval)

🗣️ **Patron advice:**

Suitable for children aged two years and over.

🎫 **Tickets** \$25 - \$60

Restless Partners



Australian Government
RISE Fund

Mature Artists Dance Experience, in association with the Theatre Royal, presents

HandMADE & MADE TO LAST



Image by Tony McKendrick

A force to be reckoned with, nipaluna/Hobart's Mature Artists Dance Experience (MADE) bring a double bill encore performance to the Studio Theatre. The two performances, led by Tasmania's Emma Porteus and British contemporary dance legend Liz Aggiss, encapsulate the wildly different sides to ageing.

One is a sometimes soft, sensual collaboration of beings, the other a little loud, defiant and often downright funny. Expect an equally meaningful, relatable and fiery evening of dance by this dynamic and inspiring ensemble.

HandMADE Dance Maker
Emma Porteus

**MADE TO LAST Concept/
Choreography/Script** Liz Aggiss

STUDIO THEATRE

Thu 21 - Fri 22 Sep 7pm

🕒 **70 mins** (no interval)

🎫 **Tickets \$25 - \$50**

Twelfth Night

By William Shakespeare

Australia's beloved Bell Shakespeare returns with *Twelfth Night* and Heather Fairbairn's fresh retelling of Shakespeare's romantic comedy is a dark collision of hidden identities and unrequited love.

Viola is shipwrecked and believes her twin Sebastian lost to the ocean. Washed up in a strange new land, determined to survive, Viola disguises herself as a man named Cesario and finds work with Duke Orsino, only to fall head over heels in love with him. But Orsino is in love with Olivia, who – grieving for her brother – refuses all offers of romance. Until, that is, she meets Cesario for the first time. A whirlwind of passion ensues, leaving no one unaffected, not even Olivia's prudish housekeeper Malvolia, played by Jane Montgomery Griffiths (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*).

Featuring all-new music by Sarah Blasko, *Twelfth Night* ultimately asks us to find light in the darkness.

"Bell Shakespeare has mastered the art of presenting Shakespeare in a manner that is accessible to the modern-day audience, while still endearing those who love the tradition."

- Australian Stage

Bell Shakespeare Partner



TR Production Partner





Director Heather Fairbairn

Composer Sarah Blasko

STUDIO THEATRE

Tue 26 Sep - Fri 29 Sep 7:30pm

Sat 30 Sep 2pm & 7:30pm

★ *Opening night event*

⌚ **150 mins** (with interval)

🎫 **Tickets \$25 - \$85**

Image by Pierre Toussant

Van Diemen's Band

Borderlands



Van Diemen's Band invites you to explore the historic borderlands of Europe. For centuries, generations of composers wrote music as their homelands changed ownership under their feet.

Shifting borders and the meeting of cultures at the edges of the Holy Roman and Ottoman Empires created a fascinating musical backdrop to the tumult of the Thirty Years War. An atmosphere of division, boundaries, climate and common ground – themes that resonate strongly even in our lives today.

Julia Fredersdorff, artistic director/violin, has curated a program that explores the sublime simplicity of music of the early baroque period. Works startling for their originality and spirited evocations of battles and dances, as well as a new commission by Donald Nicolson, written especially for the program — all performed with the raw freshness that audiences have come to know from music on gut strings and instruments of the past. The perfect symbiosis of old and new.

"The gasps from the audience said it all... Proof, should it be needed, that music truly does transcend time and space."

– Limelight

IAN POTTER RECITAL HALL

Sat 28 Oct 3pm & 6pm

Ⓞ **60 mins** (no interval)

Ⓞ **Tickets \$25 – \$50**

Blue Cow Theatre, in association with the Theatre Royal, presents

BINGO! Stay on the Ball Ladies

By Belinda Bradley

A clever consideration of friendship and living and dying on one's own terms, *Bingo!* is a new play peppered with tales of real life and big laughs.

Set in rural Tasmania, *Bingo!* follows the story of six women who played netball together when they were young. In an unfortunate twist of fate, on their way to bingo, they have a car accident and run over Death. And Death is not impressed. What follows is a hilarious and insightful look into friendship, life and keeping your eyes on the ball.

Belinda Bradley's plays are produced widely on Australian stages and radio. Her writing credits for television include the recent ABC TV series *Savage River*. *Bingo!* continues Blue Cow's commitment to bringing new Tasmanian stories to the stage, developed through their Cowshed Program.

STUDIO THEATRE

Thu 2 - Fri 3 Nov 7:30pm

Sat 4 Nov 2pm & 7:30pm

⌚ 90 mins (no interval)

🎫 Tickets \$25 - \$60



The Theatre Royal presents

Robyn Archer: An Australian Songbook



Australian legend, industry pioneer and provocateur, Robyn Archer is well-known to Tasmanian audiences, both as an artist and creator of *Ten Days on the Island*. In this new production Robyn has distilled her wealth of musical knowledge into a fearless, political and personal celebration of Australian song.

A journey through Australian music that spans 150 years, from convict lament to Kate Miller Heidke and First Nations songwriters, Robyn explores the unique sound of our country with a repertoire full of passion, politics, landscape and laughter.

Robyn wowed Hobart audiences in 2021 with *Mother Archer's Cabaret for Dark Times*. For *An Australian Songbook*, a trio of Australia's finest stage musicians join in her first performance on the Theatre Royal stage in over four decades. Don't miss this legend sing Australia as you've never heard it before.

"A wonderful showcase of the grit that makes both cabaret and Australian music great. Funny passionate and often politically charged..."

- The AU Review

THEATRE ROYAL

Fri 3 - Sat 4 Nov 7:30pm

⌚ **140 mins** (with interval)

🎫 **Tickets \$25 - \$90**

Originally commissioned by
Queensland Theatre.

Loyalty is hard-earned and easily lost. We will do our best to keep yours – with a range of packages and plans intended to make it easy to join us as often as you’d like. If you like to plan ahead, our subscription packages feature some well-loved benefits. If you’re a regular visitor who prefers to plan on the run, we’ve come up with a new membership plan so you can have flexibility and still be rewarded for your loyalty.

Subscription & Membership

What is the Subscription Season?

The productions and events in this brochure make up an annual season curated and presented by the Theatre Royal, or co-presented with other companies and festivals. Subscribers and Members enjoy discounts and benefits for purchasing tickets to the TR Season.



Image by Rosie Hastie

Subscription Benefits

❶ SAVE MONEY

Subscribers save between 5% and 10% off tickets and you won't pay a transaction fee on the initial purchase.

❷ JUMP THE QUEUE

You can lock in your tickets and favourite seats to productions early, so you won't miss out in the last-minute rush.

❸ BRING A FRIEND

Each additional ticket purchased also attracts your subscriber discount, so your friends will love you as much as we do.

❹ FLEXIBILITY

Exchange your tickets to a different date or time at no cost.

❺ CHEERS TO YOU

Receive 20% off all food and beverage purchases at our bars throughout the year.

❻ ADDED VALUE

Some producers who hire Theatre Royal venues also extend the same subscriber discounts to their shows.

❼ STUDY HARD. PLAY HARD.

Students can enjoy selected shows at the fixed ticket price of \$25.

❽ PUT US IN YOUR WALLET

Subscribers and Members can choose to receive a physical or digital loyalty card to use when redeeming your discounts at the bar.

❾ PAYMENT PLANS

You can pay for your subscription over several instalments. See more details on our web site for plans available through PayPal and TR.

But wait, there's more...

More shows will become available for Subscriber discounts throughout the year. We will keep you up to date.

Subscription Packages

→ 6 PACK

Buy tickets to a minimum of six shows in one transaction from the 2023 Season to save 10% on all tickets purchased and receive the subscription benefits on page 49.

6-Pack Subscribers also receive the following additional benefits:

- two complimentary drinks on your loyalty card for each subscription package purchased
- Opportunities to purchase tickets to Opening Night Functions and attend other special events.

→ 3 PACK

Buy tickets to three or more shows in one transaction from the 2023 Season to save 5% on all tickets purchased and receive the subscription benefits on page 49.

→ STUDENT SUBSCRIPTION

TR's Student Subscription is available to full-time secondary, pre-tertiary and university students. Students can choose a minimum of three shows from the 2023 Season at the special price of \$25 per show.

For full terms and conditions, see our website.

The Student Subscription program is proudly supported by the Friends of the Theatre Royal.

Membership

TR Membership is designed to suit theatre lovers who will attend several shows throughout the year but aren't ready to plan and purchase in advance. If you already know the shows that you'd like to see, a Subscription package offers the best value and the best seats.

THE DEAL:

Annual Membership fee of \$30

- 10% discount for all TR Season shows
- Discount applies to all tickets in your booking
- All seat categories are available, for all shows
- We will also let you know about other exclusive events and offers throughout the year.

How to Book

① Online

theatreroyal.com.au



② In person

29 Campbell St,
corner of Campbell
& Collins streets,
Hobart, TAS

③ By phone

03 6146 3300

Affordable tickets

→ 30 UNDER 30

For every TR Season show, TR will make a limited number of seats available to patrons under 30 years old for just \$30.

→ CONCESSION TICKETS

Concession prices are available to anyone with a full-time student card, Centrelink Pensioner concession card, Veterans' Affairs cards, a Commonwealth Seniors or Low Income Health Care Card.

→ INDUSTRY CARD

We think it's important that creative professionals get to experience as much art as they can. It's been a rough time for the sector and buying lots of tickets is not the number one priority. We're going to try and make it easier.

By signing up to our Industry Card, hardworking arts workers can access a limited number of seats reserved for every show for \$30.

Visit our website to find out more and complete an application.

Accessibility

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING PEOPLE

Audio loop technology is available for hard of hearing patrons and hearing dogs can be taken into any of our performance spaces.

To find out more and book this service for your visit, please contact our box office.

WHEELCHAIR USERS

There is a lift inside the main entrance to The Hedberg which provides access to all levels of the Theatre Royal and Hedberg buildings.

The Theatre Royal and Studio Theatre have dedicated seating options for patrons in wheelchairs and their guests.

In order to ensure the best possible experience, please contact our box office.

BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PEOPLE

Guide dogs for the visually impaired are welcome in all our venues.

Please contact our box office to discuss appropriate seating and any other assistance you may need.

ACCESSIBLE PARKING

Accessible parking is available on Collins Street directly in front of The Hedberg building for drop-off and pick-up. Please note that these car spaces have drop kerbs and are time limited.

QUIET SPACES

There are several spaces in our venue that allow you to relax in a quiet area.

Complimentary earplugs are available at our box office for guests who may benefit from them.

COMPANION CARD

The Theatre Royal is a signatory to the Companion Card Scheme and a Companion Card booking can be made through our box office.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions about accessibility or need any help to make your visit to the theatre more comfortable, please contact our box office on 03 6146 3300 or by emailing boxoffice@theatreroyal.com.au

How we support artists

The Theatre Royal is committed to increasing the ways we work with Tasmanian artists, ensuring there is a pathway that supports the development of artistic practice and new creative ideas, and then connects those artists and ideas with an audience.

We do this by supporting the creation of new work and partnering with local artists and companies in the presentation of their work. In 2023, half of our Season is made up of Tasmanian productions.

→ RAWSPACE

RAWspace is a residency program that provides Tasmanian artists and companies with funding, a venue, technical support and mentoring to progress new ideas and new work into the next stage of development and presentation.

All performance-based genres for the stage, alternative sites and spaces or digital platforms are supported by the program. It's part of our ambition to open up to new forms of performance and experiences for our audiences.

TR acknowledges the valuable assistance of City of Hobart and Performing Lines TAS for RAWspace 2023.

Details on how to apply for the 2023 RAWspace program are available on our website.





Image by Rosie Hastie

We couldn't do it without you

The Theatre Royal is your theatre. Since 1837 it has played a significant role in the cultural life of Tasmania and, 185 years later, has evolved into a dynamic centre of culture and ideas.

You can play a part in TR's future as we seek to activate our new spaces within The Hedberg and deliver programs and cultural experiences for our community that bring the Theatre Royal and The Hedberg to life.

Help us as we open up to reach new audiences, foster Tasmanian creative talent and present a rich and diverse live performance program, accessible to everyone.

YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES A REAL DIFFERENCE

Your support will help us to expand the range of access programs for children, young people and disadvantaged communities, support Tasmanian artists to develop and present new work, and diversify the range of public programs

we offer. You can donate online or at the Theatre Royal Box Office. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS AND ENTERTAINING PACKAGES

Whether you're seeking premium brand exposure for your organisation, engagement for your clients and staff or to increase your company's community involvement, a corporate partnership with Theatre Royal can be tailored to suit your business need.

Our new spaces within The Hedberg offer a range of unique corporate entertaining, business event or networking options that can be enjoyed in conjunction with amazing performances and innovative new works from some of Australia's leading performing arts companies. If you would like to discuss a corporate partnership or hospitality package, email development@theatreroyal.com.au.

The Friends of the Theatre Royal undertake a range of activities throughout the year, bringing to life the stories and history of our Theatre and those who have made it such a special place. The Friends make a valuable contribution to keeping our history alive, while supporting the next generation of theatre makers and audiences.

Friends of the Theatre Royal

🕒 TOURS

The Friends conduct regular guided tours of the Theatre Royal, providing a unique opportunity to see its amazing spaces, while sharing some fascinating secrets and entertaining stories.

🕒 SUPPORT

The Friends contribute to the Theatre by providing support for the Student Subscription program, assisting young people from a variety of organisations to attend the Theatre, fundraising, providing archival and research support and helping to improve the Theatre's facilities.

🕒 EVENTS

Several times a year, the Friends hold special events such as guest artist talks, screenings and book launches.

🕒 BECOME A FRIEND OF THE THEATRE ROYAL

If you're interested in becoming more involved with the Theatre and attending social and fundraising events, you can become a member of the Friends of the Theatre Royal by contacting the TR Box Office on 6146 3300 or visiting our website.



Visiting us

BARS AND FOYERS

Our bars and foyers are open 90 minutes prior to a performance and offer quiet corners and inviting lounges to meet, relax and have a drink with friends and family before your show.

PRE-ORDER AND SKIP THE QUEUE

Pre-order your interval drink at the bar on your seating level before the show and our bar staff will have your order prepared for you to collect at the beginning of the interval.

CLOAKING SERVICES

Cloaking services are available at the box office on Level 2 and the Studio Bar on Level 4.

ARRIVING AT THE THEATRE

For details and directions to drop-off zones, car parks and nearby restaurants, please visit our website.

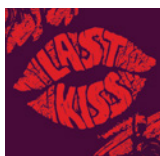
PRE-SHOW DINNER AND DRINKS AT STOCKMANS RESTAURANT

Located on the ground floor of The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel, Stockmans invites you to experience their pre-show package. Relax and enjoy a two-course dinner plus a glass of house wine knowing that you will arrive at the theatre on time. Bookings essential. Please call 03 6235 5355 and let them know the time of your show when booking.

Promoter Shows

Allied to the TR Season, a wide range of producers hire our venues to present their own productions and events. They offer TR Subscribers the opportunity to purchase discounted tickets in addition to their TR Season shows. More will be announced in 2023.

Last Kiss



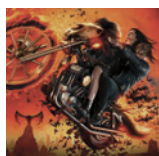
Moonlight Aviators

A brand new all-Tasmanian cabaret from the team that has produced shows for The Spiegeltent and Festival of Voices.

Wed 25 - Sat 28 Jan 8pm

🎟 **Tickets \$60 - \$75**

Bat Out of Hell



Chocolate Starfish

Featuring the full Bat Out of Hell album, with classic songs by Jim Steinman.

Fri 16 Jun 8pm

🎟 **Tickets \$89 - \$99**

David Sedaris



An evening of storytelling, observations and unpublished tales with critically acclaimed author and humourist David Sedaris.

Wed 1 Feb 7:30pm

🎟 **Tickets \$75**

Uni Revue 2023

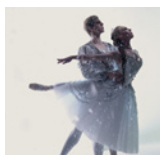


A fun night out that is guaranteed to be topical, spicy, and bright.

Wed 3 - Sat 20 May 7:30pm

🎟 **Tickets \$35 - \$60**

The Snow Queen



Victorian State Ballet

Outstanding skill, artistry & technique will be on show in this visually inspiring and highly entertaining performance.

Sat 17 Jun 7pm

Sun 18 Jun 2:30pm

🎟 **Tickets \$50 - \$95**

The Australian Tenors



Five of the best tenor voices in Australia, The Australian Tenors are bringing a sensational program with romance, excitement, warmth and humour.

Sun 30 Jul 2pm

🎟 **Tickets \$55 - \$95**

Honour the heritage;
hero the future.

FUTURE.

CLASSIC.

The Theatre Royal and award-winning branding agency, For The People, have come together to open up a new performing arts experience for Tasmania. Leading with a dynamic brand strategy and refresh. The new brandmark has been inspired by the inside and out, from the dramatic stage lighting inside, to the glimmering geometric facade of The Hedberg. The brand system creates a strong foundation to build new meaning into the theatre — representing what exists, while allowing room for ambitious expansion.

“From contemporary to classic; First Nations to future generations—our new identity layers forms, moves dynamically, and leads audiences and artists into cultural encounters that bring us closer as a community. A big thank you to Simon and all the team at the Theatre Royal for this opportunity to play a part in shaping the future of Australia’s oldest working theatre.”

– James Cooper, Head of Strategy, For The People

For The People’s work can be found across lutruwita, from craft breweries like Du Cane to iconic identities for West Coast Tasmania and Derwent Valley, both recognised in international design awards.

@forthepeople.agency forthepeople.agency

Partners

The Theatre Royal thanks our partners for their support in 2023.

Government
Partner



Program
Partner



Season
Partner

For The People

Production
Partners



Business
Partners



Media
Partners



Supporters



Season 2023 Funding Support

Supported by



Archipelago Productions: *Women of Troy* and *The Carbon Neutral Adventures of the Indefatigable Enviroteens*

Ten Days on the Island and Performing Lines TAS: *Hide the Dog*

Rooke: *Interloper*

DRILL Performance Company Inc.: *AGE*

Mature Artists Dance Experience: *HandMADE* and *MADE TO LAST*

Terrapin: *The Paper Escaper*

Blue Cow Theatre Inc.: *BINGO! Stay on the ball ladies*

Van Diemen's Band: *Borderlands*

Supported by



Ten Days on the Island and Performing Lines TAS: *Hide the Dog*

Griffin Theatre Company: *Prima Facie*

HIT Productions: *The Sunshine Club*

Sydney Dance Company: *Ascent*

Red Line Productions: *JUST*

Monkey Baa Theatre Company: *Possum Magic*

Mature Artists Dance Experience: *HandMADE* and *MADE TO LAST*

Bell Shakespeare: *Twelfth Night*

Terrapin: *The Paper Escaper*

THEATRE

ROYAL

2023