

**Belvoir presents**

Babyteeth

By **RITA KALNEJAIS**
Director **EAMON FLACK**
Set Designer **ROBERT COUSINS**
Costume Designer **ALICE BABIDGE**
Lighting Designer **NIKLAS PAJANTI**
Composer **ALAN JOHN**
Sound Designer **STEVE FRANCIS**
Assistant Director **KIT BROOKMAN**

With
KATHRYN BECK
HELEN BUDAY
RUSSELL DYKSTRA
EAMON FARREN
GREG STONE
SARA WEST

BELVOIR ST THEATRE | UPSTAIRS**11 FEBRUARY – 18 MARCH**

Babyteeth is a darkly whimsical comedy about a teenager dying of cancer. But this isn't a play about cancer any more than it's a play about the violin, or being unable to get the clasp of your bra undone when you want to have illicit sex with your husband on his desk. These are the conditions, but ultimately it's about intimacy and how people love. And how kind the world is.

From the vivid imagination of playwright **Rita Kalnejais** (*B.C.*, *The Hayloft Project*) emerges a bittersweet story

of a family rearranging itself to deal with impending death of fourteen year-old Milla (**Sara West**). How do they continue to manage the mundanities of living - getting to work on time, helping the neighbour change a light bulb, returning a violin bow - when their world is crumbling spectacularly?

"*Babyteeth* is a love story," explains Kalnejais. "I wanted to write about how love undoes you and makes you honest. Everyone falls in love in this play. It's a very dark comedy but I just wanted to learn about love in the face of loss and the intensity and wonder of that."

Kalnejais has crafted a world of extraordinary and heartbreaking characters. Each one of them so unique and unusual, yet convincingly authentic while being such strange people in unfamiliar circumstances. Milla's mother Anna (**Helen Buday**) is popping pills like candy and her father Henry (**Greg Stone**) is compulsively writing to-do lists, meanwhile Milla is falling in love with Moses (**Eamon Farren**) a drug addicted dog groomer, and skipping classes with her wildly eccentric Latvian violin teacher Gidon (**Russell Dykstra**).

Kalnejais is one of a new generation of playwrights who work seemingly effortlessly across theatrical disciplines and they are creating fresh and extraordinary theatre. *Babyteeth* is one of 10 new Australian works in **Belvoir's** 2012 Season, a testament to the strength of playwriting in Australia at the moment and the creative development work that has been happening at Belvoir over the past five years.

Eamon Flack, Associate Director – New Projects, has been key to this creative development at Belvoir. Following his very popular production of *As You Like It* in December, Flack will direct *Babyteeth* with characteristic playfulness tempered with solemnity.



Media Release January 2012

NOTES FOR EDITORS

SEASON INFORMATION

Dates 11 February to 18 March 2012

Previews Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 February 2012

Opening night Wednesday 15 February 2012

Times Tuesday 6.30pm | Wednesday to Friday 8pm | Saturday 2pm & 8pm | Sunday 5pm

Tickets Full \$62 | Seniors (excluding Fri/Sat evenings) \$52 | Concession \$42

Venue Belvoir St Theatre | 25 Belvoir St, Surry Hills

Bookings 02 9699 3444 or www.belvoir.com.au

BELVOIR INFORMATION

The name of our company is **Belvoir**, not the Belvoir, Belvoir Theatre or Belvoir Theatre Company. Belvoir St Theatre is our venue.

For more information contact publicist Elly Michelle Clough
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