

# BELVOIR

**MEDIA RELEASE  
AUGUST 2016**

# THE DROVER'S WIFE

By **Leah Purcell**  
Director **Leticia Cáceres**  
Set Designer **Stephen Curtis**  
Costume Designer **Tess Schofield**  
Lighting Designer **Verity Hampson**  
Composer/Sound Designer  
**THE SWEATS**

With  
**Tony Cogan**  
**Mark Coles Smith**  
**Benedict Hardie**  
**Will McDonald**  
**Leah Purcell**

Produced in  
association  
with Oombarra  
Productions



## Dates

17 September – 16 October 2016

## Previews

8pm Saturday 17 September

6.30pm Sunday 18 September

8pm Tuesday 20 September

## Opening Night

8pm Wednesday 21 September

## Unwaged Performance

2pm Thursday 6 October

## Captioned Performance

2pm Saturday 8 October

## Audio Described Performance

2pm Saturday 15 October

## Sunday Forum

3pm 16 October

## Times

Tuesday 6.30pm, Wednesday to Friday 8pm

Saturday 2pm & 8pm, Sunday 5pm

## Tickets\*

Full from \$72, Seniors/Industry/Group \$62,  
Concession \$49, Previews \$40,  
30 Down \$47, Student Saver \$37

*\*Belvoir's ticket prices can be dynamically  
adjusted either up or down without notice.  
This can apply to a small number of tickets  
in response to demand for a specific  
performance date or time.*

## Venue

Upstairs Theatre  
Belvoir St Theatre  
25 Belvoir St, Surry Hills

## Box Office

02 9699 3444

[belvoir.com.au](http://belvoir.com.au)

If anyone can write a full-throttle drama of our colonial past, it's the indomitable **Leah Purcell**.

**Henry Lawson's** story of the Drover's Wife paints her stoic silhouette against an unforgiving landscape. Alone with her children and her dog she stares down the serpent; it's the frontier myth captured in just a few pages that vividly illustrates the hand-to-mouth existence of a drover's family.

In Purcell's new play the old story gets a very fresh rewrite. Once again the Drover's Wife is confronted by a threat in her yard, but now it's a man. He's bleeding, he's got secrets, and he's black. She knows there's a fugitive wanted for killing whites, and the district is thick with troopers, but something's holding the Drover's Wife back from turning this fella in...

Director **Leticia Cáceres** shapes plays around indomitable women like no one else. Here she reunites with Purcell after Belvoir's 2011 sleeper hit *The Dark Room*.

In 2014 Purcell won The Balnaves Foundation Indigenous Playwright's Award. Her prize was a commission to write this play. Belvoir and The Balnaves Foundation are proud to present the first production of a Balnaves Award-winning commission. The Balnaves Award has grown to become one of the most prestigious Indigenous writing awards in the country. This production marks a new chapter for the Award with commissioned plays making their way to the mainstage.

A taut thriller of our pioneering past, with a black sting to the tail, *The Drover's Wife* reaches from our nation's infancy into our complicated present. And best of all, Purcell's playing the Wife herself.

*Leah Purcell first showed what an amazing storyteller she is 14 years ago in Box the Pony, in which she told her own story... Since then she has become one of our finest actors...  
The Australian*



Indigenous theatre at Belvoir supported by  
**The Balnaves Foundation**

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Image: Leah Purcell.  
Photo by Brett Boardman.