

# The Weekend

5 Aug - 10 Sep



Based on the novel by  
**Charlotte Wood**

Adapted by  
**Sue Smith**

Directed by  
**Sarah Goodes**



**BELVOIR ST  
THEATRE**

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# The Weekend

5 August – 10 September

## RUN TIME

1 hour and 40 minutes (no interval)

## WARNINGS

*The Weekend* uses strobe lighting and herbal cigarettes.

## CAST

**Roman Delo** Joe Gillespie & Others

**Belinda Giblin** Adele

**Melita Jurisic** Wendy

**Toni Scanlan** Jude

**Keila Terencio** Puppeteer

## CREATIVES

Original Author **Charlotte Wood**

Adapter **Sue Smith**

Director **Sarah Goodes**

Design **Stephen Curtis**

Costume Designer **Ella Butler**

Lighting Designer **Damien Cooper** Composer

**Steve Francis**

Sound Designer **Madeleine Picard**

Puppetry & Movement Director **Alice Osborne**

Choreographer **Charmene Yap**

AV Design **Susie Henderson**

Dramaturg **Ruth Little**

Assistant Director **Abbie-Lee Lewis**

Stage Manager **Luke McGettigan**

Assistant Stage Manager **Mia Kanzaki**

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*The Weekend* is the proud recipient of a **Blake Beckett Trust Award**.

We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora nation who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we share our stories. We also pay our respect to the Elders past and present, and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Front cover image and Rehearsal  
photography by Brett Boardman





# ADAPTER'S NOTE

SUE SMITH

I have been a big admirer of Charlotte Wood's work for many years. So when she published *The Weekend*, I devoured it instantly. And said to anyone who would listen, but most particularly Charlotte herself: THIS IS THE ONE. This will fit the stage like the proverbial glove. PLEASE please please let me adapt it for the theatre. Like me, readers all around the country responded to the novel. And just like those readers, Eamon and Louise Gough, then Belvoir's dramaturg, instantly saw the potential.

I love this story because it is me. It is my friends and my friends' friends. It is our mothers and our daughters, our aunts and our nieces. Women now in what the character Wendy unflatteringly calls their "crone years", living with the consequences of their choices, and fighting to make new choices in a society that increasingly regards them as invisible. These are smart women, funny and political women, women who have carved out careers and relationships and faced pain and grief and failure. For whom the understanding is dawning that the toughest stretch of life's journey lies ahead of them .... But Jude, Wendy and Adele still have ambition, and talent, and never-say-die determination on their long, obstacle filled search for wisdom and grace. The play is an unsentimental study of lasting hard-fought-for friendships – the people we love, but who also

drive us crazy, and from whom, even after forty years, we can still keep secrets. And yet, when the going gets tough, who do we turn to? This is a celebration of the long richly textured love story of friendship.

There is another dimension to the work, as well, strongly embedded in the novel and which we have attempted to serve, and to highlight, in the production. It is the dimension revealed by the ageing, demented dog, Finn: the instinctive, the ineffable, the unknowable, the mysterious. The stuff whose quietly insistent voice whispers ever more loudly in our ears as we grow older: Why do we live? Why do we die? What is the meaning? Where do we find hope? And courage? And endurance? And joy? How can we ever know one another? Or ourselves? Or the purpose of our existence in this vast universe?

I'd like to thank everyone at Belvoir for their faith in this story; Sarah for her shimmering direction; the sensational cast, including our wonderful puppeteer, Keila; the talented and committed production team; Charlotte herself, a million times, because without her this would not have been possible. And I would like to thank my friends who are always ALWAYS there through the good times ... and, most importantly, the bad.





Melita Jurisic, Belinda Giblin, Toni Scanlan & Keila Terencio





Keila Terencio



Keila Terencio, Melita Jurisic, Roman Delo, Toni Scanlan, Sarah Goodes & Belinda Giblin









Abbie-lee Lewis



Roman Delo



Toni Scanlan & Keila Terencio





Belinda Giblin





Ella Butler



Madeleine Picard



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