

Robyn Archer: An Australian Songbook

18 – 29 Oct



**BELVOIR ST
THEATRE**

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Robyn Archer : An Australian Songbook

18 – 29 Oct

RUN TIME:

2 hours 20 minutes
(incl. 20-minute interval)

CREATIVES

Deviser & Performer **Robyn Archer**
Accordion/Vocals **George Butrumlis**
Guitar/Vocals **Cameron Goodall**
Keyboard/Vocals **Enio Pozzebon**
Lighting Designer **Jasmine Rizk**

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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.



Cover image by **Claudio Raschella**
Production photography by **Brett Boardman**



ROBYN ARCHER – PERFORMER/DEVISOR

The idea for *An Australian Songbook* arose when George Butrumlis, Michael Morley and I performed our three different cabaret programs at Griffin Theatre when Lee Lewis was its artistic director.

We had a French program (1880s-1960s), a German program (1919- 1933), and concluded with *The Other Great American Songbook* (songs from the Civil War to Pink). Lee asked whether I'd ever consider doing something similar with Australian songs.

Getting my head round the idea of an all-Australian program was the greatest challenge. In my mind it was never going to be a predictable list of greatest hits, but rather an alternative list, mainly of songs that audiences might never have been aware of, or had forgotten. It would not be swamped with love songs or jingoistic anthems and clichés, but hopefully would trace in song the kind

of history that doesn't get so much airplay. I started researching, looking again at some of my own songs, seeking permissions from living composers, and then going through the lengthy instinctive process of giving the concert some shape and sense of a journey.

Naturally, every song had to be one that I would enjoy singing, and the next step was to think about which musicians would come on the journey with me. George, Cameron, Enio and I had all worked together on the show I devised and directed *The Sound of Falling Stars* and, keen to work together again, I decided that this might make the perfect quartet for *An Australian Songbook*. Given my intention was, in sync with my own wide-ranging and often eclectic tastes, to cover many musical genres – folk, art song, musical theatre, singer-songwriter, country and (almost) rock – I knew these three remarkable musicians would find creative ways to cover the lot.

During 2021's Melbourne lockdowns and then postponement, George and I worked remotely and squeezed in a couple of face-to-face rehearsals when the rules allowed more than 25KM travel and permitted a home-studio visit. George started to do basic charts and we discussed possible arrangements. Given that none of our performances are cover versions, never attempting slavishly to copy the original, we so enjoyed coming up with other ways to create the necessary musical highs and lows. This became even more enjoyable when Enio and Cameron joined us for the last four

weeks of rehearsal. With an additional two highly versatile musicians, the fun really began, and only then did the program start to take its current shape.

I hope you enjoy the program as much as we have enjoyed putting it together; that in amongst the odd song you do know, you will encounter things you've not heard before, and come away with a renewed admiration for the way in which Australian songwriters have preserved so much of our past. May they continue to do so!



George Butrumlis



Cameron Goodall



Enio Pozzebon and
Robyn Archer



**BELVOIR ST
THEATRE**

2024 SEASON

TIDDAS

12 – 28 Jan

The comedy smash of the Brisbane Festival, for a three-week Sydney season.

TINY BEAUTIFUL THINGS

1 Feb – 3 Mar

A tiny, beautiful, and life-affirming play based on the book by Cheryl Strayed.

HOLDING THE MAN

9 Mar – 14 Apr

The love story which defined a generation, and a classic of the Australian stage, in a brand new production.

LOSE TO WIN

25 Apr – 19 May

An extraordinary journey from South Sudan to the Belvoir stage.

NAYIKA A DANCING GIRL

30 Apr – 19 May

A virtuosic solo performance mixing storytelling, live music, and Bharatanatyam dance.

NEVER CLOSER

25 May – 16 Jun

An astonishing debut play in a production direct from our Downstairs Theatre.

COUNTING AND CRACKING

28 Jun – 21 Jul

The internationally-acclaimed epic returns to Sydney, this time at Carriageworks.

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

17 Aug – 22 Sep

The hit adaptation of the hit book in a brand new, very Belvoir production.

WELL-BEHAVED WOMEN

28 Sep – 3 Nov

A musical feast celebrating the women who refused to behave.

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

9 Nov – 15 Dec

One of the monumental plays of the 21st century, up close and personal.



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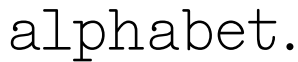
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