



BELVOIR ST  
THEATRE

# WELL-BEHAVED WOMEN

Co-Produced with

MICHELLE  
GUTHRIE  
PRESENTS

28 Sep - 3 Nov

Presented by  
arrangement with  
**Concord Theatricals**

Instruments generously  
supplied by **Kawai**





# WELL-BEHAVED WOMEN

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 respects to the Elders past and present, and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

## RUN TIME:

1 hour 10 minutes  
(no interval)

## CAST

**Stefanie Caccamo**

**Zahra Newman**

**Elenoa Rokobaro**

**Ursula Yovich**

**Sarah Murr**

Standby

## WARNING

*Well-Behaved Women* includes references to sexual assault and suicide, and the use of some strong language.

## CREATIVES

Music and Lyrics by

**Carmel Dean**

Additional Lyrics

(Stay and Flight) by

**Miriam Laube**

Orchestrations by

**Lynne Shankel**

Directed by

**Blazey Best**

Producer

**Michelle Guthrie**

Musical Director

**David Gardos**

Set and Costume Designer

**Grace Deacon**

Lighting Designer

**Kelsey Lee**

Sound Designer

**Tom Brickhill**

Video Designer

**Susie Henderson**

Choreographer

**Lisa Callingham**

Assistant Director

**Margaret Thanos**

Stage Manager

**Isabella Kerdijk**

Assistant Stage Manager

**Krystelle Quartermain**

Cover photography

by **Daniel Boud**

Rehearsal photography

by **Brett Boardman**

Zahra Newman







Elenoa Rokobaro, Zahra Newman, Sarah Murr & Stefanie Caccamo

# MUSIC AND LYRICS

CARMEL DEAN

I've never thought of myself as a political person, or at least someone who is outspoken in her political views. However, as I've gotten older, I have both seen and experienced the same blatant gender inequality that has persisted throughout time - especially living in the US during Trump's presidency - and so I couldn't help but feel the need to use my voice and to "get political". I decided to tell the stories, through song, of the countless women who've come before us who have been shamed, silenced and ignored. Women who've had to fight with everything they've had just to make a tiny change which, in many cases, decades or centuries later rippled into a seismic

shift. I wanted to not only keep these women and their stories alive, but to remind this generation and the generations to come of the battles and sacrifices of the women who paved the way for us to be where we are today. And to remember that these women, no matter where or when they lived, their backgrounds, their ethnicities or religions, are all connected - not only to each other, but to US, watching their stories here, in Sydney in 2024.

I am honoured and grateful to be included in the current Belvoir Theatre season and thank you all for supporting new work by Australian writers!





Elenoa Rokobaro, Blazey Best & Sarah Murr

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

### BLAZEY BEST

There is a raw emotional urgency to these songs of Carmel's. While featuring women who are justifiably celebrated for their achievements, each song deals with feelings and emotions common to all women. Whatever your journey to or through womanhood, *Well-Behaved Women* speaks to a universality that binds us together.

When Michelle Guthrie first brought *Well-Behaved Women* to my attention in 2021, I was immediately excited by the prospect of working with Carmel Dean. I'd heard of this bright, astonishing Australian talent and her successful showing at Joe's Pub in New York. I clicked on the YouTube link and saw the clips from the show and every song felt like the runaway hit tune from the yet-to-be-written musical of each woman's life. I knew I had to be part of it.

We had the opportunity to assemble a cast of four women who would bring these songs to life for five nights at Hayes Theatre in Potts

Point. I approached my "in my wildest dreams" performers and, to my delight, they all wanted to do it. And so, for five exhilarating nights between Covid lockdowns, in that packed, tiny space, Stefanie, Zahra, Elenoa, and Ursula brought a rare kind of magic to the room.

I'm unbelievably grateful that Belvoir has given us the chance to bring this special piece to my favourite Sydney stage. I have been blessed to collaborate with three of the finest artists in the business for my creative team: Grace Deacon, Susie Henderson and Kelsey Lee who have taken my original idea and amplified it to fill this famous corner space. With their design, this incredible cast, Dave Gardos' fierce band, and Carmel's banging songs, I am thrilled to bring *Well Behaved Women* to Sydney's mainstage.

I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

# SONG LIST

In The Beginning - **Eve**  
Warrior Queen - **Boudicca**  
If Shakespeare Had a Sister - **Virginia Woolf**  
Stay and Fight - **Cleopatra**  
Mother's Love - **Hua-Li**  
Papa, Are You There - **Malala Yousafzai**  
On the Railroad - **Harriet Tubman**  
Only Girl at the Table - **Mary Magdalene**  
The Water is Where - **Fanny Durack & Mina Wylie**  
Hey, Bobby Riggs - **Billie Jean King**  
Fruit Bowl - **Julia Gillard**  
Smile - **Grace Tame**  
Yo Simplemente Soy - **Frida Kahlo**  
One Step Closer - **Janet Armstrong**  
You Were There - **Cathy Freeman**  
We Rise - **Ensemble**

## Video footage credits

*Cathy Freeman footage - Peter Devine*  
*Bobby Riggs footage - IrelandCaptured*

*Read more on each of the women featured [here](#).*



Elenoa Rokobaro, Stefanie Caccamo,  
Ursula Yovich & Zahra Newman





Stefanie Caccamo



Elenoa Rokobaro





Ursula Yovich



Zahra Newman





Sarah Murr



Lisa Callingham





Matthew James



David Gardos





Krystelle Quartermain



Grace Deacon





Zahra Newman, Stefanie Caccamo, David Gardos,  
Elenoa Rokobaro, Lisa Callingham & Ursula Yovich

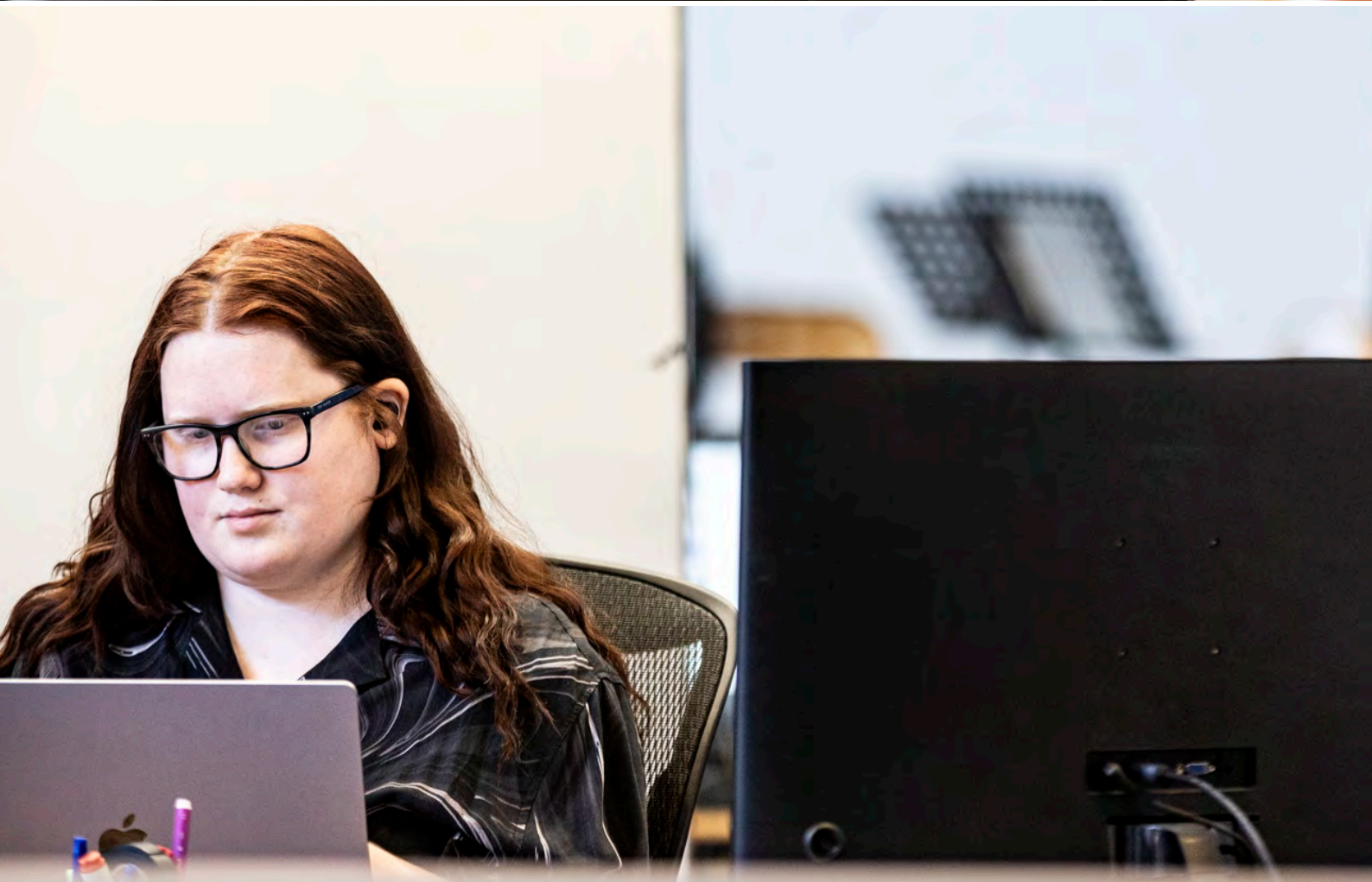


Elenoa Rokobaro & Sarah Murr





Blazey Best



Susie Henderson





Blazey Best & Elenoa Rokobaro



Elenoa Rokobaro, Stefanie Caccamo,  
Ursula Yovich & Zahra Newman





**BELVOIR ST  
THEATRE**

## 2025 SEASON

### **JACKY**

Award-winning Australian drama of sex, secrets and a city of lies.

16 Jan – 02 Feb

### **SONG OF FIRST DESIRE**

History, politics, Spain – a new play from the great Andrew Bovell.

13 Feb – 23 Mar

### **BIG GIRLS DON'T CRY**

Love and revolution in the streets of Redfern.

05 – 27 Apr

### **THE WRONG GODS**

Local justice, global power – from the prize-winning writer of Counting & Cracking.

03 May – 01 Jun

### **THE SPARE ROOM**

Helen Garner. Judy Davis. Elizabeth Alexander.

07 Jun – 13 Jul

### **GRIEF IS THE THING WITH FEATHERS**

The literary sensation – now a profound new play.

26 Jul – 24 Aug

### **ORLANDO**

Virginia Woolf's classic through a fresh, bold, theatrical lens.

30 Aug – 21 Sep

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Hilarious fractured fairytale by the peerless cabaret legend.

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Patty Akopiantz  
Sophie Allen  
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Margaret Butler  
Sally Cousens

Johanna Featherstone  
Jennie Gao  
Kirsty Kovacs  
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