



**BELVOIR ST
THEATRE**

THE BIRDS

16 MAY - 14 JUN



By **Daphne du Maurier**
Adapted by **Louise Fox**
Directed by **Matthew Lutton**
Featuring **Paula Arundell**

THE BIRDS

RUN TIME: Approx 80minutes (no interval)

WARNING

This production contains coarse language, graphic descriptions of violence, harm and death. Loud and sudden noises, flashing lights and smoke effects are also present.

Belvoir presents a **Malthouse Theatre** production
Supported by **The Creative Development Fund**

THE BIRDS

CAST

Paula Arundell

CREATIVES

By **Daphne du Maurier**

Adapted by

Louise Fox

Directed by

Matthew Lutton

Set & Costume Designer

Kat Chan

Lighting Designer

Niklas Pajanti

Composer &

Sound Designer

J. David Franzke

Sound Associate

Gideon Cozens

Stage Manager

Rosemary Osmond

Additional Voiceover

& Translations

Rebecca Vincent

Movement Consultants

Lyndall Grant

Tim Dashwood

Scenic Art

Patrick Jones

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.



Cover photography by
Daniel Boud
Rehearsal photography by
Lauren Gallina



Matthew Lutton

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

MATTHEW LUTTON

Daphne Du Maurier's short story has a simple and compelling premise: on this day, birds of all species uniformly begin an assault on humankind. The driving question of the tale is why: *why are the birds amassing, collectively co-ordinating, and attacking? Why are they undertaking this action against humankind and no one else (all other animals are spared)?* The answer may lie beyond

our human understanding, or it may reside in the realm of uncomfortable questions we don't wish to confront.

It is a work of terror, designed to thrill the audience through the adrenaline of how you try to survive in catastrophe. While the events are unnerving, Tessa's story is one of a survivor. She is a mother who confronts this crisis. She refuses to deny the reality of the situation. She listens to her instinct when others laugh, she faces the truth head-on, and is terrified, vulnerable, and heroic all in a day. She begins as an every-woman and ends as a warrior.

Another major character in this story are the birds themselves. From onset of this production, we decided the birds would not be depicted literally; a visual representation would be a disappointment for all. We know an audience can conjure something far more terrifying in their mind's eye than a literal representation. Therefore, we use language and sound as our primary means to prompt the audience's imagination and evoke the fury of the birds. We also embrace that this production is an act of storytelling occurring in a theatre; the sound of the birds attacking Tessa's house is also the sound of the birds attacking Belvoir St Theatre, threatening to bring the roof down on us all.

It is a joy to watch Paula Arundel give a performance that offers the full spectrum of what an actor can conjure, and Louise Fox's adaptation gets our hearts racing whilst prompting the big questions about what our relationship truly is with nature.

Matthew Lutton





Matthew Lutton



Kat Chan



Paula Arundell



Paula Arundell



**BELVOIR ST
THEATRE**

2026 SEASON



DEAR SON

Letters of love by First Nations fathers and sons
8 - 25 Jan

AMPLIFIED

Sheridan Harbridge as Chrissy Amphlett
29 Jan - 8 Feb

A MIRROR

A smart new play from London about art and power
21 Feb - 22 Mar

THE JUNGLE AND THE SEA

S. Shakthidharan and Eamon Flack's acclaimed play returns
11 Jul - 2 Aug

THE BOOK OF EVERYTHING

One of the all-time most-loved Belvoir shows is back!
22 Aug - 20 Sep

DRIVE YOUR PLOW OVER THE BONES OF THE DEAD

Pamela Rabe and Eamon Flack take on the
Nobel Prize-winner's whodunnit
28 Mar - 10 May

A ROOM WITH A VIEW

E. M. Forster's classic tale of living boldly, together
3 Oct - 1 Nov

THE BIRDS

Paula Arundell goes wild in a new take on Daphne du Maurier's classic
16 May - 14 Jun

THE COCONUT CHILDREN

Vivian Pham's breakout novel comes to the stage
21 Nov - 20 Dec

JOIN US | BELVOIR.COM.AU

BELVOIR PARTNERS

PATRON

The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC,
Governor of New South Wales

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



MAJOR PARTNERS



ASSOCIATE PARTNERS



KAWAI | Kay+Lynch

SUPPORTING PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS



If your business would like to partner with Belvoir, please email us at development@belvoir.com.au or call (02) 8396 6219

BELVOIR SUPPORTERS

We are deeply grateful to our community of supporters for their steadfast commitment to Belvoir.

From game-changing gifts to topping up your ticket purchase price, your support sustains and inspires us, and vitally, ensures Belvoir remains inclusive and at the forefront of Australian theatre.

Learn more about supporting Belvoir at belvoir.com.au/support

MAJOR TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS



John & Libby Fairfax



HANSEN LITTLE
FOUNDATION



the KEIR
FOUNDATION

The Kerridge
Foundation



MAJOR DONORS

Stephen & Sophie Allen
Marion Heathcote &
Brian Burfitt
Andrew Cameron AM &
Cathy Cameron
Edward & Diane Federman
Highgate Foundation

Victoria Holthouse
Anita Jacoby AM
Ingrid Kaiser
Joel Lohrey & Marc Lane
Anne & Mark Lazberger
Ian Learmonth &
Julia Pincus

Ross Littlewood &
Alexandra Curtin
Karen Moses OAM
Angela Whitbread &
Tim Rossi

THE CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT FUND

Lead supporter

ORANGES



SARDINES

Darin Cooper
Foundation

John &
Libby Fairfax

Belinda
Gibson

Anita
Jacoby AM



Simon Lee
Foundation

Rebel
Penfold-Russell

UNLOCK YOUR LOVE FOR BELVOIR, PLEASE DONATE BY JUNE 30

When you donate to Belvoir, you unlock much more than what happens on stage. You unlock whole worlds and never-ending possibilities, from supporting the 170+ artists we collaborate with annually to providing creative pathways for 8,000 students across NSW.

To speak with us about supporting Belvoir, please email development@belvoir.com.au or call **(02) 8396 6219**.

You are the key.



[BELVOIR.COM.AU](https://belvoir.com.au)

[f /belvoirst](https://www.facebook.com/belvoirst)

[X @belvoirst](https://www.x.com/belvoirst)

STAFF LIST

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karen Moses OAM Chair
Stephen Allen
Hamish Balnaves
Jennifer Byrne
Tan Kueh
Virginia Lovett
Tommy Murphy
Jacob Nash
Paul Oppenheim
Arjunan Puveendran
Louise Thurgood-Phillips
Christine Yates
Sarah Nguyen Board Observer

COMPANY A

Amitav Goswanmi
Ian Learmonth
Sue Rosen
Nick Schlieper
Mark Seymour Chair
Susan Teasey

EXECUTIVE

Artistic Director
Eamon Flack
Executive Director
Aaron Beach
Executive Assistant
Selena McGuinness

AUDIENCE

Deputy Executive Director,
Marketing, Community & People
Fiona Hulton
Executive Assistant
Naomi Hamer
Selena McGuinness
CRM and Insights Manager
Jason Lee
Front of House Manager
Alison Benstead
Marketing Manager
Laura Wallace
Ticketing Systems Specialist &
CRM Administrator
Tanya Ginori-Cairns
Box Office Manager
Natalie Elliott
Digital Marketing Coordinator
Breanna Macey
Communications Administrator
Jessica Shoppee
Box Office Coordinator
Lily Emerson

PUBLICITY

Kabuku PR

DEVELOPMENT

Head of Development
Bernie Witham
Grants and Partnerships
Manager
Lily O'Harte
Philanthropy Manager
Matt Sykes
Development & Events Coordinator
Ellen Harvey

EDUCATION

Head of Education
Jane May
Education Coordinator
Nicola Denton

PRODUCTION

Head of Production
Tristan Ellis-Windsor
Production Manager
Ren Kenward
Deputy Production Manager
Dana Spence
Resident Stage Manager
Luke McGettigan
Costume Supervisor
Belinda Crawford
Construction Manager
Darran Whatley
Technical Coordinator
Cameron Russell
Leading Hand
Jonas Trovato

FINANCE & OPERATIONS

Chief Financial Officer
Ash Rathod
Management Accountant
Jay Purohit
Financial Accountant
Dev Solanki
Finance Administrator
Shyleja Paul

ARTISTIC & PROGRAMMING

Resident Director
Hannah Goodwin
Artistic Associate
Tom Wright
Literary Associate
Ayah Tayeh
Resident Artist
Matilda Brown
Margaret Thanos
Andrew Cameron Fellow
Mehhma Malhi
Balnaves Foundation Fellow
Hannah Belanszky
Bianca Hunt

PRODUCING

Head of Producing
Simone Parrott
Producer
Brittany Santariga
Artistic Administrator &
Company Manager
Jess Zlotnick

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE & VENUE

Box Office Assistants
**Gemma Burwell, Angus Crampton,
Lucy Gleeson, Natesha Ham,
Meg Hyeronimus, Franca Lafosse,
Allan Lyra Chang, Rhianna Mccourt,
Dominique Purdue, Ariadne Sgouros,
Shannon Thomas & Kevin Tran**
Front of House Supervisors
**Megan Bennetts, Frances Colin,
Aisling Delahunt, Chris Edwards &
Edward O'Leary**
Front of House Assistants
**Otis Arundell-Kelly, Axel Berecry,
David Blue, Megan Heferen,
Stevie Hefferan, Ruby Henaway,
Lisa Kelly, Anna McMahan,
Violet Minchin, Lorcan Power,
Bella Ridgway, Gavin Roach,
Harrison Walker, Emily Whiting &
Lucy Yabsley**

MALTHOUSE THEATRE PRODUCTION THANKS

Executive Producer

Vivia Hickman

Senior Producer

Annie Bourke

Producer

Erica Browne

Casting Director

Rhys Velasquez

Production Manager

Blair Hart

Technical Manager

Baird McKenna

Technicians

Rob Ballingall

Edwin Cheah

Head of Wardrobe

Delia Spicer

Workshop Manager

Goffredo Mameli

Set Builders

Elizabeth Whitton

Lennon Fowler

Mechanist

Michael Carr