



**BELVOIR ST
THEATRE**



THE BOOK OF EVERYTHING

22 AUG – 20 SEP

From the novel by **Guus Kuijer**

Adapted by **Richard Tulloch**

Directed by **Neil Armfield**

Set & Costume by **Kim Carpenter**

THE BOOK OF EVERYTHING

RUN TIME: 2 hours and 20 minutes with an interval

WARNING

This production contains depictions of domestic violence (including against a child), emotional abuse, coercive control, strobe lighting and loud noises.



A Co-Production with
Kim Carpenter's Theatre of Image

Supported by **The Creative Development Fund** and
Seaborn, Broughton & Walford Foundation

THE BOOK OF EVERYTHING

CAST

Julie Forsyth
John Gaden
Claire Jones
John Leary
Rebecca Massey
Bridie McKim
Pamela Rabe
Jack Ward
Matthew Whittet

CREATIVES

From the novel by
Guus Kuijer
Adapator
Richard Tulloch
Director
Neil Armfield
Set & Costume
Kim Carpenter
Composer
Iain Grandage
Lighting Designer
Nigel Levings
Sound Designer
Steve Francis
Choreographer
Julia Cotton
Original Assistant Director
Eamon Flack
Assistant Director
Margaret Thanos
Stage Manager
Luke McGettigan
Assistant Stage Manger
Claire Edmonds-Wilson



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 Illustration by
Kim Carpenter
Rehearsal photography by
Brett Boardman



Neil Armfield

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

NEIL ARMFIELD

It's a total pleasure to return to Belvoir, to this play, this company, this audience, seventeen years after we first created it: a show which remains one of my heart's favourites.

It asks deep questions of us and, happily, suggests answers. As our world is increasingly divided and shattered by cruelty, self-interest and delusion, we must look after each other with kindness and understanding. And courage. And of course, we must have fun.

Here is the Director's Note I wrote in 2012, in preparation for our season in New York at the New Victory Theatre on 42nd Street:

Last January I was in the Upstairs Theatre at Belvoir watching Geoffrey Rush and Yael Stone in a performance of *The Diary of a Madman*, my final production as Artistic Director. After the curtain call, as the audience was leaving, an older gentleman came up to me and said, 'I want to thank you'. I said, 'Well, thank you very much, but it's those actors that - '. 'No', he interrupted, 'of course I loved the show today, but I want to thank you for *The Book of Everything*.' And there was an odd silence, like he wanted to go on. But instead, he began weeping. This big man, standing in front of me, crying. I helped him to a seat and sat on the stair next to him. After he collected himself a little, he said, 'I had five children. I thought I knew how to bring them up. I thought I needed to be hard to make them strong. But I only made them fear me. One by one as they grew older, they rejected me. After I saw that play, I understood how I had failed them. I've since called each of them. And with some, we've been able to start to talk.'

As we discovered at Belvoir with our production of *The Small Poppies* a decade ago, the imagination of a young child is a wonderful place from which to explore the world – the great questions of both life and of civilisation can be reframed and posed anew. Set in a community in the decade that followed the shattering horror of World War II, Guus Kuijer's wonderful story gives us a chance to remake our world, to start again. This production really began four years ago, when we had a workshop for a week on an early draft of Richard's adaptation of the book. It was a very rewarding

time, and Richard has at every moment of the process of the creation of this work of theatre, been a great colleague. As has everyone. I want to say in particular that it has been lovely to work again with Kim Carpenter. In the almost 30 years since we last worked together in the Upstairs Theatre, Kim has tirelessly pursued his life's great work, *Theatre of Image*, giving Australia and its children so many magical experiences. The Book of Everything has been a very happy collaboration between our two companies. And is it any wonder, with the inspiration of the inquisitive, open hearted, subversive playfulness of our little hero, Thomas Klopfer, before us?

Neil Armfield



Matthew Whittet, Julie Forsyth &
Rebecca Massey



Kim Carpenter

SET & COSTUME DESIGNER'S NOTE

KIM CARPENTER

As Kim Carpenter, Artistic Director of Theatre of Image (1989-2019) NSW's premier theatre company for children and families, I was always on the lookout for new material that would ideally suit an intergenerational audience.

On holiday I found *The Book of Everything* at the local bookstore. The shopkeeper was most excited I had chosen it. I read it as an imaginative journey towards happiness. The story stayed with me. So

I asked long-time collaborator and writer Richard Tulloch to read it with a view to adaptation. I shared the book with Neil Armfield with a view to Neil directing and a potential co-production with Belvoir.

Following a successful week's development workshop it all came to fruition as a co-production at Belvoir in January 2010. Thirteen years after the closing season at Melbourne Theatre Company for me it's been starting again – from design to execution, bringing it back to its original life.

For me the show is full of love – a panacea in our current confused world.

Kim Carpenter





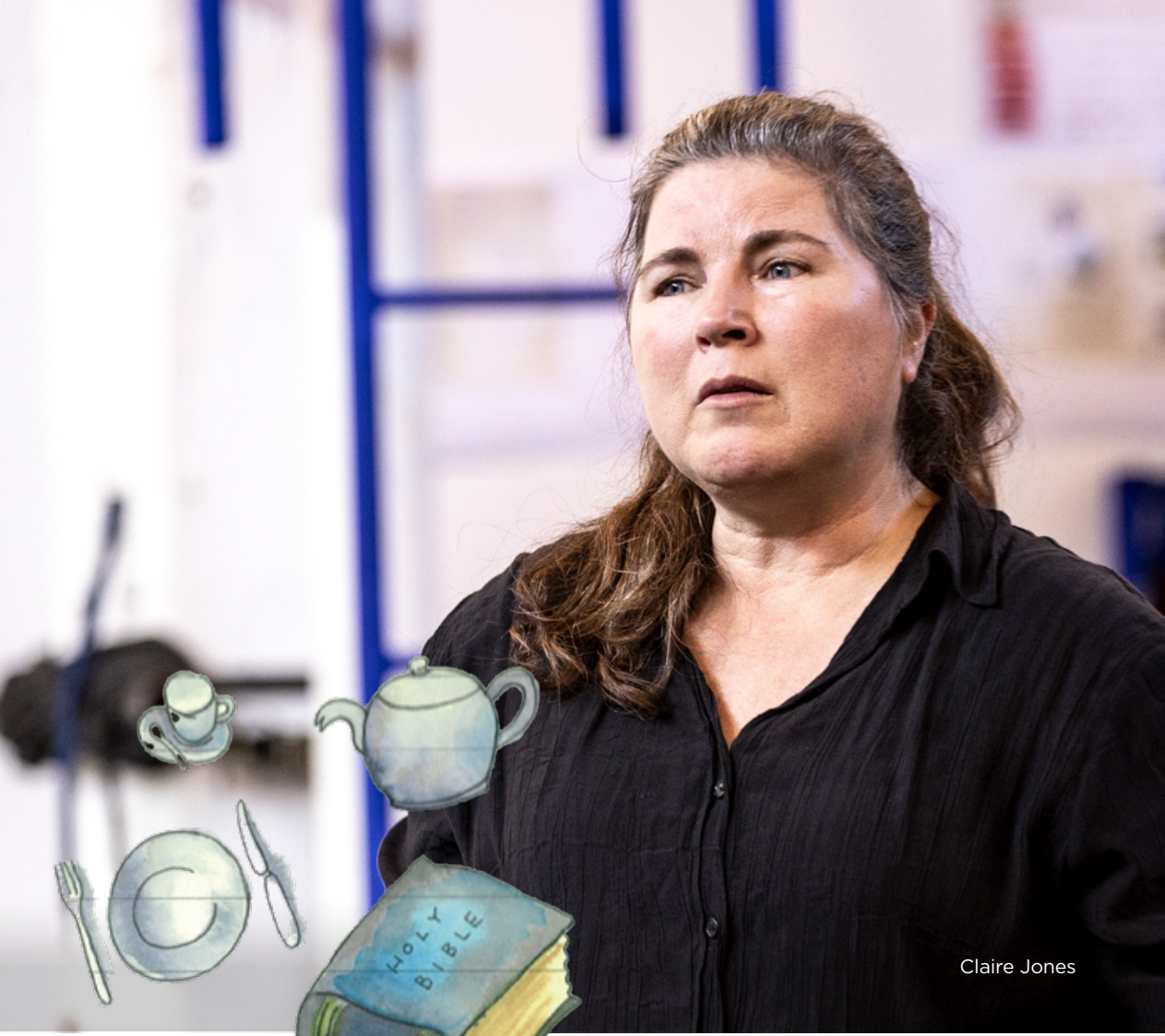
John Leary



Matthew Whittet



Matthew Whittet, Rebecca Massey &
John Leary



Claire Jones



Julie Forsyth





Bridie McKim



Jack Ward





Rebecca Massey, Pamela Rabe, Julie Forsyth





Matthew Whittet, Rebecca Massey & Claire Jones



Matthew Whittet, Bridie McKim,
John Leary, Julie Forsyth & Claire Jones



Pamela Rabe



Rebecca Massey & Matthew Whittet



**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

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

THE BIRDS

Paula Arundell goes wild in a new take on Daphne du Maurier's classic

16 May – 14 Jun

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

A ROOM WITH A VIEW

E. M. Forster's classic tale of living boldly, together

3 Oct – 1 Nov

THE COCONUT CHILDREN

Vivian Pham's breakout novel comes to the stage

21 Nov – 20 Dec

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