



## Accessibility at Sydney Festival 2016

Sydney Festival are committed to ensuring Sydney Festival events are accessible to every member of our audience, including people with a disability and those with accessibility support requirements. There is a broad and complex range of accessibility considerations that the Festival strives to meet, and we remain committed to providing dignified access to our program of events and communications.

In 2016, Sydney Festival has strived to make our program accessible to all through a variety of accessible performance options. This year we are delighted to present an exciting range of Auslan interpreted, captioned, audio described and relaxed performances, as well as a unique sensory installation.

### **AUDIO DESCRIPTION AND TACTILE TOURS – for audiences who are blind or have low vision**

Audio Description is a narration of the visual elements of a live theatre performance via a radio receiver and earpiece. Before the performance starts, the audio describers provide program details together with descriptions of costumes and stage settings. Throughout the work, concise descriptions of actions, expressions and gestures are transmitted during gaps between the dialogue of the on-stage actors.

For patrons who are blind or are vision impaired Sydney Festival will be providing a tactile tour and audio described performance of ***The Rabbits***– the Helpmann award winning opera for all ages based on the iconic children’s book by John Mardsen with illustrations by Shaun Tan. *The Rabbits* is composed by Kate Miller-Heidke with libretto by award-winning playwright Lally Katz and is directed by John Sheedy.

The tactile tour will provide an exclusive insight into the work with participants being talked through the set, able to examine the costumes and having the opportunity to talk to the creative team, cast and crew involved in the work. The audio described performance of *The Rabbits* provides an additional narration track, where a narrator describes what is happening on stage during natural pauses, allowing visual elements of the work to be shared.

In addition, there will be a tactile tour for the world premiere of ***Pleasure Garden***, a site-specific installation in the gardens of Vaucluse House. Music and environmental sounds weave together in this listening garden and active instrument featuring newly composed music by Genevieve Lacey and Jan Bang. A trained audio describer will join with both artist and horticulturalist to present this session.

### **Key Performance Dates:**

#### **OPERA/FAMILY**

##### ***The Rabbits***

Roslyn Packer Theatre

Audio described performance

21 January, 7pm

Tactile tour

21 January, 5pm (Meeting Point: Box office)

Bookings essential.

*Suitable for 8+*

#### **INSTALLATION/FREE**

##### ***Pleasure Garden***

Vaucluse House

9 Jan, 9.30am

Bookings Essential

## MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks  
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia  
Phone 61 2 8248 6500 Fax 61 2 8248 6599  
sydneyfestival.org.au



### **PRE-SHOW DESCRIPTIONS - for audiences who are blind or have low vision**

Pre-show descriptions are verbal descriptions conducted by an audio describer, prior to the performance. The pre-show description begins 30 minutes prior to the performance and provides program details together with descriptions of the stage setting.

Soloists Elise Caluwaerts and Wiard Witholt trace the doomed voyage of mythical lovers Orpheus and Eurydice in Sydney Chamber Opera's production of Pascal Dusapin's *Passion*.

### **Key Performance Dates:**

#### **OPERA**

##### ***Passion***

City Recital Hall  
15 Jan, 7.30pm

### **AUSLAN INTERPRETED THEATRE – for Deaf audiences**

In 2015, Sydney Festival will present an Auslan interpreted performance of *La Verita* – a surrealist circus from Compagnia Finzi Pasca who combine circus, clowning, acrobatics, dance and music. *La Verita* is inspired by a painting by Salvador Dali, recently discovered in a forgotten box at the back of a New York Theatre and promises to be a thrilling experience with humour and heart.

In The Famous Spiegeltent step into an opulent 19<sup>th</sup> century Parisian boudoir for the multi-award-winning *Songs For The Fallen*, a party with Paris' original party girl, in a rollicking and romantic cabaret musical, featuring cabaret star Sheridan Harbridge.

An Auslan interpreted performance will make this work accessible to the Deaf community. As the action unfolds on stage, an interpreter stands to one side and signs the text and dialogue live. Audience members who are Deaf are seated in the section nearest to the onstage interpreter to ensure optimum sightlines.

### **Key Performance Dates:**

#### **CIRCUS/THEATRE/FAMILY**

##### ***La Verita***

Riverside Theatre  
Auslan interpreted performance  
16 January, 2pm

#### **CABARET/MUSICAL**

##### ***Songs for the Fallen***

The Famous Spiegeltent  
Auslan interpreted performance  
23 Jan, 10.30pm

### **RELAXED PERFORMANCES**

Relaxed performances are designed to create a safe and welcoming environment for children on the autism spectrum and people with intellectual disabilities, along with their friends, carers and families. Performances are provided in a casual atmosphere, with a supportive and non-judgemental environment that features slight modifications to sound and lighting, a downloadable pre-visit social story and support aids with an open door policy and quiet area available.

In 2015 Sydney Festival will present two relaxed performances in the Famous Spiegeltent, as part of Family Week.

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From Arena Theatre Company and Salvador Dinosaur comes ***Sunny Ray and the Magnificent Moon***, a new work featuring original music inspired by everything from folk to funk, disco and pop. Meet Sunny Ray – happy, light, a true wonder of the world; and her best friend, the Magnificent Moon – the all-night party guy. What happens when the sun breaks all the rules and stays up with the moon?

In ***Tolu***, the gravity defying troupe from Casus Circus tell a vivaciously fun story told through circus, dance and play. Three friends left to their own devices discover each other's likes, dislikes and soft spots as they twist, flip, spiral, balance, jump and climb.

### Key Performance Dates:

#### FAMILY/THEATRE

##### ***Sunny Ray and the Magnificent Moon***

The Famous Spiegeltent, Festival Village  
14 Jan, 10am  
Suitable for 7+

#### FAMILY/CIRCUS

##### ***Tolu***

The Famous Spiegeltent, Festival Village  
16 Jan, 1pm

### LIVE THEATRE CAPTIONING – for audiences with hearing impairments

Theatre Captioning is an accurate text display of a theatre performance in its entirety, including actors' dialogue, ad libs, asides, song lyrics, musical descriptions and other sound effects, displayed on large screens at the side of the stage. This entails a trained captioner preparing the captions in advance so that they mirror the rhythm and flow of the actors' dialogue. The captioner then cues the captions live at the performance, where they are displayed on large screens at the side of the stage as the action unfolds.

The major new work from Broome's internationally acclaimed dance-theatre company Marrugeku, ***Cut The Sky***, will be captioned. A meditation on humanity's frailty in the face of our own actions, *Cut The Sky* is about our relationship with Country – our past, present and future through an Aboriginal lens in a dynamic fusion of dance, song and poetry.

Canada's Mammalian Diving Reflex (who brought *Haircuts By Children* to Sydney Festival in 2013) are back with a brilliant new social collaboration, ***All The Sex I've Ever Had***. A group of Sydney's over-65s draw on all their experience to share true stories of their romantic and sex lives in a taboo-busting tell-all where the spotlight is at last shone on those often rendered invisible.

Also captioned will be the new Australian Opera, ***The Rabbits***, the Helpmann Award-winning opera for children and families composed by and starring Kate Miller-Heidke and based on John Marsden and Shaun Tan's haunting picture book.

### Key Performance Dates:

#### DANCE/THEATRE

##### ***Cut The Sky***

Drama Theatre, Sydney Opera House  
Captioned performance  
16 January at 7:30pm  
Bookings Essential

#### THEATRE

##### ***All The Sex I've Ever Had***

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Drama Theatre, Sydney Opera House  
24 Jan, 7.30pm  
**OPERA/FAMILY**  
***The Rabbits***  
Roslyn Packer Theatre, Walsh Bay  
23 Jan, 2pm  
*Suitable for 8+*

### FESTIVAL INFORMATION IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS

Sydney Festival makes every effort each year to ensure that the Deaf and hard of hearing community, the blind and vision impaired community - and others with accessible needs – are able to explore the festival program in their format of choice.

This is done through a variety of methods including producing the following:

- MP3 (via the website)
- PDF (via the website)
- Interactive brochure (via the website)
- Word document in large print format (via the website)
- Braille
- Audio CD (available from Vision Australia on 1300 847 466)

A synopsis in large print Word format of any production in the 2016 Sydney Festival is available on request.

The Festival also has strong relationships with Access Arts Australia, Companion Card, Deaf Society of NSW, Accessible Arts, Vision Australia and Auslan Stage Left.

### TO BOOK

Bookings are essential for all accessible services.

To discuss your access requirements and to book any of our access services or performances, please call Sydney Festival's reception on **02 82486500** or email [access@sydneyfestival.org.au](mailto:access@sydneyfestival.org.au). Please note we are unable to offer our accessible ticket booking service online.

Sydney Festival is happy to receive phone calls via the National Relay Service. TTY users, phone 133 677, then ask for 02 8248 6500. Speak and Listen users, phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 02 8248 6500. Internet relay users, visit [relay.service.gov.au](http://relay.service.gov.au), then ask for 02 8248 6500.

### COMPANION CARD PROGRAM

Sydney Festival supports the Companion Card program. For patrons who require the assistance of a companion or carer to attend events or venues, Sydney Festival will issue a second ticket at no cost to the carer of a Companion Card cardholder.

### ACCESS BRIEFING

On November 6 from 10am-12pm Sydney Festival will host a briefing on our 2016 Accessible performances and series. The briefing will be held in the Arts Exchange building, Ground floor, 10 Hickson Road, The Rocks. RSVP & enquiries: Jenny Spinak, [jenny.spinak@sydneyfestival.org.au](mailto:jenny.spinak@sydneyfestival.org.au)

For further information on accessibility at Sydney Festival, visit [sydneyfestival.org.au/access](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/access)

All media releases are available for download at [sydneyfestival.org.au/media](http://sydneyfestival.org.au/media)

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