

The Events

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

A co-production by Belvoir, Malthouse and State Theatre Company of South Australia



Photo: Brett Boardman (Catherine McClements and One World Choral)

'a mighty play about not just one lost soul, but many... about the things that bind us together as a community, the things that drive us apart, and what it is that makes us human.'

The Guardian

'An agitated anguish beats against the walls of ritual in 'The Events,' a solemn, searching and ultimately very moving play about a faith-shattering act of violence... [the] Choir exuded that piebald mixture of tentativeness and enthusiasm that makes nonprofessional singing groups so uniquely affecting. Its members are just trying their best to find, as a collective force, some harmony and beauty in the rough, often ugly natural ingredients of daily life.'

The New York Times

A joint production from **Belvoir**, **Malthouse Theatre** and the **State Theatre of South Australia**, *The Events* will have its Australian premiere at Granville Town Hall for six very special performances as part of the 2016 Sydney Festival.

Claire, played by the multiple AFI, Logie and Helpmann award-winning, **Catherine McClements**, is a minister and the director of a community choir that meets regularly in the local hall. The choir is made up of all sorts: the lonely, outsiders, strangers, and the privileged. She has built a community, but in the aftermath of a terrible act of violence, this community and the ideas that formed it are blown apart.

After the event, a dialogue unfolds between Claire and a young man. She is unpacking the Pandora's box of herself – her rage, her fears, and ultimately some hope. The young man is something else: the voice of the alienated, an enemy within, a lost generation. He plays many roles, but in an era of Port Arthur and Martin Place they all ask the same big question: How do we all live together knowing it can come apart in a moment?

The cast of two will be joined by a different Sydney community choir for each performance in an extraordinary fusion of theatre and music. The choir become a variety of the Greek chorus, echoing themes of the play and acting as representatives of society, both the victims and the survivors.

The Events was the sleeper hit of the 2013 Edinburgh Festival and the New York Times Critic's pick in February 2015. Written by renown Scottish playwright, **David Greig**, who was compelled to write the play after the massacre of 77 people on the island of Utøya in Norway in 2011, *The Events* evokes recent mass shootings.

Directed by **Clare Watson**, who has directed for the stages of the Sydney Opera House, Arts Centre Melbourne, Melbourne Theatre Company, The Storerroom and La Mama and was Female Director in Residence at Malthouse Theatre in 2014, this new production will be an unforgettable experience.

Subtle and mesmerising, *The Events* reveals the incredibly human reactions to trauma, asking the question: how do we live together knowing it can all come apart in a moment?

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



By **David Greig**
Directed by **Clare Watson**
With **Catherine McClements** and **Sydney Community Choirs**
Set and Lighting Design by **Geoff Cobham**

Where Granville Town Hall

When 13 - 15 January at 7.30pm
16 January at 2pm & 7.30pm
17 January at 2pm

Tickets \$55 / \$50 General Admission

Bookings Sydney Festival on 1300 856 876
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For interviews and further information contact:

Jessica Keirle, Publicity Manager, 02 8248 6525 / 0438 805 109 jessica.keirle@sydneyfestival.org.au

Cath Hayes, Publicist, 02 8248 6546 / 0431417112 cath.hayes@sydneyfestival.org.au

Julia Barnes, Publicist, 02 8248 6538 / 0402 678 589 julia.barnes@sydneyfestival.org.au

