

The Object Lesson

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

USA



Photo: *The Object Lesson* © Max Gordon

"This is a hugely enjoyable, highly intelligent, ultra-connected meditation on our attachment to the past"
Guardian UK

"Go to the show. And I mean, right away, this minute..."
Time Out New York

"...ruefully, comically sentimental piece that plucks a fleeting connective poetry in the seeming randomness of what we hoard."
New York Times

"Breathtaking... The Object Lesson is one of a kind."
The Times (UK)

Actor and illusionist **Geoff Sobelle** scooped up three major awards at Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2014 for *The Object Lesson*, including the festival's top accolade - the Carol Tambor Best of Edinburgh Award, it has since been presented in New York and Toronto to rave reviews. Commissioned by Lincoln Centre Theater, the hit show makes its Australian debut this January at Sydney Festival.

The audience is welcomed into an immense towering installation of cardboard boxes. The boxes are labelled and marked with cryptic markings like 'red things', 'Paris', and 'old conversations' inviting theatre goers to consider the emotional attachment to our past in a uniquely interactive performance.

Reminiscent of sentimental hoards in our attics, Geoff Sobelle trawls through haphazard piles of trinkets, and souvenirs, unpacking our rapport with everyday objects. In a magical act of storytelling that combines charming delivery and meticulous stage production. Steeped in deeper meaning, stories around these ordinary objects are unfolded and then swiftly lost in a room that is continuously reconstructed.

Based in Philadelphia, Geoff Sobelle is the Artistic Director of rainpan 43 an innovative theatre company specialising in actor-driven, absurdist plays. Sobelle performed with R43 in *All Wear Bowlers*, a 1930s physical comedy which won him an Innovative Theatre Award and a Drama Desk nomination, before coming to Sydney Festival in 2006. The talented theatre artist graduated with honours at Stanford University before heading to Paris to train at the esteemed physical theatre school - École Jacques Lecoq.

This tactile performance was directed by choreographer **David Neuman** with a spectacular scenic installation designed by **Steven Dufala**, one half of the Philadelphia based artist duo The Dufala Brothers.

Heartily praised by critics in New York, *The Object Lesson* is a hilarious and heartbreaking meditation on the glorious mess of life.

Created and performed by **Geoff Sobelle**
Directed by **David Neumann**
Scenic Installation Design by **Steven Dufala**

Where Centennial Hall, Sydney Town Hall

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sydneyfestival.org.au



When 7-22 January, 8pm
16 & 22 January also at 2pm
No performances 9, 10, 13 and 18 January

Duration 90 minutes no interval

Price General Admission \$59/\$53

Bookings Sydney Festival on 1300 856 876
<http://sydneyfestival.org.au/object>

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