

SYD FEST 19

OLD STOCK: A REFUGEE LOVE STORY

2B THEATRE COMPANY | CANADA | AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Photos: Stoo Metz Photography, Fadi Acra



OLD STOCK: A REFUGEE LOVE STORY

**2B THEATRE COMPANY | CANADA
AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

UPSTAIRS
BELVOIR ST THEATRE
12–20 JANUARY
80 MINS

Created by Hannah Moscovitch, Ben Caplan & Christian Barry

Starring Ben Caplan

Playwright Hannah Moscovitch
Director Christian Barry

Songs Ben Caplan and Christian Barry*

*Except for *Traveller's Curse* by Geoff Berner and *The Happy People* by Danny Rubenstein

**Additional music composed by Graham Scott

The Wanderer Ben Caplan

Chaim, woodwinds Dani Oore

Chaya, violin Mary Fay Coady

Keyboard and accordion Graham Scott

Drums Jamie Kronick

Stage and Production Manager Louisa Adamson

Tech Manager, Sound Engineer & Operator
Rory Howson

Rehearsal Stage Manager Christine Oakey

Set Design Louisa Adamson & Christian Barry

Lighting Design Louisa Adamson & Christian Barry

Sound Design Jordan Palmer, Christian Barry,
Graham Scott & Ben Caplan

Costume Design Carly Beamish

Assistant Director Laura Vingoe-Cram

Voice and Speech Coach Susan Stackhouse

REPERTOIRE

Traveller's Curse (written by Geoff Berner)

You've Arrived

Truth Doesn't Live in a Book

The Happy People (written by Danny Rubenstein)

Minimum Intervals

Plough the Shit

Lullaby

Fledgling

What Love Can Heartbreak Allow

Songs written by Ben Caplan and Christian Barry except where indicated

PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTES

The text in this project is the story of my paternal family. When there have been gaps in my knowledge of actual events, I have taken artistic liberties. For instance, I do not know the full story of how my great-grandfather Chaim Moscovitch's family died in Romania. And because I have often been working from incomplete information, I have discovered over the course of this project that I have parts of my family's history wrong.

In two instances, I decided to leave my inaccuracies in the text. I originally thought that Chaya was older than Chaim; I later found out from a census that they were in fact the same age. And I believed that Sam Moscovitch, my grandfather, was the oldest child in the family. He was in fact the second child: his sister Mary (Michal) Moscovitch was the firstborn.

Hannah Moscovitch

THANKS

Thanks to The Citadel Theatre and the Theatre Arts Residency program at Banff Centre for their contributions to the development of *Old Stock*, and to co-production partners at the National Arts Centre. Sydney Festival warmly thanks Altaire Productions & Publications for their generous support of *Old Stock*.



2B THEATRE COMPANY

Artistic Co-Directors Anthony Black and Christian Barry

Managing Director Colleen MacIsaac

Managing Producer Karen Gross

Administrator Chelsea Dickie

Tour Producer Rebecca Desmarais

Director of Production Louisa Adamson

Playwright-in-Residence Shauntay Grant

Designer-in-Residence Aaron Collier

RBC Emerging Artist-in-Residence Anna Shepard

2B THEATRE COMPANY

2b is a Halifax-based, internationally-acclaimed theatre company creating works for regional, national and international stages. Artistic co-directors Christian Barry and Anthony Black share a commitment to create, develop and produce new work that is distinguished by innovation in staging, polish in design, and virtuosity in performance.

BEN CAPLAN – THE WANDERER

Ben Caplan is best known as a singer-songwriter and musician. He has released two albums to critical acclaim and tours with his band in 28 countries. Caplan's third studio album, also called *Old Stock*, was released in June 2018. Though Ben Caplan is best known as a songwriter, his first experiences as a performer were in the theatre. He spent many years training, performing, and directing in the theatre before leaving it behind to dedicate his full attention to music. This production is his first return to the theatre after a 10-year-hiatus. Ben Caplan makes his home in Halifax along with his partner and frequent artistic collaborator, Taryn Kawaja.

HANNAH MOSCOVITCH – PLAYWRIGHT

Hannah is an acclaimed Canadian playwright. Her work for the stage includes *Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story*, *East of Berlin*, *The Russian Play*, *Little One*, *This is War*, *Infinity* and *Bunny*. She's won multiple awards for her work, including the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Play, the Toronto Critic's Award for Best New Canadian Play, both the Scotsman Fringe First and the Herald Angel Awards at the 2017 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the Trillium Book Award (she is the only playwright to win in the award's 30-year-history), and the prestigious international Windham-Campbell Prize administered by the Beinecke Library at Yale University. She is a playwright-in-residence at Tarragon Theatre in Toronto.



CHRISTIAN BARRY – DIRECTOR

Christian Barry is a multi-award-winning director and theatre-maker from Halifax, Nova Scotia. Christian is a co-founder and artistic co-director of 2b theatre company and was nominated for four individual Drama Desk Awards in 2018, including Best Director, as well as receiving a nomination for Best Production. He won a Dora Mavor Moore Award (Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts) for Outstanding Production and was nominated for an Outstanding Director Dora Award. Other select awards: three Theatre NS Merritt Awards for Outstanding Direction (nine nominations); two for Outstanding New Play; and two for Outstanding Lighting Design. His directing credits for 2b theatre company are *Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story*, *The God that Comes*, *Homage, Revisited*, *The Russian Play*, *The Story of Mr. Wright*, *East of Berlin*, *Manners of Dying*, and *Cherry Docs*. His productions have played at renowned venues and festivals including the Bristol Old Vic, Edinburgh Fringe, Sydney Festival (*Invisible Atom*, 2011), Tarragon Theatre, Citadel Theatre, Magnetic North Festival, PuSh, Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts, Noorderzon, Aarhus Festival, Theaterformen Hanover, Luminato, World Stage, and 59E59 (Off Broadway in New York City).

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