

SYD FEST 2020



Photo: Johannes Pannuks

THE ASPIE HOUR

SOPHIE SMYTH AND RYAN SMEDLEY
AUSTRALIA

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CARRIAGEWORKS
14–18 JANUARY
60 MINS

Creator, Writer & Performer Ryan Smedley

Creator, Writer & Performer Sophie Smyth

Director & Dramaturg Fiona Scott-Norman

Musical Director & Pianist Rainer Pollard

CITY OF SYDNEY 🌈

ARTISTS' STATEMENT

The Aspie Hour show began very modestly almost five years ago, when the two of us both took to the stage individually as part of Federation University's Cabaret program in the final year of our Musical Theatre studies. Two 10-minute pieces with wildly different styles, yet focusing on the same core subjects: Asperger's Syndrome and Musical Theatre. It was through the persistent prodding and encouragement of our director, Fiona Scott-Norman, that we finally took the plunge to combine and expand our individual works into a full-length piece in 2017. Since then we've been overwhelmed with support from audiences, going from strength to strength in Melbourne festival appearances, culminating in a Green Room Award win for Best Writing in a Cabaret last year.

"Everyone is different, yet the same": that's a lyric that ends one of our duets that we feel sums the show up well. *The Aspie Hour* is ostensibly about our unique individual experiences shaped by our Spectrum diagnosis, yet the purpose of this show is to relate ourselves to the audience, asking "have you had an experience like this? We're not all that different". We're proud of the message of inclusivity this show brings to Sydney Festival 2020, and we hope you enjoy the creative results of our labour of love: *The Aspie Hour*.

Sophie Smyth & Ryan Smedley

THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Federation University Arts Academy; The Butterfly Club; Sutton's House of Music; Samara Clifford; Eliza Grundy; David Wynen; Michael Lavine; Ann Smedley; Dianne & Peter Smyth; Glenn Elston. Thanks to the Hunt Family Foundation for support of the Disability Programming Initiative.

