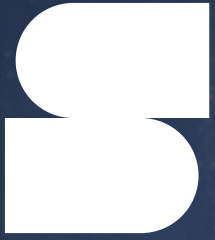


GIRLS & BOYS



Sydney
Festival
2023



GIRLS & BOYS

State Theatre Company South Australia

Seymour Centre - Everest Theatre

5-15 January 2023

1 hour 50 minutes (no interval)

CAST AND CREDITS

Playwright Dennis Kelly

Director Mitchell Butel

Assistant Director Rachel Burke

Set and Costume Designer Ailsa Paterson

Lighting Designer Nigel Levings

Composer Alan John

Sound Designer Andrew Howard

Performer Justine Clarke

Stage Manager Bridget Samuel

Assistant Stage Manager Grace Calabretto

Production Manager Gabrielle Hornhardt

Lighting Technician Alexander Ramsay

ABOUT THE SHOW

She meets him in an airport queue and sparks fly. Their passionate love affair takes them to marriage, a mortgage, and children - an ordinary family life. Her natural working-class wit works to her advantage, and unexpectedly she starts rising above her allotted rung on the British social ladder. The power dynamic between them shifts - imperceptible cracks become yawning gulfs - but when the house they built begins to fall, nothing prepares her for what happens next.

The innocent sounding *Girls & Boys* is a searing one-woman show by Dennis Kelly, the celebrated wordsmith of in-her-face classics like *Osama the Hero* and *DNA*, as well as the masterful dialogue for Tim Minchin's *Matilda*. A high-wire act balancing comedy and drama which has stunned audiences in London and New York, *Girls & Boys'* stellar solo role is brilliantly filled here by Justine Clarke, whose versatility has seen her adored by audiences for her work on Play School to ARIA Award-winning albums and darker, powerhouse turns in *Love My Way*, *Tangle* and *Look Both Ways*.

A ticking time bomb, *Girls & Boys* is an engrossing, edge-of-your-seat play that shifts gears from *Fleabag*-like wit and mischief to harrowing shock in a matter of seconds, and it will leave you breathless.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

There is a growing number of playwrights who don't like to provide a writer's note to a production of their show. Dennis Kelly is one such writer.

Girls & Boys is a play that asks many questions but puts the onus very squarely back on the audience to ruminate about its own answers. It is also a play that may work best when the audience has no prior knowledge of where it is heading.

So, in that spirit, writing a director's note for this production risks revealing too much too soon.

What I can say is that it has been a profound privilege, challenge and education to work on this text and explore it and its themes alongside a talented, smart, compassionate, humble and generous team of collaborators and contributors. And to explore and acknowledge stories and experiences from similar women to the one we find in this play.

Every single member of this creative team and crew has approached their work on the show with incredible sensitivity and respect. The play encourages deep self and social reflection and we have all tried to emulate that in our work on it.

In particular, I give my love, thanks and admiration to Justine Clarke: one of the bravest, kindest, most skilled and caring artists I've ever encountered. I cannot wait for you to see her in action.

And my thanks to you - our audience - for taking the ride with us on plays like this. We hope that *Girls & Boys* is a theatrical experience that will resonate with you. This particular show is a very direct conversation between one actress and her audience. Thank you for completing its circle.

GIRLS & BOYS

State Theatre Company South Australia

STATE THEATRE COMPANY SOUTH AUSTRALIA

State Theatre Company South Australia is the flagship theatre company of South Australia and is a resident artistic company of the Adelaide Festival Centre.

The Company commissions, performs and tours theatrical productions of new and existing, classic and contemporary, Australian and international work. From a rich legacy of visionary theatre makers and landmark theatrical productions, the Company strives to make, present and promote phenomenal, transformative, and inclusive theatre that enriches South Australian and Australian culture.

The Company is committed to a diversity of voices (including First Nations and culturally and linguistically diverse voices) and audiences and access to all. State Theatre Company South Australia is committed to providing platforms and pushing boundaries and for being recognised for high quality and large-scale theatrical storytelling that has an eye to the sky but an ear to the ground.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

State Theatre Company South Australia would like to acknowledge the writers and contributors who helped shape the research for this production - particularly Jess Hill for her book and SBS series *See What You Made Me Do* and podcast *The Trap*, Leigh Sales for her book *Any Ordinary Day* and Professor Sarah Wendt, Matthew Flinders Fellow and Professor in Social Work - Flinders University, for her expert advice to and support of the team.

This production was originally presented at the 2022 Adelaide Festival. State Theatre Company South Australia is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts and Arts South Australia.

CONTENT WARNING

This production contains coarse language, adult themes, family violence themes and descriptions of graphic violence and suicide.

If you or someone you know is impacted by sexual assault, domestic or family violence, call 1800RESPECT on 1800 737 732 or visit 1800RESPECT.org.au.

For support or information around depression and anxiety, for yourself, a friend or family member, call Beyond Blue on 1300 22 4636 or visit beyondblue.org.au

