

MEDIA RELEASE

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ESPECIALLY ON BIRTHDAYS *Extraordinarily fun theatre for 4-8 year olds*

Birthdays are special. They are seen as one of the most anticipated and celebrated days of the year for children and adults alike. But do your little ones count down the days to their celebration or dread the thought of being in the spotlight?

Especially on Birthdays follows a pair of 5 year old twins in the lead up to their sixth birthday. While they share a lot of things, their opinion of birthdays is not one of them. One twin can't wait for their big day while the other despairs at the thought of it. Living in the shadow of his twin sister is a comfortable place for Stephen to be, so when circumstances threaten to place him in the limelight, he wants out!

Created by one of the country's leading children's theatre producers, Dave Brown (former Artistic Director of Patch Theatre Company) in association with The Paper Boats Project, this intimate visual-theatre experience for 4-8 year olds recreates the ups, downs and roundabouts and fun of birthdays.

Dave Brown says *"Especially on Birthdays is a performance that respects children's intelligence and validates their experience of the world. The performers draw the children into their world and create a very special feeling of intimacy and belonging during the show."*

Performed in an intimate setting with the audience facing each other across the performance space, the show invites participation from children, evoking an inclusive party environment. A number of children are invited to participate in parts of the show itself and the atmosphere onstage ensures they feel special and included, whilst recreating all the excitement of the most anticipated day of the year.

Part performance, part game, part celebration, the performance engages children in deeply human stories of friendship, play, giving, receiving, sharing and understanding.

The PaperBoats Project is an international partnership platform pioneering new ways of connecting and creating in the process of developing new theatre works for children. Australian and Singaporean performer/makers Stephen Noonan and Katrina Lazaroff and Bright Ong and Hui Xuan Seong will rehearse together in Adelaide before presenting to local audiences.

Susannah Sweeney, Creative Producer, DreamBIG Childrens Festival says *"Apart from being a beautiful, atmospheric, clever piece of theatre making, I could see the joy, questions, anticipation and awe on the faces of the children who were watching it with me. What more could you want?"*

Bring your little ones along (4-8 year olds) to a 45minute performance they won't forget!

Hopgood Theatre, Noarlunga

Saturday, March 24th at 1pm & 3:30pm

All tickets only \$5! www.countryarts.org.au

Media enquiries: Joy Lothian Joy.Lothian@countryarts.org.au (08) 8444 0417 / 0423 828 035 or Diana Maschio diana.maschio@countryarts.org.au or (08) 8444 0429 (Mon-Fri)