

# SOUTHBANK CENTRE

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## Press Release

**Date** Monday 30 May 2022, 2pm

**Contact** [press@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:press@southbankcentre.co.uk)

**Images** [HERE](#)

This press release is available in a range of formats. Please email [press@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:press@southbankcentre.co.uk)

## ***You Know We Belong Together* to play its UK Premiere at the Southbank Centre this August**



Julia Hales - *You Know We Belong Together* Credit: Toni Wilkinson

Following sold-out seasons in the 2018 Perth Festival and Black Swan's 2019 season, award-winning play *You Know We Belong Together* brings its celebrated portrayal of living with Down syndrome to the **Southbank Centre's Purcell Room** from **Thursday 18 - Saturday 20 August** for its UK Premiere. **Julia Hales** leads a cast of six Western Australian actors to draw on their lived experience and tell this joyful celebration of community spirit, calling for better representation of disability on screen and stage.

Julia Hales has watched every single episode of Australian soap opera *Home and Away* since it first aired in 1988, but she's never seen another person with Down syndrome in the cast. She dreams of landing a role in her favourite show and finding love. Family, friends, dreams and lovers are all part of Julia Hales' deeply personal account of her experiences as a daughter, actor and person with Down syndrome. She brings with her the voices and aspirations of a community rarely seen on stage. Part-play, part-live documentary, *You Know We Belong Together* is an uplifting show about love, loss, family, friendships and the frustrations and aspirations of living with Down syndrome.

The cast put their own lives on stage, mixing their experiences and personal day-to-day realities with monologues, video, scenes, dance and song. Julia Hales is joined on stage by **Joshua Bott, Patrick Carter, Tina Fielding, Mark Junor, Melissa Junor** and **Lauren Marchbank**. Set in the famous diner at Summer Bay regularly seen in *Home and Away*, the cast bring their talents to help Julia "make a show to help remind non-disabled people that people with Down syndrome are complex and emotional people, like them. That they also have regular desires like love and acceptance."

**Co-writer Finn O'Branagáin said:**

"Some of the magic of *You Know We Belong Together* – sorry, the magic of Julia Hales - is that I have

*been able to do all this with her – researching and conversing and piecing it together, with Julia as both subject and performer. Having Julia as the lead artist has meant that at all times she's in control of the documentation and presentation of her own story."*

Julia Hales began developing as a performing artist and writer in 1996, performing in a range of self-devised works with Australian theatre companies including DADAA, Hydrapoesis and pvi collective ltd. In 2016, Julia began researching what love meant to other people with Down syndrome and in 2017 received Australia Council support to research and co-write *You Know We Belong Together*.

**Heather Ruck, Senior Performance Programmer at the Southbank Centre, says:**

*"We're excited to be welcoming Julia Hales and the company of You Know We Belong Together to present the UK premiere of this unique and heartwarming play. It's fantastic that this talented cast are bringing their work from Australia to the UK and we can't wait to welcome audiences to the Southbank Centre to see this truly joyous show. We'd like to thank Black Swan State Theatre Company for their continued efforts and determination to help bring this show to the UK and to Edinburgh International Festival for jointly hosting the play."*

Previous praise for *You Know We Belong Together*:

★★★★★ – ArtsHub

"Julia's passion shines through in a collaborative work that is...clever, poignant and funny."

★★★★ - The West Australian

"A shared, joyous experience of the rarest kind."

*You Know We Belong Together* runs at the Southbank Centre's Purcell Room from Thursday 18 - Saturday 20 August before a run at the Edinburgh International Festival from Wednesday 24 - Saturday 27 August at the Royal Lyceum Theatre.

- ENDS -

Tickets on sale to Members on Tuesday 31 May and to the public Wednesday 1 June.

For press tickets and more information please contact Naomi O'Toole and Louise Gilbert via [press@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:press@southbankcentre.co.uk)

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**VENUE**

Southbank Centre's Purcell Room  
Southbank Centre  
Belvedere Road  
London  
SE1 8XX

## AGE RECOMMENDATION

12+

## PERFORMANCE DATES AND SCHEDULE

Thursday 18 - Saturday 20 August: 19:30 - 20:40

Saturday matinee: 14:30 - 15:40

This event is British Sign Language interpreted (BSL) for all performances.

Audio Description with Touch Tour on Friday 19 August.

Speech-to-Text on Saturday 20 August at 2.30pm matinée.

## RUNNING TIME

70 minutes

## TICKETS

£20

Box Office: 0203 879 9555 (Open from 10am - 5pm Monday to Friday)

Website: [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)

*You Know We Belong Together* runs from Wednesday 24 - Saturday 27 August at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh. <https://www.eif.co.uk/events/you-know-we-belong-together/visit/contact-us>

Commissioned for the 2018 Perth Festival, *You Know We Belong Together* won two Performing Arts WA Awards in 2019 for Best Mainstage Production (Black Swan) and Best New Work (Julia Hales, Finn O'Branagáin and Clare Watson). The play was originally produced by Perth Festival, Black Swan State Theatre Company and DADAA.

*You Know We Belong Together* is supported by the UK/Australia Season Patrons, the Australian Government, the British Council, and Creative Partnerships Australia through the Australian Cultural Fund as part of the UK/Australia Season 2021-2022.

CAST Julia Hales, Joshua Bott, Patrick Carter, Tina Fielding, Mark Junor, Melissa Junor, Lauren Marchbank  
DIRECTOR Clare Watson

WRITERS Julia Hales with Finn O'Branagáin and Clare Watson

SET & COSTUME DESIGNER Tyler Hill

LIGHTING DESIGNER Joe Paradise Lui

SOUND DESIGNER & COMPOSER Rachael Dease

VIDEO DESIGNER Michael Carmody

MOVEMENT DIRECTOR Laura Boynes

DRAMATURG Deborah May

FILM MAKER Lincoln McKinnon

FILM INTERVIEWEE Hermione Merry

## About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre occupying a prominent riverside location that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. We want to take people out of the everyday, every day. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. The Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to six Resident Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Philharmonia Orchestra).

### **About Black Swan State Theatre Company of Western Australia**

Black Swan State Theatre Company of WA is a leader in creating connections that empower and uplift multiple voices. Resident at the State Theatre Centre of WA, our purpose is to create brave and playful conversations. For you. About you. With you. Founded in 1991, the company has earned both critical and popular acclaim for its world premiere productions and highly distinctive reinterpretations of international theatre classics – all of which are infused with the unique culture of Western Australia. Black Swan provides an annual program of inclusive and accessible theatre productions, commissions and learning experiences, live and on-line, for the people of Perth, across the state of Western Australia, and increasingly nationally and internationally. Black Swan is proudly supported by Principal Partner Fortescue Metals Group.



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