

BOOK OF DREAMS THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS THE
PREMIÈRE PRODUCTION OF A NEW PLAY AND GRIFFIN AWARD
FINALIST BY ACCLAIMED MELBOURNE PLAYWRIGHT R.JOHNS
BIRTHDAY BOOK OF STORMS



'Birthday Book of Storms' examines displacement, exile, alienation and their effect on the next generation, as seen through the triangular, volatile relationships of iconic poets the American Sylvia Plath, the British Ted Hughes and the artist Assia Wevill who was of German/Jewish descent.

July 2021 Sothebys auctions the love letters Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes. "I'm not sure everybody finds a love like that in their lifetime. And if they do, however short-lived it is, it's going to be quite a ride." - Frieda Hughes, daughter.

However, there is another story, another viewpoint, another daughter. One written out of history and invisible for many years. This forgotten child is at the centre of 'Birthday Book of Storms'.

There are many biographies of Ted and Sylvia, but barely a mention of the life and death of Shura, daughter of Ted and his lover Assia.

'Birthday Book of Storms' sees a mysterious girl investigating others' lives searching for answers in a magic, surrealist temporality to discover her story. Characters' destinies and their extreme emotions assume Greek tragedy proportions, orchestrated by two distinct and powerful women, Sylvia and Assia, where small actions can have catastrophic consequences. Haunting and lyrical, the tragic themes are counteracted by the girl's desire to live and deliver a message.

Through fictional retelling the play is focused on the feminine in the Hughes saga.

Book of Dreams Theatre Company is a culturally diverse group of theatre professionals and founded by playwright R.Johns and Romanian-born and trained actor Roxana Păun Trifan, Theatreworks Associate Artist 2021. They are excited to invite Jaime Dörner, trained in Chile and New Zealand to co-direct the project.

The first public readings of 'Birthday Book of Storms' supported by the City of Port Phillip through their cultural Development fund recovery grants were in May. The play moves beyond the usual Anglo-centric telling of the Ted Hughes/ Sylvia Plath history, with the addition of Assia Wevill and her missing child, both written out of his public life whilst Ted Hughes was alive. Audiences can now consider the poet's story in its full complexity.

Co-Directors: Jaime Dörner and R.Johns

Writer: R.Johns

Graphics & Set Design: Peter Mumford

Lighting Designer: Kris Chainey

Sound Designer: Gianluigi Rotondo

Actors: Anita Torrance, Roxana Păun Trifan, Paris Valentino, Phil Roberts, Jim Daly and Robin Kakolyris

Stage Manager/Operator: Lisa Inman

SEASON 17 – 28 August 2022
TIMES Wed 6.30pm
Thu - Sat 7.30pm
Sun 1pm & 4pm
LIVESTREAM Fri 19 August 7.30pm
VENUE La Mama Courthouse
349 Drummond St, Carlton VIC 3053
LENGTH Approx. 100 minutes
TICKETS \$30 Adult | \$20 Concession
BOOKINGS 03 9347 6948

www.lamama.com.au



Supported by the City of Port Phillip Cultural Development Fund

AUSPICIOUS ARTS PROJECTS



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