

Blue Cow Theatre  
in association with  
Siren Theatre Co presents

# nothing



Peacock Theatre,  
Salamanca Arts Centre, Hobart.  
10 – 20 April 2019



# ABOUT NOTHING

*Nothing* started life as a novel by Danish author, Janne Teller. The novel was initially banned in Denmark, but went on to win numerous literary awards worldwide. The novel has been reimagined as an opera (a co-production of the prestigious UK Royal Opera and Glyndebourne houses), a film and a stage play.

The play, by Pelle Koppel, has been translated into more than 26 languages and has enjoyed global success, being hugely popular from Germany to Mexico. Now, finally, *Nothing* gets its Australian premiere here in Hobart in this production by Blue Cow Theatre in association with Sydney's Siren Theatre Co.



BLUE COW THEATRE PRESENTS

# nothing

The Man  
The Woman

Josef Ber  
Jane Hamilton-Foster

Director and Designer  
Assistant Director  
Lighting Design  
Sound Designer

Kate Gaul  
Melissa King  
Greg Thompson  
Dylan Sheridan

Stage Manager  
Production Manager  
Props Maker  
Production Assistance

Adam 'Gus' Powers  
Simon Rush  
Kai Atkinson  
Richard Causby, Karl Sanger,  
Lucinda Wilson

Graphic Designer  
Promotions  
Front of House

Nathaniel Hiller  
Adrian Smith  
Christine Bailey

Thanks to Thomas Campbell, Ian Pirkis and Old Nick Company,  
Jenina's Dance Workshop.

Duration: 70 minutes, no interval.

Patron Advice: *Nothing* contains adult themes.

This production was assisted by:



SBW – the Seaborn,  
Broughton and Walford  
Foundation – benefiting  
the Australian theatre and  
performing arts since 1986.



The Tasmanian  
Government and the  
Minister for the Arts  
through Arts Tasmania.



**JANNE TELLER –  
Author of the novel  
*Nothing***

Educated as a macroeconomist, Janne Teller worked for the United Nations and the European Union in resolving conflicts and

humanitarian issues around the world, especially in Africa. She began writing fiction full time in 1995, and has received numerous literary awards. Always confronting the larger philosophical questions of life and modern civilization, her books often spark controversial debate.

Teller has published novels and collections of short stories and essays, but is best known for her Young Adult / crossover existential novella *Nothing*, which was initially banned, but has become an international bestseller, winning numerous international prizes. Today *Nothing* is deemed a modern classic.

Her unique passport-shaped book *War: What If It Were Here?*, about life as a refugee, is reworked by Teller for each country in which it is published - by now 16, and growing.

An international nomad, Teller splits her time between Now York, Berlin and Elsinore.

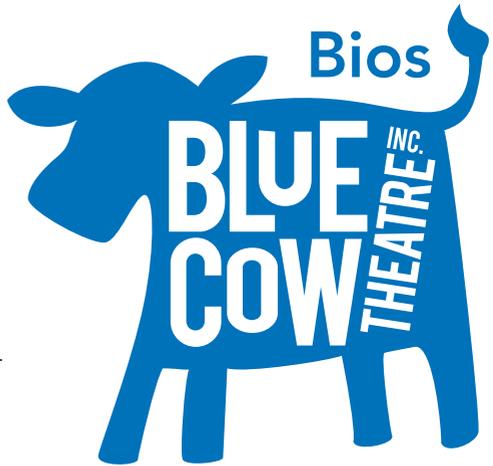


**JOSEF BER –  
'The Man'**

Josef Ber is a NIDA graduate; known for his series regular role of 'Sgt Dominic Wales' in the critically acclaimed television show *Rush* for Network TEN/Southern Star, he also has a stage

career which is equally expansive.

Josef starred in productions such as *Grease* for The Gordon Frost Organization, which saw him tour Australia and New Zealand; *The Tempest* for The Bell Shakespeare Company; *Lobby Hero* for the Ensemble Theatre; *The Laramie Project* and *Run Rabbit Run* for Company B, Belvoir; *My First Time*, Sydney Opera House; *Tiger Country*, and *Porn Cake* for Griffin Theatre Company, *Savages* for Darlinghurst Theatre Company. Most recently



he performed the role of Bill Austin in the critically acclaimed Australian touring production of *MAMMA MIA!*

Josef's television credits include: *Janet King*, *Brock*, *Redfern Now*, *ANZAC Girls*, *Devils Dust*, *Tricky Business*, *Wild Boys*, *Rescue Special Ops*, *McLeod's Daughters*, *East West 101*, *Love My Way*, *Wildside*, *Water Rats*, *Murder Call*, *Home & Away*, *Young Lions* and *The Alice*. Josef's film credits include *Ned*, directed by Abe Forsythe.



**KATE GAUL –  
Director and  
Designer**

Kate is a freelance Theatre Director/ Designer. NIDA 1996 (Directing Course), Anne Bogart SITI Company NYC 2005. Associate Director Ensemble Theatre 2004/5. Festival

Director World Interplay 2009/11. Festival Director Short Play Festival Canberra 2013 - 2015, Cabaret Sydney 2014, Mardi Gras Parade Creative Director 2015/16. Kate's directing credits include plays, opera, physical theatre, devised works and classics for theatre companies and schools in Australia. Kate has won numerous awards across the fields of directing and design.

Kate is Artistic Director of Siren Theatre Co where her passion is for text based drama challenges artists and audiences to have bold imaginative experiences. Kate's play – *Fatboy* has

been produced twice and she has written and directed two short films – *Embrace* and *Cake*. In 2017 Siren Theatre Co was nominated for 14 Sydney Theatre Critics Awards: Kate produced and directed *The Trouble with Harry* (by Lachlan Philpott) and *The Ham Funeral* (by Patrick White). *Misterman* (by Enda Walsh), *Good with Maps* (by Noelle Janaszewska) and *One Hander* (by Thomas Campbell) all toured internationally.

Additionally, Kate inaugurated *PLAYLIST* in partnership with Seymour Centre and Mardi Gras and was the Sydney producer for the UK production of *Joan* (which also played at Seymour Centre). *Good with Maps* toured to regional NSW in 2018. In 2019 Kate produced and directed *The Moors* (by Jen Silverman) and *PLAYLIST* both in conjunction with Seymour Centre and Mardi Gras; and will also direct a gender bending *HMS Pinafore* for Hayes Theatre.



**JANE HAMILTON - FOSTER – ‘The Woman’**

Jane graduated in Performing Arts from Deakin University. Prior to moving to Tasmania, Jane performed in such iconic works as *Three Tall Woman* and *Proof*. Notable productions have included *Shit* and

*The Merchant of Venice*, both with Loud Mouth Theatre. Most recently Jane performed in *Eight Gigabytes Hardcore Pornography* (TTC), for which she won the 2019 Best Performer in the Tasmanian Theatre Awards.



**MELISSA KING – Assistant Director**

Previously for Blue Cow: (actor) *Tidal Pools*, *Ruben Guthrie Simons Final Sound* Hobart Season and Victorian tour, *Frida and Derek*, *The Campaign*; (director) *Pedaling Back*.

Graduating from Theatre Nepean in 1991, Mel has worked as an actor and puppeteer in theatre film and TV. In theatre

Mel has performed with Riverina Theatre Co, Canberra Theatre Co, Siren Theatre Co, and REM Theatre. Joining Terrapin Puppet Theatre in 1994, Mel has performed in more than a dozen shows touring nationally and internationally. Since moving to Hobart she has performed with Big Monkey Theatre, Tasmania Performs, Mudlark, Ten Days on the Island, Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and Tasmanian Theatre Company. In 2014 she toured Australia with Force Majuere and Belvoir St’s co-production of *Food*, which was nominated for a Helpmann award for best touring show. Her short film credits include *Our Man in Tasmania*, *Knit One*, *The Promising* and *Sound Blocks Pain*. Her feature credits include *First Fagin* and *Arctic Blast*. She has puppeteered for TV on *Farscape*, *The Wiggles* and *The Wiggles Movie* as well as TV credits on *Rosehaven*, *G.P.*, *Fallen Angels* and *Home and Away*.



**ADAM (GUS) POWERS – Stage Manager**

Previously for Blue Cow: *Mind How You Go*, *Twelve Times He Spoke*, *The Campaign*.

Gus is a freelance theatre maker with a Master of Theatre from Monash University who works across both Production/

Stage Management and Set/Costume Design roles. At Federation University’s Arts Academy in Ballarat, Gus worked on over seventy productions between 2008 and 2017 in various roles. Design highlights include *The Hatpin*, *Urinetown*, *Oklahoma!*, *The Tempest* and *The Kitchen*. Other productions there include *Oh What A Lovely War*, *Machinal*, *Love and Information*, *As You Like It* and *Garden City Weeded*.

Freelance work includes directing/designing Southside Players 2015 production of *Wheeler’s Luck* and the 2016 return season at the Theatre Royal in Hobart, designing *The Invisible People* at Sovereign Hill, *Calvin Berger* at the Lawler Studio MTC, Manilla Street’s Production of *Blood Brothers* at Chapel Off Chapel and Cheeky Theatre’s *Ordinary Days* and *Come Blow Your Horn*.

Most recently Gus designed the set and props for Left Bauer/Humdrum Comedy's production of *Gilligan's Island - The Musical* at Chapel Off Chapel. Last year Gus was the Tour/Stage Manager for the Australian Tour of *Bakersfield Mist* produced by Tasmanian Theatre Company and Straight Jacket Productions and this year he has moved to Tasmania to work with the Tasmanian Theatre Company and Blue Cow as the Stage Manager on their 2018 Seasons. Find out more at [www.adamguspowers.com](http://www.adamguspowers.com)



**DYLAN SHERIDAN**  
– **Composer / Sound Designer**

Previously for Blue Cow:  
*100 Reasons for War.*

Dylan began his formal studies at the Tasmanian

Conservatorium of Music and completed his Master's degree at the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, USA. Also a visual artist, Dylan is interested in expanding the theatrical nature of concert music through the use of image, lighting, musical sculpture and unconventional use of space. His works typically incorporate custom built objects, instruments and software, and are presented in increasingly unconventional settings - from concert halls to living rooms, art galleries, gunpowder magazines, car washes and online - in the U.S.A, Europe and Australia, and at events such as MusicX (Switzerland), Dark MOFO, MONA FOMA, The Unconformity, Next Wave Festival, and Festival of Live Art.

Dylan's works have been nominated for several awards and prizes, and in 2017 he received a Green Room award for *Crush* (with Sam Routledge) in the Contemporary and Experimental Sound Performance category. He is regularly commissioned to compose sound for dance, theatre, parades and festivals, and frequently incorporates interactive technologies. He has undertaken a number of national and international residencies including a two-month Asialink residency at the Kyoto Arts Centre and an Arts Tasmania residency at the Mole Creek Caves, where he developed a work for planetarium.



**GREG THOMPSON –**  
**Lighting Designer**

Greg has worked as a theatre technician for over 45 years and has recently returned to Tasmania after 22 years working as the Technical Manager at the Alice Springs Cultural Precinct, where he worked with

a multitude of Central Australian companies and artists to produce a diversity of theatrical productions and events.

Prior to his time in the NT Greg was the Head Theatre Technician at the Prince of Wales Theatre in Hobart from 1984 to 1986, the Technical Manager at the Theatre Royal from 1986 to 1992 and subsequently a freelance lighting designer, production manager and stage manager for numerous Tasmanian companies including Zootango Theatre Company, TasDance, Stompin' Youth Dance Company, Salamanca Theatre Company, and Terrapin Puppet Theatre.

Greg's lighting design credits embraces a wide variety of theatrical forms including contemporary and classical dance, drama, musicals, puppetry, physical theatre, circus, concerts, outdoor performances and events, and large 'fire and light' spectacles.

# WRITING

Blue Cow Theatre is proudly a playwrights' theatre. We are Tasmania's most avid investor in emerging and established playwrights. Our programs bring together leading industry professionals with exceptionally talented Tasmanian artists. Together they create the new work that inspires artists and audiences, and invigorates Tasmanian stages.

Opportunities for writers in 2019/20 are:

## THE COWSHED

Now in its fifth year, our plays-and-playwrights development program, the Cowshed, fosters playwrights across the state and indeed nationally. Each year, a dozen playwrights – emerging and mid-career – work with leading Australian dramaturge, Peter Matheson, on shaping ideas, working and reworking scripts, and refining work to production-ready drafts.

Our 2019 production program includes *101* by Launceston playwright Cameron Hindrum, developed over the last three years within the

Cowshed; several works currently in development are earmarked for future programming in 2020/21.

## FUTURE PROOF THE PAGE, FOR WRITERS 18-25

Blue Cow Theatre is partnering with Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP) and AustralianPlays.org to offer a writing studio for young, emerging Tasmanian playwrights aged 18-25.

12 young Tasmanian writers will come together with senior artists – nationally recognised mentors, playwrights and dramaturges – for a residential intensive. Over five days each young writer will be supported to develop a 7-10 minute play, written specifically for young actors.

The 12 new works developed in "Future Proof the Page" will be melded into a single show which Blue Cow Theatre will produce in 2020 as "Future Proof the Stage".

Applications are encouraged from writers aged 18-25 from all around Tasmania. Applications close 30 April. Go to [bluecowtheatre.com](http://bluecowtheatre.com) for more details.





# 2019 TASSAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

In 2018/19, Blue Cow Theatre has teamed with leading Tasmanian company Tassal to provide young people in regional communities with access to vital creative experiences, both in their communities and in Hobart theatres.

Each school and community has different needs. Lead by our Education Coordinator, Claire Pendrigh, Blue Cow Theatre delivers bespoke programs that inspire students, support teachers, and brings theatre to schools that might otherwise have no opportunity for drama experiences.

These programs can also be made available to other schools and communities. If you have a dream for drama in your school, connect with us to find out what is possible!

# SUPPORT OUR WORK

Blue Cow Theatre receives generous support from the Tasmanian Government and the Minister for the Arts through Arts Tasmania.

Still, theatre is heavily labor-intensive. Blue Cow Theatre is a fully professional company, and wages absorb much of our available funding and box-office income.

We need support to offer new programs and development opportunities, and to create work not just for today but also for tomorrow.

That's where you come in!

Any and every donation is very welcome, but here's two specific ways you can work with Blue Cow Theatre in 2019/20 ...

## THE 300 CLUB

These valiant supporters are the backbone of the company. They are rock-solid supporters who pledge to contribute \$300 a year for 3 years.

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That's a total of \$900 over 3 years. It is "unattached money", not given for any specific purpose. It gives us the freedom to spontaneously respond to opportunities and create possibilities.

If you'd like to join The 300 Club, visit our website. And remember, your donations are tax-deductible.

## BUILDING THE FUTURE

On page 7 you can read about our young writers program – Future Proof – which breaks new ground in the development of Tasmanian theatre.

We are seeking 12 patrons to donate \$600 each to support our 12 emerging writers.

Your \$600 patronage will support one young writer to attend our 5-day residential writing program. The results of your patronage will be tangible: the residency will result in a production of new stage work in early 2020, to which you will be invited as a generous and far-sighted supporter of the program. And of course your donation is tax-deductible.

If you would like to support the Future Proof writers, visit our website or email Robert or Lucinda at [hello@bluecowtheatre.com](mailto:hello@bluecowtheatre.com)

# BLUE COW THEATRE

Blue Cow Theatre produces and presents invigorating theatre that is in touch with the times, that exhilarates and inspires artists, and that nourishes the hearts and minds of audiences.

Formed in 2010, Blue Cow Theatre's aspirations were modest and short-term, but Blue Cow has grown to be a small, respected regional theatre company with a significant national profile.

Now, in addition to an annual program of up to 4 productions, Blue Cow actively supports Tasmanian actors, writers, technicians and theatre artists through a variety of development opportunities. Our on-going programs include The Cowshed, our plays and playwrights development program, and placements for emerging artists and technicians. In 2019/20, Blue Cow is partnering with Australian Theatre for Young People to provide extensive opportunities and "real world" experiences for young Tasmanian playwrights, theatre artists and actors.

Beyond Hobart, Blue Cow regularly tours the state and nationally. In 2019 we are rehearsing and premiering a new work in Launceston, and in 2020 shall create a new work in the North-

West. Further, the generous support of Tasmanian company Tassal has allowed us to develop deep and on-going relationships with a number of regional Tasmanian schools and communities.

Blue Cow Theatre is excited by the future, as we continue supporting Tasmanian theatre artists and producing great stories, old and new.

## BOARD

Chairperson: **Adrian Smith**

Members: **Jason Fallscheer, Hugh Khull, Michael McLaughlin, Jeff Michel, Maryellen Salter, John Xintavelonis**

## STAFF

Artistic Director: **Robert Jarman**

General Manager: **Lucinda Toynbee Wilson**

Indigenous Associate Artist: **Jordy Gregg**

Education Program: **Claire Pendrigh**

Marketing: **Corporate Communications**

Finances: **WLF**

## ARTIST ADVISORY PANEL

**Heath Brown, Martine Delaney, Jordy Gregg, Guy Hooper, Tim Jarvis, Danielle Wood, Bella Young**

Brochure design - Nat Hiller

Brochure photography - Andy Wilson

# Thank you

Our Corporate sponsors and partners

Tassal, our major education program partner, Corporate Communications, our marketing and promotions partner, Mercury Walch, our media partner and National Storage.

Our Partners-in-Art

Siren Theatre Co, Three River, Ten Days on the Island, Theatre Royal, Salamanca Arts Centre, Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Australian Theatre for Young People and Australianplays.org

And our major Government partner the Tasmanian Government and Minister for the Arts through Arts Tasmania.

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## SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS



CORPORATE  
communications

Blue Cow Theatre gratefully  
acknowledges the assistance of The  
Minister for the Arts through Arts  
Tasmania





## CONTACTS

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