

La Boite presents *Play School's* Luke Carroll live in



The Wind in the Willows

BY **Kenneth Grahame** IN A NEW VERSION BY **Maxine Mellor**
DIRECTED BY **Kat Henry**



PRESENTER PACK

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COMPANY PROFILE

LA BOITE'S MISSION IS TO PRODUCE AND PRESENT EXHILARATING THEATRE THAT IS ALIVE TO THE PRESENT, EXTENDS AND INSPIRES ARTISTS, AND INVIGORATES THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF AUDIENCES.

We believe in theatre, not just plays. We recognise that our distinctive space demands a theatre that celebrates the theatrical; embraces movement, music and digital expression as well as the spoken word; enables a fluid and sensual relationship between actor and audience. This is the language of the contemporary imagination. We believe in reaching out beyond our walls – to independent artists and teams, key companies from Australia and beyond, festivals, and into communities that are eager to participate in what we do. This is what it means to be connected to the world.

La Boite's Roundhouse Theatre is an epic-intimate space and Australia's only purpose-built theatre-in-the-round. It's also flexible enough to be used

as a thrust stage with the audience on three sides. This 400-seat home stage offers a distinctive theatre experience.

MAINHOUSE

Mainhouse seasons look to new Australian work, fresh international theatre, great texts of the past, and to collaborations with diverse artists and organisations from across the nation and beyond. We aim to converse with the times - to unwrap the past and scrutinise the present as a means of expressing our aspirations for the future. We include work for children and young people and regularly present works regionally and nationally.

REGIONAL & TOURING

La Boite has always had a strong relationship with regional and remote Australia. Since 2006 La Boite has had a relationship with a number of communities in the Surat Basin, collaborating with schools and communities to create performances grounded in the local community. Touring work to regional Australia continues to be an important part of our work

LA BOITE INDIE

La Boite Indie is one of the leading platforms for independent theatre in Australia. It aims to nurture a more sustainable independent theatre culture, cultivate new audiences, enable closer ties between independent practice and La Boite, and to help create more outstanding, contemporary works for theatre. La Boite's financial resources allow us to occupy our theatre for about 30 weeks a year, and rather than leave it empty for the remaining time, we give it over to artists through this curated season of independent works. The Roundhouse Theatre is transformed into a more manageable 95-seat space, La Boite provides financial, technical, marketing and artistic assistance, and box office income is returned to the independent companies. La Boite continues to encourage opportunities for remounts and further development. Our partnership with QPAC sees one La Boite Indie production remounted at QPAC the following year.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

In 2013, we launched a new Playwrights-in Residence program for four writers, a deliberate attempt to develop the diversity of voices on our stages. We wanted to connect these writers nationally, so the program runs in partnership with Griffin Theatre Company and Playwriting Australia. It includes masterclasses and workshops with actors and dramaturgs, and activities designed to bring these writers into the life of the company. Kathryn Marquet's play *Pale Blue Dot* will be staged in our Mainhouse in 2014.

LEARNING & PARTICIPATION

La Boite creates opportunities to take part in what we do in ways that emphasise learning, creativity and discovery for everyone. We offer 32 weeks of acting masterclasses for adults, professional development workshops for teachers, curriculum-based workshops for school students, and internships for tertiary students and recent graduates. The Ambassadors Program is a year-long program for almost 200 high school and tertiary students from across Brisbane and regional Queensland. Ambassadors attend all productions for free, meet with creative teams, enjoy free workshops through the year, learn about La Boite programs, and take a leadership role in introducing the work of La Boite to their peers, schools, and families.

ABOUT THE SHOW

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS

by Kenneth Grahame in a new version by Maxine Mellor

SHOW SYNOPSIS

This is a charming, classic tale of adventure and discovery, in a brand-new one-man adaptation - starring Luke Carroll (*Play School*, *Black Diggers*).

Kenneth Grahame's rollicking tale of four woodland creatures is one of the true enduring classics of children's literature and writer/director team Maxine Mellor and Kat Henry have given it a fresh coat of paint. Join Ratty, Mole, Badger and the incorrigible Mr. Toad on their journeys, trials and misadventures around the river, the Wild Woods and beyond.

Featuring a magical set with plenty of surprises throughout, and playful costuming and props, *The Wind in the Willows* will take badgers (small and large) on a heartfelt and humorous adventure that explores humanity, time and the value of friendship these summer school holidays.

For children aged 4 - 12 and anyone who enjoys messing about in boats.

CREDITS

Director **Kat Henry**

Designer **Hugh O'Connor**

Lighting Designer **Keith Clark**

Composer & Sound Designer **Daniel Edmonds**

with **Luke Carroll**

BIOGRAPHIES

Kat Henry - Director

Kat Henry is a director and performer who has had a long association with the Queensland. She was Matilda Award-nominated for Best Direction in 2012 for her production of QTC's *Orphans* and has been Resident Director in their Greenhouse Program. Also for Queensland Theatre Company Kat has directed the 2010 Young Playwrights Program as part of the Queensland Writers Festival and Assistant Directed for Michael Gow and for Jon Halpin. Kat has also assistant directed for Sarah Goodes at the Sydney Theatre Company and directed in Opera Queensland's Moving Opera Program as well as at La Boîte. In 2013 Kat directed at Melbourne's Red Stitch Actors Theatre the critically acclaimed productions of *About Tommy* and *Foxfinder*. In 2011 Kat directed the Queensland premiere of *The Ugly One* for 23rd Productions and in 2010 she was part of La Boite's creative development of *The Kransky Sister's meets Chekhov's Three Sisters*, directed by David Berthold. Kat has directed the musicals *Miss Saigon* and *Sondheim's Assassins* at QPAC,

regularly teaches at NIDA and has been lecturer and tutor in drama performance at the University of Queensland and QUT. Kat graduated from NIDA's postgraduate directing program in 2009.

Maxine Mellor – Playwright

Maxine is an award winning playwright from Brisbane, Queensland. She won Queensland Theatre Company's Young Playwrights Award (2001, 2002, 2003); the George Landen Dann Award (2005); a Matilda Award for Best New Work for Production (2005); and a Matilda Award nomination for Best Emerging Artist (2008). In 2012, Maxine won Inscription's Edward Albee Scholarship to reside and work in NYC, and the 2012/2013 Queensland Premier's Drama Award. Maxine was an Australian playwright delegate at World Interplay (2005); Associate Writer with QTC (2006-2008); an alumnus of the Australian Theatre for Young People's Fresh Ink writing program (2008, 2009); recipient of ATYP's Fresh Ink inaugural commission (2010); one of Playlab's Lab Rats playwrights (2011); and a Resident Playwright at La Boite Theatre Company in 2013 to develop Remains. Recent productions include Sleeping Horses Lie for Terrapin Puppet Theatre, a new version of The Wizard of Oz (Danger Ensemble/La Boite Theatre Company), and Trollop for Queensland Theatre Company. Most recently, Maxine has returned from Inscription's USATour in Playwriting & Screenwriting with readings hosted at South Coast Repertory & Manhattan Theatre Club in NYC. Her work has been performed nationally and is published by Playlab Press and the Australian Script Centre. She tutors privately and through organisations.

Luke Carroll – Actor

Carroll started out in guest roles in some Australian shows, including The Flying Doctors, Lift Off, The Man from Snowy River, Ocean Girl and Water Rats. He shot to fame in 2002, where he had a leading role in the film Australian Rules. This led to Carroll having regular roles in some Australian dramas, including The Alice (2005) and the mini-series RAN (2006). In 2007, Carroll had a busy year. First up, he co-hosted (with Cathy Freeman) Going Bush, a travel show for SBS. In mid-2007, he had finished filming in the film The Tender Hook, and also filmed a seven-week stint in the soap, Home and Away. In September 2009, he hosted The Deadlys for SBS.[1] In 2009, he co-starred in the film, Stone Bros. and appeared in Subdivision. In 2010 he starred in Needle. He has also appeared in an Australian government advertisement about being "Climate Clever" Awards: 2002: Nominated in Best Actor in a Supporting Role at AFI Awards for his role in Australian Rules[2] 2005: Nominated for Actor of the Year at The Deadlys for his role in The Alice; 2006: Nominated in Best Guest or Supporting Actor in Television Drama at AFI Awards for his role in RAN; 2009: Nominated for Actor of the Year at The Deadlys for his role in Stone Bros.[3]

PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS

DURATION

Act 1 – 50 mins (no interval)

SUITABLE VENUES

Technical Rating C – Theatres with stage size of 10m x 8m (can be adapted for some smaller venues. No fly tower required. Some rigged snow and leaf drops. Can be adapted for most rigs.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES PER WEEK

10 performances per week

MINIMUM BREAK BETWEEN PERFORMANCES

120 minutes

APRA OBLIGATIONS

Original music is used and no APRA is payable. This is covered by the royalty package.

TOURING PERSONNEL

The touring party consists of 3 people.

Role	Name
Touring Technician	TBC
Stage Manager	Jessica Ross
Cast x 1	Luke Carroll

PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Year	Venue	Number of performances
January 2014	Roundhouse Theatre	14

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

OVERVIEW

There are a range of audience engagement opportunities which can be included with the production and can explore both the working method of the artists involved in creating the production as well as the play itself. See below more detail regarding each opportunity.

1. POST-SHOW Q&A WITH ACTORS

These 30min sessions are invaluable for all audiences to engage in the creation of the work and to understand the process of performance. These are free to presenters and can be offered for all performances. It is also possible to arrange to have the director and writer present for Q&A sessions (subject to availability and travel costs).

2. IN-SCHOOLS OR COMMUNITY PERFORMANCES

Where a performance would be valuable in-school, hospital or a community venue without theatre equipment, this could be accommodated in conjunction with an in-theatre season. A valuable addition to increase community access to theatre where travel or cost may be a barrier.

2. WORKSHOPS

La Boite Theatre Company is also offering 2-day kids workshops for *The Wind in the Willows* for children aged six to 12. These workshops foster the development of performance skills in an exciting, interactive and hands-on environment. Artists can be provided or can train presenting venues to run these workshops themselves.

3. WRITING FOR CHILDREN WITH MAXINE MELLOR

Maxine can provide workshops in the intricate and sometimes mysterious art/science of playwriting. This would be useful for students studying writing as part of Drama or the English syllabus. Additional fees apply.

MARKETING

MARKETING COPY

One line

Play School's Luke Carroll stars in this world premiere one-man production of the classic adventures of Ratty, Mole, Badger and Mr. Toad

Short

This is a charming, classic tale of adventure and discovery, in a brand-new one-man adaptation - starring Luke Carroll (*Play School, Black Diggers*).

Kenneth Grahame's rollicking tale of four woodland creatures is one of the true enduring classics of children's literature and writer/director team Maxine Mellor and Kat Henry have given it a fresh coat of paint. Join Ratty, Mole, Badger and the incorrigible Mr. Toad on their journeys, trials and misadventures around the river, the Wild Woods and beyond.

Extended

"Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."

Bring your little badgers to a charming tale of adventure and discovery, in a brand-new one-man adaptation - starring Luke Carroll (*Play School, Black Diggers*).

Kenneth Grahame's rollicking tale of four woodland creatures is one of the true enduring classics of children's literature and writer/director team Maxine Mellor and Kat Henry have given it a fresh coat of paint.

Join Ratty, Mole, Badger and the incorrigible Mr. Toad on their journeys, trials and misadventures around the river, the Wild Woods and beyond.

Full of heart and humour, *The Wind in the Willows* gently addresses some of the big questions about humanity, time and the value of friendship.

For children aged 4 - 12 and anyone who enjoys messing about in boats.

MARKETING SUMMARY

There are a huge range of marketing materials available for the production which have been developed by La Boite and it's media partners

- ➔ Trailer (30 Sec cinema and online-ready trailer)
- ➔ Exceptional print-quality free Production and Rehearsal photography
- ➔ Poster, flyer and print advertisements
- ➔ Social media posts and campaign material
- ➔ Media release with existing review quotes.

MEDIA QUOTES

The production has not premiered yet.

AUDIENCE REVIEWS

The production has not premiered yet.

VIDEO LINKS



The Wind in the Willows Trailer - La Boite Theatre - YouTube

www.youtube.com/watch?v=qveXgbf8pww

PRODUCTION IMAGES

High Res available on request.

MARKETING MATERIALS

Available on request.

CONTENT WARNINGS / AUDIENCES TO AVOID

There are no specific content warnings. The production does contain some audience participation.

SPONSOR OR OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The production was supported by the Australia Council for the Arts, Arts Queensland and both of these funders should be acknowledged on all collateral associated with the production. Specific logo and text acknowledgements will be provided as part of the full marketing pack.

TEACHER'S RESOURCES

TBC

PRODUCTION DETAILS

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

The set consists of 3 staging sections or 'islands', Island 1 dimensions are 4800mm deep and 4800mm wide, Island 2 - 2400mm deep and 3100mm wide, Island 3 – 1500mm Deep and 1300mm wide. The set pieces rake from 600mm high to 400mm high over the three islands. Island 2 contains a small wooden boat. All pieces are constructed in sections with a plywood frame and plywood floor. Please see set plans attached for further details. Set contains minor automation (flowers) built into the set. These are controlled via a dimmer channel. Set Electrics – TBC.

SET TRANSPORT

3.5T Truck

COSTUME & PROPS

TBC

SPECIAL EFFECTS

1 x DMX Snow Machine (1200mm wide x 250mm deep)
1 x Leaf Drop – Details TBC
1 x Steering Wheel Drop – Details TBC
1 x Weather Balloon on rope and pulley. (Moon/Sun)
Flowers – 12 Volt Car antennas and DMX relay controls

LIGHTING

TBC

Audio

1x Mac Pro running QLab software
1x Motu UltraLight
1x Shure Wireless Mics with receivers

EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

PRE RIG AND SETUP – Lighting

- Lighting as per plan (to be provided closer to bump in), patch notes and focus notes.
- All lighting units to be rigged coloured and patched as per the generic lighting plan prior to Company arriving to your venue.
- Lighting to be focused during Company Bump In.

BUMP IN

2 x Lighting Technicians x 4 hours

1 x Sound Technician x 2 hours

2 x Staging Technician x 4 hours

(Sound and one Staging Technician could be the same person)

All Personnel to assist with unloading the truck

Will provide schedule closer to date.

PERFORMANCE

No Operating Technicians required

Everything operated by Touring Production Manager/Head Technician

BUMP OUT

1 x Lighting Technician x 3 hours (not set back to standard)

2 x Stage Crew x 3 hours (not set back to standard)

(All Personnel to assist with loading the truck if required)

GENERAL STORAGE

Additional tour items not in use and road cases may need to be stored in your venue during the season. An area approximately 2-3 cubic meters in the backstage area will be sufficient.

MASKING

Borders and Legs – TBC

AUDIO AND TALK BALK

Standard FOH System with Sub if possible

(All speaker rigging, cabling, amplification and system processing as required by each venue)

2 x talk back headsets

QUICK CHANGE AREAS

N/A

DRESSING ROOMS

1 for male cast member

1 for touring production team

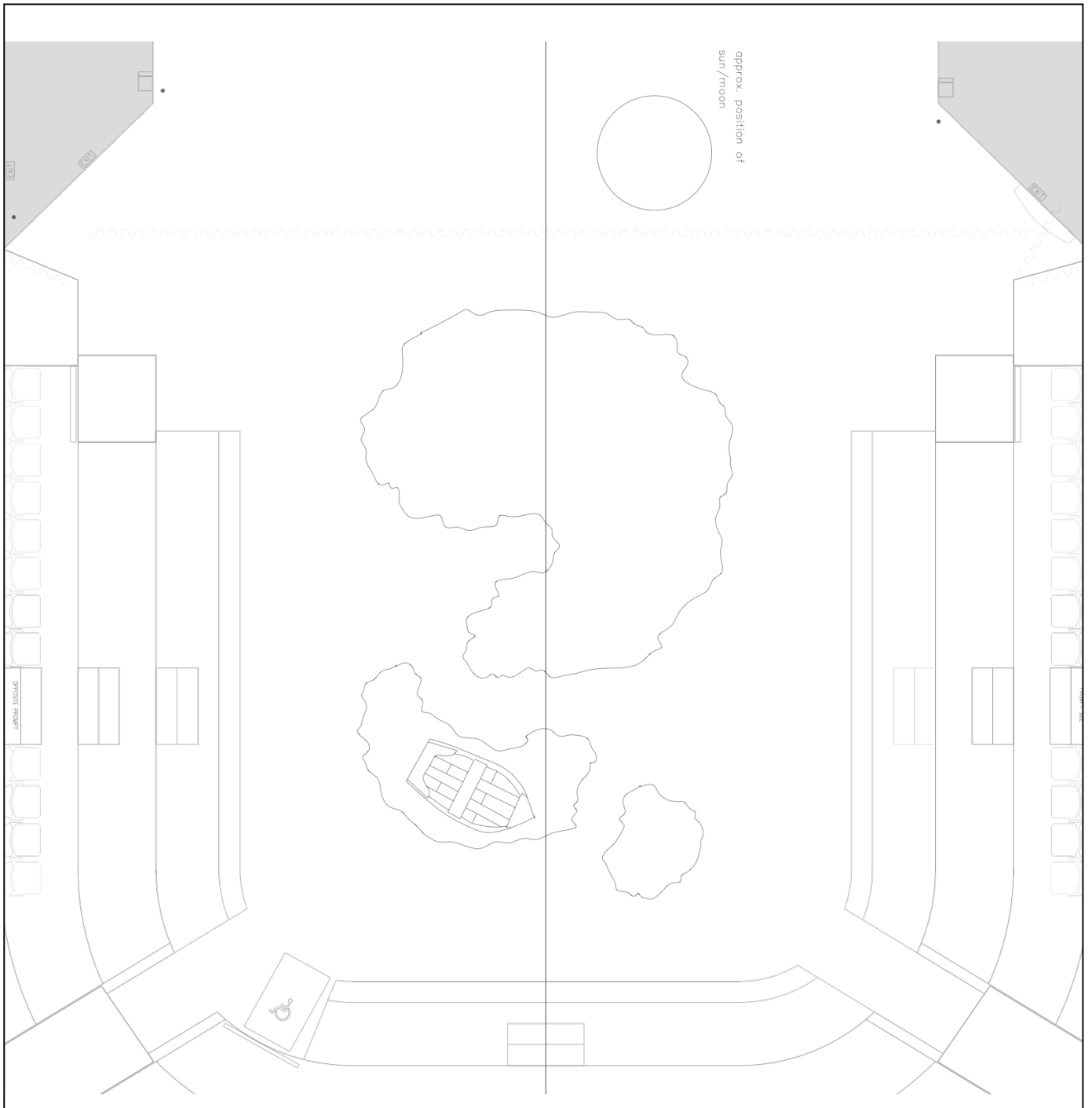
LAUNDRY / WARDROBE REQ

Access to washing machine, a clothes rack/horse, dryer, iron and ironing board

CLOTHES RACK

1 in male dressing room

ORIGINAL SET DRAWINGS



CONTACTS

La Boite Theatre Company General Contacts

Box Office & Administration (07) 3007 8600

Roundhouse Theatre, The Works, Level 5, 6-8 Musk Avenue, Kelvin Grove, QLD 4059

Postal: La Boite Theatre Company, PO Box 212, Kelvin Grove QLD 4059

Producing Enquiries

Rhys Holden, General Manager, 07 3007 8602 (direct), 07 3007 8600 (switch),

rhys@laboite.com.au

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Don Mackenzie, Head of Production, 07 3007 8606, don@laboite.com.au

Marketing & Publicity Enquiries

Elisha Oatley, Marketing Manager, 07 3007 8603, elisha@laboite.com.au