Audio Description Pre show Information Package for

**Naturally Curious at BATS Theatre on 16 November at 6.30pm**

There will be an Audio Described performance on Thursday, 16thNov at 6.30pm with a touch tour at 6pm. Everyone is welcome to the touch tour, whether sighted or not.

When you enter the theatre, you will walk through the middle of the seating block, up to where the staging area begins. There is no raised stage area- the whole floor level is the stage. This means that the front row is very close to the action! To take a seat, you will have to turn to your left, or to your right, and then turn the same direction again to face the seating, which is in raised tiers, and which you will need to climb steps to access. You may sit where you please, since there are no allocated seat numbers for this show. The seats in this theatre fold up, so you will need to reach down and fold your seat down before you sit on it.

The set is made up of the black box of the theatre space- the walls, the floor, the ceiling are all painted black. The back wall has 3 places from where actors will make their entrances and exits- two doors, one on either side, and a double door in the middle of the back wall. There are also four large panels, spread across the middle of the stage at regular intervals. These panels are as tall as two bedroom doors, if they were stacked one on top of the other. The panels are as wide as 1 ½ bedroom doors and about twice as thick. Each surface of each panel is covered with a colourful picture or design, and throughout the play, the panels will be moved around to form various backdrops for various scenes. When you first arrive in the space, the four panels face the audience end on, so what is on display is their narrow width, showing shimmering pastel colours in abstract splashes.

The play is a mix of clown, dance, movement, drag and music. It consists of a prelude and three acts with 4 actors playing all the parts.

Each act of the play explores a different aspect of the animal kingdom, from the air, the land and the water, with animals being the protagonists and the heroes and humans very often being the fools.

For every act, there will be a scene change creating the new and different world we are in. This effect will be achieved by turning the 4 panels and moving them around the stage to create various kinds of backdrops, depending on which side of each panel faces the audience, and what image is revealed on each panel. Costume and lighting also play a large part in setting the various scenes.

The show runs for 1 hour and 30 minutes without an interval.

During the show if you have any issues with the audio description equipment please raise your hand, and someone will come over to help you out. The AD receivers have a headphone jack and come with a small round earpiece which can go on either ear- you may prefer to bring your own headphones. If you have trouble hearing the AD due to background noise try cupping one hand over the ear with the earpiece.

The program credits are as follows

Written by Evangelina Telfar

Director Fingal Pollock

Dramaturg Evangelina Telfar

Producers Evangelina Telfar & Nathan Mudge

Funding Support Tyler Clarke

Production Manager Abby Lyons

Stage Manager Ace Dalziel

Stage Manager Intern Erin Bickley

Publicist Austin Harrison

Set and Props Design Dannii Kellett

Costume Design Victoria Gridley

Costume Supervisor Sarah Bell

Lighting Design Isadora Lao

Drag Song Composition Evangelina Telfar

Composition/ Sound Design Mentee Victoria Norgrove

Composition/ Sound Design Mentor Ben Kelly

Choreographer El Yule

Drag Performance & Makeup Consultant Hannah Carnihan (AKA Willy SmacknTush)

Gender Play and Intimacy Support Sara Hirsch-Fagan

Wellbeing Support Jean Sergent

Graphic Design & Poster Photography Aimée Sullivan

Audio Description Sameena Zehra

Drag Song Sound Technicians Phil Brownlee & Mike Gibson

Drag Song Musicians

Ingrid Saker, Jthan Morgan, Kelsi Stroud, Alayne Dick, Jules Daniel, Liv Campion, Matt Hutton, Lily Hogdson-Bell, Ness Martin, Eilish Wilson, Aryton Foote, Hikurangi Schaverien-Kaa

Cast

Mother Albatrross Q Walker

Male Albatross Cassidy Kemp-Woffenden

Male Albatross/ Baby Albatross Waitahi Aniwaniwa McGee

Female Albatross Megan Connolly

Albatross Narrator James Cain

Wrasse Berry Cassidy Kemp-Woffenden

Ovis Q Walker

Dolly Waitahi Aniwaniwa McGee

Merino Cassidy Kemp-Woffenden

Femme Narrator Megan Connolly

Cock of the Rock Megan Connolly

Poma Cassidy Kemp-Woffenden

Cula Waitahi Aniwaniwa McGee

Emone Q Walker

Bear It All Megan Connolly

Enjoy the show. We welcome feedback about this show from your point of view. Let us know what worked, and let us know where we could have done better. Access is an ongoing process, and when we know better, we can do better.