

Media Release
For immediate release

Tasmania Performs presents a Blue Cow Theatre production

TWELVE TIMES HE SPOKE



Touring Regional Tasmania 9 – 24 November 2018

How can you put a whole life on stage?

After a stellar premier season in the Theatre Royal Backspace in July, Tasmania Performs is bringing Twelve Times He Spoke to regional towns across Tasmania in November.

It begins simply enough, mapping the twists and turns of one man's unremarkable life. But the course he has charted is not the one that unfolds, and he ends up in places – some quite dark – that were never part of his plan. The fortunes, mishaps, and joys of his years provide a life-long reminder that happiness and comfort can be found in the *seemingly insignificant*. That the unremarkable can in fact grow to something rich and rare.

Written by multi-award winning playwright Finegan Kruckemeyer, *Twelve Time He Spoke* follows the journey of one man's life reflected a selection of speeches and intimate moments in which one man chooses, or is chosen, to speak before a gathered group of others: his classmates, his teammates, friends, colleagues and strangers. The audience bears witness to his life in moments as he puts himself "on the public record", to say the things that need to be said.

This is vital and engaging theatre. One that gets to the heart of the way men navigate their place in the world.....It's the kind of work that makes you think of your father, brother, partner and the moments they've struggled to speak in public, and the moments they've overcome the terror because what they needed to say was more important than their fear.

~ ARTSHUB Review by Kath Melbourne

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Friday 9 November 2 - Kettering Community Hall
Saturday 10 November - Moonah Arts Centre
Thursday 15 November - Deloraine Little Theatre
Friday 16 November - paranapple arts centre, Devonport
Saturday 17 November - Stanley Town Hall
Wednesday 21 November - Palais Theatre, Franklin
Friday 23 November - Portland Memorial Hall, St Helens
Saturday 24 November - Swansea Town Hall

For times, ticketing details and more visit www.tasperforms.com

CREATIVE TEAM

PLAYWRIGHT: Finegan Kruckemeyer
PERFORMER: Guy Hooper
DIRECTOR/DESIGNER: Ben Winspear
SOUND DESIGNER: Heath Brown
STAGE & TOUR MANAGER: Adam 'Gus' Powers
PRODUCER: Blue Cow Theatre

DURATION

70 minutes (no interval)

PATRONS ADVICE

Suitable for ages 16+
Contains adult themes and some strong language

MEDIA CONTACT FOR INTERVIEWS WITH CREATIVE TEAM

Senior Producer - Annette Downs
Phone – 0409 231 458
Email - annette.downs@tasperforms.com

READ THE FULL ARTS HUB REVIEW

<https://performing.artshub.com.au/news-article/reviews/performing-arts/kath-melbourne/review-blue-cow-theatres-twelve-times-he-spoke-255998>

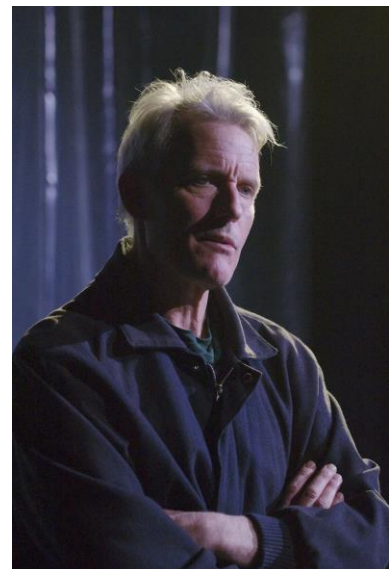
MEDIA RESOURCES – for media purposes only

Vimeo Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/295493234>

Hero Images: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u8nmmmzo8q6oiuj/AAB4vkv-neH9qEvvQMBcn9Ka?dl=0>

HERO IMAGES – Photo Credit Tony McKendrick

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u8nmmmzo8g6oiuj/AAB4vkv- neH9qEvvQMBcn9Ka?dl=0>



ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF TWELVE TIMES HE SPOKE

Commissioned by Blue Cow Theatre, Tasmania Performs and Guy Hooper. The production premiered June 28 – July 7, 2018 at the Theatre Royal Backspace, presented by Blue Cow Theatre.

The project, originally titled *Speech*, comprised short works by Tom Holloway, Finegan Kruckemeyer, Sean Monro, Carrie McLean and Ryk Goddard; funded by Tasmania Performs. A creative development of *Speech* with dramaturge Aidan Fennessy was funded by the Theatre Council of Tasmania. *Twelve Times He Spoke* by Finegan Kruckemeyer was commissioned by Guy Hooper, Blue Cow Theatre and Tasmania Performs. The commission was funded with the assistance of Regional Arts Australia, and Arts Tasmania. *Twelve Times He Spoke* is produced by Blue Cow Theatre and the Regional Tasmanian Tour is presented by Tasmania Performs.

ABOUT TASMANIA PERFORMS

Tasmania Performs began in 2006 as a state government performing arts initiative and works in partnership with artists and regional communities to present excellent Tasmanian performances across the state. TP works with emerging independent artists to increase their skills and sector awareness; to produce the work of these and more established artists; we commission new works, connect artists with national and international presenters; and where appropriate manage the resulting tours.

ABOUT BLUE COW THEATRE

From modest beginnings in 2010, Blue Cow Theatre has grown to become a small but respected regional theatre company with a significant national profile. Dedicated to the development of Tasmanian artists, Blue Cow has premiered 13 original Tasmanian works, plus a range of contemporary Australian and international works. We have also produced one classic work, our 2016 production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, which garnered a record eight awards in the 2017 Tasmanian Theatre Awards. Our hugely successful plays-and-playwrights development program, *The Cowshed*, is now in its fourth year, supporting over a dozen Tasmanian writers at all stages of development. Blue Cow is excited by the future, as we continue our evolution as Tasmania's new writing theatre, supporting Tasmanian artists and producing great stories, old and new.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

FINEGAN KRUCKEMEYER – Playwright

Previously for Blue Cow Theatre: *Simon's Final Sound*.

Finegan has had 86 commissioned plays performed on five continents and translated into six languages. His work has enjoyed seasons in 200 international festivals and at the Sydney Opera House (six works), DC's Kennedy Centre (three works), NY's Lincoln Centre (three works), Dublin's Abbey Theatre and Shanghai's Malan Flower Theatre. He has received 36 awards over the past 13 years, including the 2017 Mickey Miners Lifetime Achievement Award for services to international Theatre for Young Audiences, 2015 David Williamson Prize for Excellence in Australian Playwrighting, six Australian Writers Guild Awards and an inaugural Sidney Myer Fellowship. He has spoken at conferences in ten countries, with papers published and works studied at international universities. Find out more at www.finegankruckemeyer.com

GUY HOOPER – Performer

Previously for Blue Cow: *Simon's Final Sound* (2 seasons and national tour), *The State of the Tasmanian Economy* (2 seasons), *100 Reasons for War*, *The Tempest*.

Guy has worked professionally as a performer, deviser, director and teacher of theatre for over 25 years. Guy has been an ensemble member of Death Defying Theatre, Circus Oz, The Murray River Performing Group, and, since 1992, a freelance actor working for theatre companies including Back to Back, Playbox, La Mama, Elston, Hocking & Woods, HotHouse, The Flying Fruit Fly Circus, Tasmanian Theatre Company and Blue Cow Theatre. Since moving to Tasmania with his family in 2007, Guy has appeared in productions for TTC (*The Messiah*, *And No More Shall We Part*, *Born From Animals*, *Poxed*, *Sex Death and a Cup of Tea*), Next Stage (*The Country*), Round Earth Company's *The Ship That Never Was* and Terrapin's *The Riddle of Washpool Gully*. *Twelve Times*

He Spoke is Guy's fifth production with Blue Cow. Guy directed *The Trade* and *Sick* for TTC, and has also worked as director/writer on a number of community cultural development projects with the Second Echo Ensemble (*Book, Branch, Bench*) and the Generations Ensemble Theatre

BEN WINSPEAR – Director/Designer

Ben has directed a number of new productions for Sydney Theatre Company, where he was Resident Director for three years including *Morph*, *These People*, *This Little Piggy*, *Metamorphosis* and *Thyestes*. He also co-directed *Victory* for STC. Other productions include *Saved* (NIDA), *Insect!*, *Pantagleize*, and *Monkey* (UNSW), *Silver* (Downstairs Belvoir), *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *The Tempest* (STC Education), *Monkey* (Big Monkey), *The Gardens Of Paradise* (Ten Days), and *The Bluebird* (Cranbrook School). As Associate Artist for Griffin Theatre he was Associate Director on *Gloria* and will be returning to Griffin later in the year to direct the premiere production of *Feather In The Web*.

HEATH BROWN – Sound Designer

Previously for Blue Cow: *Tidal Pools*, *The Surgeon's Hand* and *Grounded*.

Heath Brown is an Australian composer with a strong focus on collaborative projects. His work ranges from film and TV to performing arts and installation. He has written scores for three feature films (*Chocolate Strawberry Vanilla*, *41* and *El Monstro Del Mar!*) and over 40 shorts. He has received a number of awards, including the award for Best Original Score at the 2012 Maverick Movie Awards for his score to *41*. He also composed the score for the multi-award winning web series *Noirhouse* and the ABC documentary series *Bespoke*. In 2015 Heath collaborated with Aly Rae Patmore in composing a performance-based musical element for Patricia Piccinini and Peter Hennessey's large scale installation *The Shadow's Calling* at Detached and presented as part of DarkMOFO 2015. Heath has written extensively for the theatre, notably Terrapin Puppet Theatre (*Red Racing Hood*, *Big Baby*, *The Waltzing Tree*) and Tasmanian Theatre Co. (*Sex With Strangers*, *Born From Animals*, *The Boy With the Longest Shadow*, *Poxed*). His work has appeared in a number of arts festivals including *Ten Days on the Island* (*Poxed*) and *Dark MOFO* (*The Geometry of Innocent Flesh on the Bone* – a collaborative installation work with Oscar Ferreiro) and *The Tasmanian International Arts Festival* (*Radio Gothic*). Heath has also written music for television and radio commercials, winning the 2012 Tasmanian Advertising Design Awards category of Best Original Music. Heath holds a BA (Philosophy) and BMus (Composition) from UTAS, where he now lectures in several specialised units including Music for Vision.

ADAM (GUS) POWERS – Stage/Tour Manager

Previously for Blue Cow: *Mind How You Go*.

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.