

PERTH FESTIVAL

9 FEBRUARY –
4 MARCH 2018

MEDIA RELEASE: 09 November 2017

YOU KNOW WE BELONG TOGETHER

Julia Hales and collaborators (Australia)

A Black Swan State Theatre Company, Perth Festival and DADAA production

WORLD PREMIERE

We fall into it and out of it, this crazy little thing called love. It's a battlefield, an open door and it's even in the air. But what does love really mean to you?

You Know We Belong Together is a theatrical celebration of the power of love and the pursuit of dreams.

Co-creator and host **Julia Hales** offers a deeply personal story of her own experiences of love as a daughter, actor, dreamer and person with Down syndrome.

With video, song, dance and storytelling, *You Know We Belong Together* celebrates the voices and aspirations of a community we rarely get to see on stage.

This is an uplifting tale of love, relationships, acceptance and belonging – and Julia's life-long dream of appearing on the long-running TV drama *Home and Away*.



Perth Festival continues its commitment to disability in the arts by co-commissioning this new work from Julia Hales, working with director Clare Watson, the Artistic Director of Black Swan State Theatre Company and co-writer and associate director Finn O'Branagáin.

Festival Artistic Director Wendy Martin said: '*You Know We Belong Together* brings Julia Hales, a unique new Western Australian voice, to the main stage. It is exciting for us to be co-producing this world-premiere production, a work that I know audiences will love.'

This world-premiere is the first professional work for Hales, who has been developing her skills in writing, dance, theatre and the screen for 20 years through DADAA's award-winning Community Arts and Cultural Development program.

A highlight of the Festival's closing weekend in March, *You Know We Belong Together* is a centrepiece of the Festival's commitment towards greater access and expression for disability arts in partnership with DADAA (Disability in the Arts, Disadvantage in the Arts WA).



Working through the ground-breaking Festival Connect program, the Festival and DADAA are supporting exchanges between outstanding artists with disability and the WA arts and disability community. Previous guest artists have been Claire Cunningham, Jenny Sealey and Back to Back Theatre.

YOU KNOW WE BELONG TOGETHER

WHERE: Studio Underground, State Theatre Centre

WHEN: 1 – 3 Mar at 7.30pm, 4 Mar at 5pm

TICKETS: \$36

BOOKINGS AND FESTIVAL INFO: 08 6488 5555 – perthfestival.com.au

Supported by:



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CO PRODUCTION PARTNERS:



BLACK SWAN
STATE THEATRE
COMPANY



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Perth Festival

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, Perth Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 64 years the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with hundreds of thousands of people each year.

Wendy Martin is the Artistic Director 2016–19.

