



## You Know We Belong Together

JULIA HALES, CLARE WATSON

A Perth Festival, Black Swan Theatre Company and DAADA Co – Production

AUSTRALIAN 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 story of love; a theatrical celebration of this incredible force of nature that can strike us like a bolt out of the blue. 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. Bringing to the stage the voices and aspirations of a community we rarely get to see, *You Know We Belong Together* is an uplifting tale of love, relationships, acceptance and belonging – and Julia's life-long dream of appearing on *Home and Away*. With video, dance and song this world premiere production might just have you hugging your bestie in the aisles.

### Julia Hales biography

Julia Hales is an independent artist, actress, public speaker and leader.

Julia is a dedicated performer who creates works focused on universal desires of identity, fame and love. She is in constant pursuit of performance opportunities and skill development. She has co-devised her own work and performed at the State Theatre Centre of WA, the Blueroom, PICA, PIAF 2016 and on ABC radio.

Julia Hales began working with DADAA in 1997 on performance projects such as Lovebytes and Keep on Dancing Girl. In 1998 Julia was supported by DADAA to audition for the WA Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) one-year course and was accepted. Her work since then includes dance, theatre and screen.

In 2014 Julia undertook a master class in performance at the WA Academy of Performing Arts.

Julia's was accepted into the Arts Access Australia and Australia Council for the Arts' Sync leadership program in October 2015 and will complete the program with evaluation in September this year. The Sync Leadership Program was presented by UK-based co-founders Jo Verrent, artist, Senior Producer with Unlimited and consultant with disability, and Sarah Pickthall, consultant, coach, community producer and diversity engineer.

Julia is currently researching and developing a new theatre work based on her FINDING LOVE film – also through the Digital Dialogues project.

## Clare Watson biography

Clare commenced in the role of Artistic Director of Black Swan State Theatre Company in October 2016. Previously, Clare was Artistic Director at St Martins collaborating with children and teenagers. Her recent work includes *I saw the second one hit* (Malthouse Theatre) and *Fitter. Faster. Better.* (Dance Massive, Junction Arts Festival, Malthouse Theatre). She directed the critically acclaimed *What Rhymes with Cars and Girls* for Melbourne Theatre Company in 2015, which received four Helpmann nominations including Best Director.

In 2014 Clare was Female Director-in-Residence at Malthouse Theatre and she is an MTC Women Directors Program alumna.

Her stage credits also include *I Heart John McEnroe* (Uninvited Guests/Theatre Works – winner Green Room Award for Best Ensemble, and five nominations including Best Director); *The Man with the September Face* by Kylie Trounson (Full Tilt/Arts Centre); *Smashed* by Lally Katz (Stables); and *Hotel* (Melbourne Fringe Festival – winner Best Director).

In 2016, her mainstage work has also included *Lungs* by Duncan MacMillan at Melbourne Theatre Company and *The Events* by David Greig for Malthouse and Belvoir, Sydney Festival and Adelaide Festival.

In 2008, she received a scholarship for a three month residency in Brussels. Clare has a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education from The University of Melbourne, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Theatre Directing from the Victorian College of the Arts.

Clare is a trained teacher and worked in high schools in Victoria for 15 years and was also Education Manager at Malthouse Theatre.

**Website:** <https://perthfestival.com.au/whats-on/events/you-know-we-belong-together/>  
<https://www.bsstc.com.au/plays/you-know-we-belong-together>

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*Wendy Martin is the Artistic Director 2016 – 19.*

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