

MEDIA RELEASE

Umbrella Foundation presents



DRIFTWOOD THE MUSICAL HEADING TO SYDNEY AFTER RECEIVING WONDERFUL REVIEWS IN MELBOURNE

"Driftwood The Musical is a must-see production that tells a powerful and inspirational story of survival, perseverance, and creativity. Expertly brought to life by a gifted cast and a visionary creative team, Driftwood stands as a magnificent display of theatrical brilliance that leaves an indelible mark on the hearts of all who witness it." **Dance Life Australia**

"Driftwood ticks all the warm and fuzzy boxes. That's what audiences need and want! To leave the theatre feeling uplifted and grateful for their lot in life. This musical might be 'small in scale, but it's big on emotion! Don't miss it!" **Stage Whispers**

Driftwood The Musical is based on the epic memoir "*Driftwood – Escape and Survival through Art*", by **Eva de Jong-Duldig**. This memoir is an account of Eva's parents' escape from Austria after the Anschluss of 1938, and their journey to Melbourne where they eventually settled. Eva's mother *Slawa*, was a painter and designer, and among her inventions was the foldable umbrella. Her father *Karl Duldig* was an acclaimed sculptor, and the redemptive power of art plays a pivotal role in this story.

Driftwood the Musical comes direct to Sydney after receiving rave reviews in Melbourne along with a 2022 Green Room Award nomination. It will play at **Glen Street Theatre, Belrose** from **24 to 28 May**. It then transers to **Riverside Theatres, Parramatta** from **31 May to 4 June** and onto **Eternity Playhouse, Darlinghurst** from **7 to 18 June**.

*"An Australian musical of impressive quality and innate humanity, **Driftwood the Musical** deserves every success as it spreads its inspiring message of joy and hope."* **Man in Chair**

“Driftwood The Musical is a wonderful piece of theatre and a vivid affirmation of survival in adversity. The theatre has always been the most direct medium for interpreting the world, and Driftwood is an example of works which, while examining the past, can carry us into a future imbued with greater understanding.” **Australian Stage**

*“**** Whether you’re a fan of musical theatre or simply seeking an unforgettable and thought-provoking experience, **Driftwood** is a must-see production that will leave you moved, inspired and filled with renewed hope, as you hold a melody in your heart.”* **On the House**



The cast features **Tania de Jong AM** as Slawa, **Anton Berezin** as Karl, **Bridget Costello** as Eva, **Michaela Burger** as Rella and **Nelson Gardner** who plays Ignaz, Marcel and other roles.

This epic story that traverses three continents and three generations is based on an original stage play by **Jane Bodie**, and memoir of **Eva de Jong-Duldig**. Book by Gary Abrahams and Jane Bodie, music and lyrics by Anthony Barnhill, additional lyrics by Jane Bodie and Tania de Jong AM. The show is directed by **Gary Abrahams**.

2023 production images

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/s3sf4l1gt3a7lbz/AABDAEeYb09APFqfhKklqoDXa?dl=0>

Photo credit: James Terry

<https://driftwoodthemusical.com.au/best-production-photos-2023/>

Photo credit: FrancoisVaccarello

www.driftwoodthemusical.com.au

VENUE: Glen Street Theatre, Cnr Glen St & Blackbutts Rd, Belrose
SEASON: Wednesday 24 - Sunday 28 May
PRICES: All tickets \$65
BOOKINGS: <https://glenstreet.com.au/whats-on/driftwood-musical>

VENUE: Riverside Theatres, Cnr Church & Market Sts, Parramatta
SEASON: Wednesday 31 May – Sunday 4 June
PRICES: \$39.90 - \$69.90
BOOKINGS: <https://riversideparramatta.com.au/show/driftwood-the-musical/>

VENUE: Eternity Playhouse, 39 Burton Street, Darlinghurst
SEASON: Wednesday 7 June – Sunday 18 June
PRICES: \$49 - \$89
BOOKINGS: darlinghursttheatre.com/driftwood

For media information please contact Amanda Buckworth, AB Publicity
E: amanda@abpublicity.com.au M: 0413 949 140