



**Southbank Theatre**  
The Sumner

**Thursday 22 – Sunday 25 October**

Thu — Sat at 7pm

Sat also at 1pm

Sun at 1pm & 6.30pm

2 hrs incl. interval

A Reserve \$59 / \$49 / \$149 (Family)

Students \$25

Transaction fees may apply

[www.festival.melbourne](http://www.festival.melbourne)

Southbank Theatre 03 8688 0800

Ticketmaster 136 100

**Post Show Talk - Sat 24 October**

Matinee

FREE

#melbfest

AUSTRALIA // Theatre+Family

Melbourne Festival co-commission

Melbourne Festival presents

## MASQUERADE

**Written by Kate Mulvany,**

**based on the book by Kit Williams**

**Griffin Theatre Company and State Theatre  
Company of South Australia**

Directed by Sam Strong & Lee Lewis

Designer Anna Cordingley

Lighting Designer Geoff Cobham

Composition & Musical Direction by Pip Branson & Mikelangelo

With Kate Cheel, Helen Dallimore, Nathan O’Keefe, Zindzi Okenyo &  
live music by Mikelangelo and the Black Sea Gentlemen

The iconic children’s book *Masquerade*, written and illustrated by  
UK artist **Kit Williams**, has been lovingly crafted into a play by  
award-winning playwright and actor, **Kate Mulvany**.

In a wondrous world of riddles and hidden treasure, bumbling Jack  
Hare is on a race against time to deliver a message of love from the  
Moon to the Sun. Far, far away in a world just like ours, a mother  
cheers her ill son Joe with the tale of Jack Hare’s adventure. But  
when Jack’s mission goes topsy-turvy, Joe and his mum must come  
to the rescue, and the line between the two worlds becomes  
blurred forever.

Bound to enchant audiences of all ages, *Masquerade* stars a talking  
fish, a tone-deaf barbershop quartet, a gassy pig, a precious jewel  
and a few mere mortals. It’s a magical adventure that is, at its  
heart, about the love between a parent and a child.

This delightful family show from Sydney’s award-winning Griffin  
Theatre Company and State Theatre Company of South Australia is  
based on Australian playwright Kate Mulvany’s childhood  
experience of overcoming cancer — when she found solace and  
inspiration in Williams’ work and became captivated by its magical  
adventures.

**Sam Strong** and **Lee Lewis** join forces to co-direct *Masquerade*,  
leading a stellar cast and creative team made up of Helpmann-  
Award winner **Helen Dallimore** (*Wicked* and *Cinderella* at Regent’s  
Park, London); Play School host, actor and singer **Zindzi Okenyo**;

**Nathan O’Keefe** (Windmill Theatre and State Theatre Company’s *Pinocchio*); and actor **Kate Cheel** (Kneehigh Theatre in *Brief Encounter*)

Original music is composed by **Pip Branson** and **Mikelangelo**, and performed live by **Mikelangelo and the Black Sea Gentlemen** who have pushed the boundaries of cabaret and music theatre with their jazzy dark cabaret blues for over a decade.

**Kate Mulvany** is an extraordinary writer and one of Australia’s most talented actors. Her recent acting credits include Bell Shakespeare’s *Tartuffe* and Baz Luhrmann’s *The Great Gatsby*. Her playwriting accolades include *The Seed*, commissioned by Belvoir and based on her own family history, *Somewhere*, co-written with Tim Minchin to commemorate the opening of the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre in Penrith, and *Medea*, which won the prestigious AWGIE award in 2013 in the Theatre: Stage category.

Melbourne Festival Artistic Director, Josephine Ridge said: “Kate Mulvany’s dream to see her work produced was first shared with me about four years ago, in fact it was one of the first commissioning ideas proposed to me as the incoming Artistic Director. It takes time to create new work. Time and a lot of dedication, care and hard work by a lot of people. *Masquerade* is proof that it’s all worth it!”

Associated event:

**READING: MASQUERADE - Sat 24 Oct at 12pm**

MPavilion // FREE

*Masquerade* is one of four co-commissions by Melbourne Festival under the Australian Government’s Major Festivals’ Initiative managed by The Australia Council included in the 2015 program. Importantly three of these commissioned works are for children and families ensuring that the next generation of live arts enthusiasts are well catered for. The four works are: *The Rabbits*, *Masquerade*, *Monkey Journey to the West* and *The Experiment*.