

Wot? No Fish!! AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

bread&circuses, UK

ABOUT AN HOUR



Photo: Wot? No Fish!! © Danny Braverman

★★★★ "...reflecting in the end on the way we turn to the past to make sense of the present."
The Times

★★★★ "This brilliant performance has the same shifting feeling, sifting through crackling masses of paper to find grains of truth, and golden flashes of insight."
Exeunt Magazine

"So warm-hearted it makes you melt...indeed one of the most touching I've seen all year."
The Guardian

For more than 50 years, shoemaker **Ab Solomons** drew a picture on the weekly wage packet he gave to his wife Celie. Chronicling their family life in the East End of London, these drawings give a historical account of a changing city. Years later, creator **Danny Braverman** discovered the art of his Great-Uncle Ab on more than 3000 wage packets in a shoebox, unleashing a family's secrets and truths.

A collaboration by director **Nick Philippou** and Danny Braverman, *Wot? No Fish!!* is heart-warming piece of theatre that went on to receive the Brian Way Award for Best New Play in 2013. Like a graphic novel brought to life projected on stage, Braverman shares his family history with courage, affection and humour.

Wot? No Fish!! is also a moving historical account of London— from the 1920s, through the Second World War, and on to the 1980s – vividly recalling the family's experiences with anti-Semitism, changes to a working class neighbourhood and the challenges of caring for a disabled son. Behind the story of one family, is the story of a nation throughout the twentieth century - from blitz to boom to bust.

With thirty years' experience in theatre, Braverman is no stranger to the stage. He was a founding member with Nick Philippou of the community theatre company **bread&circuses**, became Head of Education at Theatre Royal Stratford East, published his book *Playing a Part: Drama and Citizenship* in 2002 and became Director of the Orpheus Centre.

Nick Philippou was artistic director of the internationally acclaimed Actors Touring Company from 1993-2000. Philippou's illustrious career includes collaborations with artists as diverse as **Sarah Kane, Vivienne Westwood, Laurie Anderson, Mark Ravenhill** and **Meow Meow**, to create new pieces for performance. During his time in New York from 2001 to 2008, Philippou directed the English language premiere of *Elle* by Jean Genet starring Alan Cumming and Stephen Spinella and a short film *Kleopatra*.

Wot? No Fish!! is a small show about big things. Contained within a battered old shoebox is a portrait of family – not just of the Solomons, but everyone's – and a tribute to the extraordinary stories of ordinary people.

MEDIA RELEASE

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SYDNEY FESTIVAL 2015

8-26 JAN

A collaboration between **Danny Braverman** and **Nick Philippou**
Written and performed by **Danny Braverman**
Directed by **Nick Philippou**

Where Reginald Theatre, Seymour Centre

When 13 January at 7pm (preview)
 14 January at 8pm
 15 January at 8.30pm
 16 January at 6.30pm
 17 & 18 January at 6pm

Price \$35 General Admission

Duration 80minutes no interval

Bookings Sydney Festival 1300 856 876
 Seymour Centre 02 9351 7940
 sydneyfestival.org.au/wot

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