

Arts Centre Melbourne and Sarah Austin and Co present

Only A Year



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — Babies aged 0-12 months and their carers are invited to experience an immersive sensory theatre experience, *Only A Year* at **Arts Centre Melbourne** from **13 – 16 March 2019**. Award-winning theatre director Sarah Austin uses shadow, light, wind, rain, sun and heat to convey the seasons of a year and the idea that the first year of life is experienced by both infant and carer as the longest, but also shortest time imaginable.

In the work babies follow the journey of a performer, who undergoes a series of transformations with the passing of time including emerging from a cocoon, losing feathers and growing fur. The creature interacts directly with each baby, meeting them at their level and inviting each child into the world of the performance with gentle engagement.

Children interact with the performance and the performer throughout the work, including adding to the live score with their own chime bar. In addition to facilitating the experience of their child in the performance, carers are able to listen to the curated stories of 75-85 year old parents as part of the sound design in the show, who were interviewed as part of the project about their memories of the parenting an infant.

Presented inside a beautiful, tactile performance space with deliberate mindfulness of dramaturgical frameworks for Theatre for the Early Years, *Only A Year* features a poetic blend of live music, sound, puppetry, physical theatre and storytelling to create a delightful and poignant experience for both babies and carers alike. In 2017 the work won Best Kids Event at the Melbourne Fringe Festival and was nominated for the Green Room Awards' Outstanding Theatre for Children category.

ArtSarah Austin is an award-winning theatre director and dramaturg who has been creating work with and for children and young people for more than a decade. Sarah is currently a PhD Candidate at the Victorian College in the Arts researching children in contemporary theatre.

Only A Year is part of **Arts Centre Melbourne's year-round Families Program**, which was launched in August 2009 and has grown in reputation to become a highly respected program nationally and internationally. Featuring intimate and large-scale theatre from some of the world's most respected companies and a diverse range of interactive workshops, the program is robust and growing in size, scale and scope.

Our partners



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Media Release

Arts Centre Melbourne and Sarah Austin and Co present
[Only A Year](#)
13 – 16 March 2019
Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse Rehearsal Room
35 minutes
Baby & carer \$35
Baby & 2 carers \$45
Book at artscentremelbourne.com.au or 1300 182 183

For more information about Arts Centre Melbourne, please visit www.artscentremelbourne.com.au or phone 1300 182 183. Become a fan of [Arts Centre Melbourne on Facebook](#) or follow [@artscentremelb](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

For further media information and interviews, please contact: Suzanne Robson, Media Advisor, Arts Centre Melbourne on 03 9281 8526 / 0407 443 271 or suzanne.robson@artscentremelbourne.com.au

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