

"Children are arguably a much tougher audience than adults, but the joy in The Space Theatre at The Festival Centre was palpable for every minute of the 45 minute performance of Especially on Birthdays. Other than chortling and belly laughs from the multi-aged audience, you could hear a pin drop. No wriggling, no chattering, no interruptions. Only the sound of the excited intake of breath as the audience waited for the next piece of enchantment." **Jude Hines - Review 27 April, 2019 Stage Whispers**

"I was so captivated by the beauty and energy of Especially on Birthdays. So many of the images left me breathless. The moment I will never forget is when a small child from the audience is blindfolded along with a performer and asked to walk across the space to deliver a parcel. The bravery, trust, and beautiful collaboration at play in this moment between adult and child is one of the most thrilling moments I've had in the theatre in a long time. The simple use of a few props, innovative lighting design and a gorgeous score, demonstrates that true artistry can come to life with the most limited set of ingredients. Bravo!" **Jonathan Shmidt Chapman - Executive Director, Theatre for Young Audiences/USA**

The two performances by The PaperBoats, Especially on Birthdays and Gimme Please are playful, interactive and visually striking and both explore existential issues relating to time, aging, friendship and conflict. And boy, were the kids into it! - **Emma Halpern - American Theatre Magazine**

"Through the magic of everyday objects such as paper and boxes, we are transported, with every sense tingling, to the world of twins where a special event provokes differing childlike reactions according to the personalities. The performances were compelling. Their emotions and movements had such appeal and honesty. This show takes us to the heart of childhood. " **Janene Brian – Children's Book Author**

The PaperBoats - Especially on Birthdays is a stunning production that truly acknowledges a child's capacity to connect with complex ideas – whilst remaining totally accessible, thoroughly enjoyable and deeply memorable. **Maria Taylor – Upper Sturt PS**

"I loved the use of sound and light with minimal props. The high level of engagement and focus from all the children was really noticeable. Even the children with special needs showed focus and concentration throughout the performance. A captivating show that uses light and sound to spur children's thoughts and imagination about family and relationships" **Amy Martin ELC, Warradale**

"We three adults - being a father, grandmother and godmother, together with Charlotte 5 years old and Finn 2 and a half years old, were totally engaged and enthralled. We came away from the performance with a feeling of love for the simple things in life that give so much happiness and joy." **Lorraine MacKenzie - Grandparent**

"I was deeply affected when Stephen was excluded by Kat followed by her subtle recruitment of another to join in the exclusion. How easy and how flimsy the reason can be to exclude someone and the power and glee that can be perpetuated by continuing to exclude. The shift that is needed to restore equilibrium can be so small and simple but can take a mighty effort to initiate. The reconciliation moment was very powerful." **Bronwen James – Parent and Performer**

"Especially on Birthdays is a gift, taking play to the nth degree and crafting it humorously and movingly into powerful theatricality." **Sally Chance – Theatre-Maker**

With a beautiful score and exquisite lighting, the two performers move us through the most wondrous parts of having a birthday, and all the feelings and moments that might be had - from the tricky to the wonderful. **Rebecca Meston - Parent**

I loved the final party - how shifting through challenging moments enabled the twins to really appreciate each other and find joy in each others happiness. I felt so free at the end! **Cinzia Schincariol – Theatre-Maker/Performer**

"When the three young children from the audience participated, I had a strong sense of the vulnerability, preciousness and innocence of young children. My connection with the performance experience was seeing how the children trustingly and unselfconsciously responded to Kat and Steve.

Especially on Birthdays was an imaginative, playful performance about sibling affection, spats and celebrations that gently invites young children to enter a magic world of fun, curiosity and wonder." **Kay Loechel – Audience Member**

"The show reinforced for me impression that most children's entertainment is worse than useless and that this show is much more discussable than most children's entertainment. Especially on Birthdays is "theatre for children." It's startling how different and effective it is within that definition." **Ben Williamson - Parent**

A Couple of Children's Comments

"Especially on Birthdays was better than any movie I have ever seen" **Pippin, 6 years old, Alberton Primary School**

"It was too amazing." "I really liked the green light." "I liked it when they got cross with each other." "Well it was good. It was better than good, it was epic!" **Concordia College JP Children**

"They foughted each other and gave each other hugs." "The boy didn't want to be six" "Remember when he smacked her on the knee? That wasn't good!" "I loved it when the laser beam was a piano" **Warradale Kindy Children**

"It was show full of imagination and kindness. A fun show that all people would enjoy." **Esther James – aged 9**