

MEDIA RELEASE
8 January 2015

WHAT RHYMES WITH CARS & GIRLS

by Aidan Fennessy
music and lyrics by Tim Rogers

WORLD PREMIERE



Cast **Johnny Carr**, **Sophie Ross**
Musicians **Ben Franz**, **Xani Kolac**
Director **Clare Watson**
Musical Director **Tim Rogers**
Set Designer **Andrew Bailey**
Costume Designer **Kate Davis**
Lighting Designer **Richard Vabre**
Sound Designer **Russell Goldsmith**

'Tim Rogers is a statesman of Australian music.'

Music Feeds

'A troubadour from the tip of his felt-brimmed hat to the idiosyncratic chop of his right hand.'

Rolling Stone

Venue

Arts Centre Melbourne, Fairfax Studio

Season dates

Friday 13 February –
Saturday 28 March 2015

Opening night

8pm Thursday 19 February 2015



Production Briefing

6pm Monday 9 February 2015

Tickets

From \$73; Under 30s \$36
Southbank Theatre Box Office
03 8688 0800 or mtc.com.au

Arts Centre Melbourne 1300 182 183
or artscentremelbourne.com.au

  #mtcRhymes
@MelbTheatreCo
mtc.com.au/Rhymes



Johnny Carr



Sophie Ross

What Rhymes with Cars and Girls weaves together the poetic songs from **Tim Rogers'** debut solo album and words by award-winning playwright **Aidan Fennessy**, creating a contemporary Australian tale of love across the class divide. **Melbourne Theatre Company** presents the world premiere of this exciting collaboration at **8pm Thursday 19 February** at **Arts Centre Melbourne, Fairfax Studio**.

Drawing on the acting and singing talents of **Sophie Ross** and **Johnny Carr**, *What Rhymes with Cars and Girls* is an intimate musical gem complete with a three-piece band led by Musical Director **Tim Rogers**.

Director **Clare Watson** said, 'I'm thrilled to be working on this delicate and heartbreaking piece. Aidan has created a textured and lyrical script that is a harmonious marriage with Tim's cult hit album. I've always loved these songs and am delighted to be collaborating with this team of hopeless romantics in bringing *What Rhymes with Cars and Girls* to the stage in a way that's timeless, moving and undeniably Australian.'

This is the ballad of Tash and Johnno, brought together by a conjunction of the stars and a pizza delivery gone awry. Tash is a smart-mouthed singer in a band and Johnno is a three-time loser from the wrong side of the tracks. But, what do you know? It's love. Almighty love. With an authentic catch and pain in it, like a song in the throat of one who knows how it goes. Knows how love can lift you high and dash you down. Knows that it's never the coming together, it's the holding on.

Tim Rogers is an iconic figure in the Australian music scene. As the frontman of internationally renowned band You Am I, Rogers has released ten studio albums, three of which debuted at number one in consecutive years, with the records also receiving ARIA Awards and multiple platinum and gold statuses for commercial sales. Rogers has also released critically acclaimed solo albums, alongside collaborations with Tex Perkins, The Temperance Union and The Bamboos. His acting credits include performing for Malthouse and Griffin Theatres, as well as a TV hosting role on *Studio at the Memo*.

Aidan Fennessy is an award-winning playwright and director. As a playwright, his work includes *National Interest*; *Brutopia*, which won the 2010 Griffin Award; *Chilling and Killing My Annabel Lee*, for which he won the Wal Cherry Award and was shortlisted for the Victorian Premier's Literary Award; and *The Trade*, for which he won the Best Newcomer at the 2002 Melbourne International Comedy Festival. Fennessy was a founding member of Chameleon Theatre, a member of the Artistic Directorate of HotHouse Theatre, Artistic Director of the Store Room Theatre Workshop, and Associate Artistic Director at MTC (2008–2012).

Clare Watson is the Artistic Director of St Martins Youth Theatre. She directed *On the Production of Monsters* for MTC's 2012 Lawler Studio season and has directed for the stages of the Sydney Opera House, Arts Centre Melbourne, the Store Room and La Mama. Watson has created site-specific performance works in a hotel room, the Old Melbourne Gaol, a disused swimming pool, a car, and a crumbling art deco apartment. Her work has won and been nominated for a number of awards including the inaugural Best Director Award for Melbourne Fringe 2005 and she has toured productions nationally and internationally. Watson was part of MTC's inaugural Women Directors Program in 2014.

Music by Tim Rogers performed by special arrangement with Mushroom Music

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MTC is a department of the University of Melbourne

