

The acclaimed National Theatre production

# THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

A NEW PLAY BY  
SIMON STEPHENS

BASED ON THE BEST-SELLING NOVEL BY  
MARK HADDON



Melbourne Theatre Company and Arts Centre Melbourne present the National Theatre's Olivier and Tony Award-winning production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, adapted by Simon Stephens (*Birdland*) from Mark Haddon's best-selling book, and directed by Tony Award winner Marianne Elliott (*War Horse*).

This record-breaking production will make its Australian debut at Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse on **Saturday 13 January**.

Director **Marianne Elliott** said 'I'm absolutely thrilled that our production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* will make its Australian premiere in Melbourne. I was overwhelmed by the way audiences in Melbourne took the NT's productions of *War Horse* to their hearts, and I look forward to sharing with them our staging of Mark Haddon's beautiful story of love, family and bravery in the most unlikely of environments.'

*Curious Incident* is the recipient of a record-breaking seven 2013 Olivier Awards, including Best New Play, Best Director, Best Design, Best Lighting Design and Best Sound Design – more Oliviers than any other play in the history of London's West End at that time.

It also won five Tony Awards including Best Play, six Drama Desk Awards including Outstanding Play; five Outer Critics Circle Awards including Outstanding New Broadway Play; and the Drama League Award for Outstanding Production of a Broadway or Off Broadway Play.

The show tells the story of Christopher John Francis Boone, who is fifteen years old. He stands beside Mrs Shears' dead dog, which has been speared with a garden fork, it is seven minutes after midnight and Christopher is under suspicion. He records each fact in a book he is writing to solve the mystery of who killed Wellington. He has an extraordinary brain, and is exceptional at maths while ill-equipped to interpret everyday life. He has never ventured alone beyond the end of his road, he detests being touched and distrusts strangers. But his detective work, forbidden by his father, takes him on a frightening journey that upturns his world.

**MTC Artistic Director Brett Sheehy AO** said, 'Since I first saw this show in March 2013 on the West End I've been desperate for us to bring it to Melbourne. Six years later, and in collaboration with our great friends and colleagues at Arts Centre Melbourne, I'm delighted that the National Theatre production of *Curious Incident* will open our 2018 Season. It is storytelling at its finest and a remarkable work of theatre that resonates with young and old.'

To complement the Australian premiere season of *Curious Incident*, Arts Centre Melbourne will host an Associated Program for students and the public consisting of workshops and talks with creatives, insights into the production, immersive experiences and a Relaxed Performance.

Relaxed Performances are for everyone who will benefit from a more relaxed environment but are specifically designed to welcome patrons with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or other disabilities that create sensory sensitivity. Sound and lighting cues are adjusted, doors

**Winner of:**  
Seven Olivier Awards including Best Play  
Five Tony Awards including Best Play  
Six Drama Desk Awards including Outstanding Play  
Five Outer Critics Circle Awards including Outstanding New Broadway Play  
Drama League Award for Outstanding Production of a Broadway or Off-Broadway Play

★★★★★  
'A phenomenal combination of storytelling and spectacle. A theatrical rush.'  
The Times

★★★★★  
'Astonishing and unmissable.'  
Sunday Express

★★★★★  
'A beautiful, eloquent, dazzlingly inventive show about the wonders of life.'  
Evening Standard

**National Theatre**

This production is proudly supported by

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remain open and a designated quiet area is available. A pre-show visual story is also available for patrons to prepare for their visit and the performance. The range of events included in the *Curious Incident* Associated Program are designed to enrich audiences' experience of and engagement with this ground-breaking production.

**Arts Centre Melbourne CEO Claire Spencer** said, 'Arts Centre Melbourne is a place for everyone, and this beautiful, wondrous piece of theatre is the perfect vehicle to bring people of all ages and abilities together to share in a truly remarkable cultural experience. We're delighted to be collaborating with one of our flagship resident companies, MTC, to bring this show to Melbourne.'

Mark Haddon's novel, ***Curious Incident***, was published in 2003 and was the winner of more than 17 literary awards, including prizes in the US, Japan, the Netherlands and Italy, as well as the prestigious Whitbread Book of the Year Award in the UK in 2004. The novel has been translated into 44 languages and sold more than 5.5 million copies worldwide.

The stage production of ***Curious Incident*** transferred to London's West End in September 2012, following a sold-out run at the National Theatre's Cottesloe Theatre. Two years later it premiered at the Barrymore Theatre in New York City and was the longest-running play on Broadway in over a decade.

***Curious Incident*** is currently on a major tour of the US until September 2017, and a second tour of the UK and Ireland continues until September 2017.

**Marianne Elliott** was an Associate Director of the National Theatre for 10 years, and her latest play for the company was a new production of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America* which opened in April 2017. Her other work includes *War Horse* (co-directed with Tom Morris), *The Light Princess*, *Port*, *Season's Greetings*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Harper Regan*, *Saint Joan* (Olivier Award for Best Revival, South Bank Show Award for Theatre), and *Pillars of the Community* (Evening Standard Award for Best Director). Marianne was consultant director on *The Elephant* for the National Theatre and directed *Sweet Bird of Youth* for the Old Vic with Kim Cattrall. Marianne recently formed a new company with producer Chris Harper – Elliott Harper Productions.

**Mark Haddon** is an author, illustrator and screenwriter who has written fifteen books for children and won two BAFTAs. His bestselling novel, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, was published simultaneously by Jonathan Cape and David Fickling in 2003. It won seventeen literary prizes, including the Whitbread Award. His poetry collection, *The Talking Horse and the Sad Girl and the Village Under the Sea*, was published by Picador in 2005, and his last novel, *The Red House*, was published by Jonathan Cape in 2012. His latest book is *The Pier Falls*, a collection of stories.

**Simon Stephens'** plays for the National Theatre include a new translation of *The Threepenny Opera*, *Port* (originally produced at the Royal Exchange and directed by Marianne Elliott) at the National Theatre's Lyttelton Theatre, *Harper Regan* (which was produced at Canadian Stage) and *On the Shore of the Wide World* (co-production with Royal Exchange, Manchester; Olivier Award for Best New Play). His many other plays include *Carmen Disruption*, *Heisenberg*, *Birdland* (which had its Australian premiere at MTC in 2015), *Blindsided*, *Three Kingdoms*, *Wastwater*, *Punk Rock*, *Seawall*, *Pornography*, *Country Music*, *Christmas* and *Heron*s, *A Thousand Stars Explode in the Sky* (co-written with Robert Holman and David Eldridge), and an adaptation of Jon Fosse's *I Am the Wind* and *Motortown*. His version of *A Doll's House* for the Young Vic transferred to the West End and then New York in 2014. Simon is an Associate at the Lyric, Hammersmith and the Royal Court Theatre. Simon's book – *Simon Stephens, A working Diary* – was published in 2016.

**Cast** Joshua Jenkins (Christopher Boone), Julie Hale (Siobhan), Emma Beattie (Judy), David Michaels (Ed), Debra Michaels (Mrs Alexander), Amanda Posener (Mrs Shears), Oliver Boot (Roger Shears), Crystal Condie (Punk Girl), Emma-Jane Goodwin (Ensemble), Bruce McGregor (Reverend Peters), Sam Newton (Alternate Christopher), Joe Rising (Ensemble), Kieran Garland (Ensemble), Matt Wilman (Mr Thompson) and Danielle Young (Ensemble)

**Director** Marianne Elliott  
**Designer** Bunny Christie  
**Lighting Designer** Paule Constable  
**Video Designer** Finn Ross  
**Movement Directors** Scott Graham and Steven Hoggett for Frantic Assembly  
**Music** Adrian Sutton  
**Sound Designer** Ian Dickinson for Autograph  
**Associate Director** Elle While  
**Resident Director** Kim Pearce  
**Casting** Jill Green CDG

**Season Dates**  
11 January — 18 February

**Opening Night**  
Saturday 13 January

**Venue**  
Arts Centre Melbourne, Playhouse

**Subscriptions**  
On sale from Monday 28 August, 9pm

**Single Tickets**  
On sale from 13 November 2017

**mtc.com.au**  
**artscentremelbourne.com.au**

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