

ARTS RADAR IN ASSOCIATION WITH B SHARP PRESENT THE WORLD PREMIERE
OF

THE SWEETEST THING

WRITTEN BY: **VERITY LAUGHTON**
DIRECTED BY: **SARAH GOODES**

BELVOIR ST DOWNSTAIRS THEATRE
28 OCTOBER – 21 NOVEMBER 2010

WITH: **THOMAS CONROY, CAROLINE CRAIG, VANESSA DOWNING, DIANA GLENN,
CHRISTOPHER MORRIS, MARSHALL NAPIER, LUCY WIGMORE**

SET & COSTUME DESIGN: **MARISSA DALE-JOHNSON**
LIGHTING: **VERITY HAMPSON**
SOUND & COMPOSITION: **EMILY MAGUIRE**
STAGE MANAGER/ ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: **MICHAEL DEAN**
CINEMATOGRAPHY: **BONNIE ELLIOTT**
PRODUCER: **KATE ARMSTRONG-SMITH**
DRAMATURG: **LEE LEWIS**



B Sharp kicks off the summer season with a world premiere production. *The Sweetest Thing* is a classic love story seen through the lens of a fragmented, grieving family, tinged with childhood memories and thoughts of days gone by. This new Australian work by acclaimed writer Verity Laughton is set within a shifting time span and the frame of chaos theory. It brings director Sarah Goodes back to Belvoir St Downstairs Theatre after successes with *The Small Things* (2007), *Black Milk* (2004) and *Elling* (2003).

After the sudden death of her father, the story's central character Sarah flees to New Zealand leaving the grief-stricken remains of her family behind in Australia. Teetering out of balance she finds herself falling in love and lust with Jimmy, a relationship that changes everything, forever.

The Sweetest Thing unites a strong, female creative team led by Director **Sarah Goodes**, who recently directed *The Schelling Point* at the Old Fitzroy Theatre and will direct *Edward Gant's Amazing Feats of Loneliness* at Sydney Theatre Company in 2011. She is joined by the award-winning writer **Verity Laughton** (*The Mourning After*, Playbox Theatre 1996 and *The Ice Season*, 2009) and **Lee Lewis** as dramaturg (Director of *That Face* for Belvoir, *Honour* for Sydney Theatre Company and *Twelfth Night* for Bell Shakespeare in 2010).

The actor **Diana Glenn**, (best known for her roles in the feature film *The Oyster Farmer*, 2004, as well as *Secret Life of Us* and *Satisfaction*) plays the lead character and the cinematographer **Bonnie Elliott** will design a series of projections, layered images and film in the Downstairs theatre to evoke memories of an Australian childhood.

Director Sarah Goodes said, 'Verity has written a beautiful play that looks at the corners of our lives where big decisions are made and the course they set us on.'

The Sweetest Thing unites a cast that share an extensive repertoire of TV, film and stage acting experience, all making their B Sharp debuts for this production. **Thomas Conroy** was most recently seen in the State Theatre Company of South Australia's *Romeo and Juliet* (2010) and Sydney Theatre Company's *Spring Awakening* (2010). **Caroline Craig** was in the TV shows *Sleuth* (2009) and *Underbelly* (2007). On stage she has appeared in Malthouse's *Optimism* (2009). **Vanessa Downing** has recently been in Bell Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* (2009) and the TV show *Packed to the Rafters* (2008). For TV **Diana Glenn** has appeared in *Killing Time* (2010) and *Home and Away* (2009). **Chris Morris** is currently in *Offspring* on Channel 10 and has been in Channel 7's *Bargain Coast* (2009) as well as the feature film *Bitter Art* (2008). **Marshall Napier** was in *The Power of Yes* for Belvoir earlier this year and **Lucy Wigmore** has most recently appeared in *Cat and Mouse* for La Mama Theatre, Melbourne (2010) and *A Simple Procedure* for Pleasance Theatre in London (2009).

For more media information, images or full cast biographies for *The Sweetest Thing*, contact Meera Hindocha at Belvoir: meera@belvoir.com.au/ 02 8396 6242.

NOTES TO EDITORS

SEASON INFORMATION

PREVIEW: Thursday 28 October

OPENING: Friday 29 October

SEASON DATES: 30 October – 21 November

PLAYS: Tues 7pm, Wed-Sat 8.15pm, Sun 5.15pm

WHERE: Belvoir St Downstairs Theatre, 25 Belvoir St, Surry Hills

TICKETS: \$32/\$24 (Preview \$20, Cheap Tues Pay-what-you-can, min. \$12)

BOOKINGS: 9699 3444 or www.belvoir.com.au