

# GRIFFIN THEATRE COMPANY

## *The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin* ACCESSIBILITY AND PRE-SHOW INFORMATION

This document contains relevant accessibility information and production information to help prepare you for your visit to Downstairs Theatre, Belvoir St Theatre for *The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin* by **steve j. spears**. This includes information such as lighting states, content or trigger warnings, running times, access and the venue.

**Please note that this document will include key show information and plot points. This is a live document, which will continue to be updated during pre-production and during the season as required.**

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**Last updated: 19.2.26**

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19 February 2026

# The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin

by steve j. spears

## About the Show

*The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin* is a (1) one person show which takes place on stage with close raised seating.

Themes include – social isolation, historical gay culture and homophobia, evolving sexuality, mental illness.

## Running Time

Approximately 95 minutes – no interval

## Content Warnings

*The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin* contains nudity, simulated gun use, references to child sexual abuse, representations of homophobia, historical depictions of gender diversity, a live flame, strobe lighting and loud sounds.

The creative team have adapted *The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin* for this production, respecting the playwright's intentions, the evolving needs of communities represented and acknowledging the truth of the times in which it is set.

Please contact the Griffin team on [info@griffintheatre.com.au](mailto:info@griffintheatre.com.au) or (02) 9332 1052 if you require further details or have any questions.

## Allergens

Haze, Live flames: fire gel, a match.

## Lighting and Sound

Strobe lights, loud sounds including a simulated gun shot, complete black outs.

## Performance Content

**Please note that there are spoilers in this section, as it provides further detail on the above content warning section.**

- There is nudity at the start of the show when the performer enters.
- There is a non-working firearm on stage throughout the show. It is picked up by the actor at about the hour mark. He holds it to his chest and a stylised gun shot is played as a sound cue. He then briefly points the firearm down the entry aisle i.e. in the general direction of the audience but not directly at any audience members.
- One-sided conversations occur on stage that deal with the sexuality of a minor and discuss instances of statutory child sexual abuse.
- Various forms of cross-dressing occur during the show.
- Scenes set in a psychiatric institution depict the character succumbing to mental illness.
- At one point the character lights a match. At another point he burns paper in a metal bin with a live flame burning fire gel.

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## **The Space**

- The performance will take place in the **Downstairs Theatre at Belvoir St Theatre**. The address is **25 Belvoir St, Surry Hills**. The Downstairs Theatre is on the Lower Ground level of Belvoir. Access is available via stairs (approx. 12 steps) or the lift next to the stairs at the end of the entrance corridor.
- There is one accessible parking spot directly outside the theatre. (Unfortunately we are unable to book this accessible parking spot with council.) There is also some unlimited parking available directly opposite the theatre after 6pm and in some surrounding streets.

## **Seating**

- The auditorium seats 84 patrons.
- Patrons will be seated in the auditorium in general admission seating. This means you can choose your seat when you arrive to the theatre.
- Seating is raked from front to back, meaning that patrons in the front row will be on Stage Level, and patrons seated further back will be higher up from the stage.
- The house lights will be on when you enter the theatre. There will also be house music playing.
- There will be one usher present inside the theatre. If you need assistance, you can request the Front of House staff to help you to your seat.
- Once everyone is seated, the house lights will be dimmed.
- If you need to leave at any point during the show, please exit through the same door you entered the theatre by.

## **Amenities**

- There is an accessible toilet in the foyer area on the Lower Ground floor.
- Sam's Bar is the bar located in the theatre foyer. It is open before and after the show. There are both snacks and light meals on offer that cater for many dietary requirements.

For more information about accessibility, please visit  
<https://belvoir.com.au/visit/accessibility/>

For information about transport and parking, please visit  
<https://belvoir.com.au/visit/plan-your-visit/>

Contact info to discuss further with our team  
<https://griffintheatre.com.au/about/contact/>