



**JEFFREY JAY FOWLER  
& SARAH REUBEN**

# THE HYPOTHETICALS

 **Happy Yess**



**Tue 10 - Fri 13 Aug** 5.45pm **Sat 14 & Sun 15 Aug** 1pm & 5.45pm

**Duration** 1hr 15mins

Presented by Brown's Mart and Darwin Festival in association with  
The Last Great Hunt



*Darwin Festival takes place on the land of the Larrakia people.*

*We wish to pay our respects to the traditional owners of this Country and to their ancestors. As the Festival welcomes contemporary artists and art from around Australia, we also celebrate the continuing culture of the Larrakia.*

Scroll through to read more about this performance of *The Hypotheticals*.

Enjoy the show!

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## CREATOR NOTE

We started working on *The Hypotheticals* by asking one another what it would be like if we had a child together. At the time Sarah was an unpregnant single woman and Jeffrey was an unpregnant gay man. The conversations were not easy, perhaps because they were so honest. We of course explored all the clichéd questions one might think of when deciding whether to have a child – should you bring a child into a world that’s on fire, isn’t all existence suffering, do parents secretly regret having children but then encourage other people to have them just so that parents’ groups aren’t so lonely? What if we had a child and we just didn’t like it?

But then we looked at the questions more specific to us. What does it mean for a gay man to have a child? What does it mean if one parent has a religion and the other doesn’t? What does it mean to choose to have a child out of the traditional paradigm of the nuclear family? But then the idea of the nuclear family was only invented last century and before that mixed families were extremely common...

Anyway. There was a lot to think about.  
A paralysing amount to think about.  
Because the choice to have a child or not  
is an irreversible and monumental change  
to your life. How can anyone ever make  
a decision so big in a world that is so  
uncertain? And just quietly, what if having  
a child with your best friend isn't a second  
rate alternative to having a child with your  
partner, but actually the better option?  
After all, don't most deep friendships last  
longer than romantic relationships?

– **Sarah Reuben & Jeffrey Jay Fowler**





## BIOGRAPHIES

### Jeffrey Jay Fowler Writer & Performer

Jeffrey Jay Fowler is a playwright, dramaturg, director and actor. He wrote and acted in award-winning shows *A History of Drinking* and *ELEPHENTS*. He has performed in and co-created *FAG/STAG* (winner Scotsman Fringe First 2017), *Perpetual Wake*, *All That Glitters* and *LÉ NØR [THE RAIN]* with The Last Great Hunt, of which he is a founding artist.

Among the shows he has directed are *Girl Shut Your Mouth*, *Blithe Spirit*, *The Eisteddfod* (winner 2017 PAWA Best Director and Best Mainstage Play), and *In The Next Room*, or *The Vibrator Play* for Black Swan State Theatre Company.

Jeffrey Jay was Associate Director of Black Swan from 2014 to 2017, and then he was their Director of New Writing for 2018 and 19. His postgraduate studies were in directing at NIDA in 2010. In 2020 Jeffrey Jay was awarded the NT Literary Award for *The Hypotheticals* which he co-wrote with Sarah Reuben.

## **Sarah Reuben**

### **Writer & Performer**

Sarah Reuben is a Darwin-based theatre-maker, performer and producer. Her performance credits include *New Babylon* for Knock-em-Down Theatre, *The Laramie Project* for Black Swan State Theatre Company, *Pollyanna* for Weeping Spoon, *How I Learned To Drive* for Mockingbird Theatre Company and *The Hurting Game* for Brainstorm Productions. For her own theatre company, Ruby Gaytime Productions, she has written four shows: *Best, Short Change, Death Party* and *This Jew Sits*.

Sarah co-created *I'll Tell you in Person*, which had seasons at both Darwin and Perth Festival and *Lower The Bar* for Sarah & Kyle Productions. Her improvisation credits include *The Big HOO HAA!*, *Gladiators*, *Danger Hour* and *Cliffhanger*. Sarah is co-creator and performer with the nationally touring show *Shania Choir*, and in 2020 was awarded the NT Literary Award for *The Hypotheticals* which she co-wrote with Jeffrey Jay Fowler.







## CREDITS

### Writers & Performers

Jeffrey Jay Fowler & Sarah Reuben

### Choreographer

Jessica Devereux

### Production Dramaturg

Chris Isaacs

### Sound Designers

James Mangohig & Serina Pech

### Lighting Designer

Tomm Lydiard

### Photo Kacie Austin

### Illustrator Chloe Flockart

## THANKS

Sean Pardy and everybody at Browns Mart Theatre, Brent Watkinson, Felix Preval, The 'Whether you are Ready to be a Parent' listicle in *Cosmo*.



# DARWIN FESTIVAL

Darwin Festival is the centre piece of what makes August in Darwin the best time of year. Loved by locals and adored by visitors, this tropical winter festival invites you to experience the very best in First Nations, Territory, Australian and international art, culture and music – not just as a spectator but to be one with it.

**DARWIN FESTIVAL 2022**  
**RUNS 4 – 21 AUGUST**

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**#HOTAUGUSTNIGHTS**