

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**Wednesday 20 May 2015**

**SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE PRESENTS**

# **SNUGGLEPOT & CUDDLEPIE WORLD PREMIERE THESE JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

The Australian bush comes to Sydney Opera House these school holidays with Gumnut Babies emerging from treetops in search of humans and country circus performers cartwheeling into the city from 27 June – 12 July.

**Sydney Opera House Head of Children, Families and Creative Learning Bridgette Van Leuven**, said: “Australian landscapes have inspired artists for generations so it is a joy to present two shows that evoke such distinctly Australian worlds. Childhood stories of *Snugglepote & Cuddlepote* are synonymous with our sense of national identity connected with the bush. And touring from a bush setting we have the return of the inspiring regional company The Flying Fruit Fly Circus with *Circus Under My Bed*. Both these shows celebrate the magic of children’s imaginations and it is a delight to share these local voices with children.”

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## **SNUGGLEPOT & CUDDLEPIE**

Adored characters, the Gumnut Babies, will come to life for the world premiere of *Snugglepote & Cuddlepote* at the Playhouse, Sydney Opera House, from 27 June – 12 July. The much-loved tales of the Gumnut Babies have delighted generations of children and been continuously in print since their 1918 release. Creator May Gibbs captured the essence of the Australian environment, bringing local eccentricities to life through her characterisation of native animals.

Brothers Snugglepote and Cuddlepote are on a brave journey to see a human, joined by friends Little Ragged Blossom, Professor Kookaburra and many helpful creatures from the Australian bush. But beware the Big Bad Banksia Man! Almost 100 years since their adventures were first published, *Snugglepote & Cuddlepote* continues to conjure up the Australian landscape and its unique flora and fauna. May Gibbs’ magical characters suggest a hidden world that may pass by us unseen amongst the gumtrees.

## **CIRCUS UNDER MY BED**

The circus is back in town! Following the success of its premiere season in 2014, *Circus Under My Bed* returns to the Opera House, transforming the Studio into a circus big top from 1 – 12 July. An imaginative young girl reluctantly packs up her bedroom the night before moving house. Helping her prepare for the journey is a host of circus friends hidden under her bed. *Circus Under My Bed* draws on the joy of circus with a nod to vaudeville and is performed entirely by a troupe under 19 years of age.

Described by critics as an essential national treasure, The Flying Fruit Fly Circus is Australia’s only full-time circus school. Based in the regional city of Albury, The Flying Fruit Fly Circus will delight children young and old with their infectious energy and enthusiasm. Families be warned; children that experience *Circus Under My Bed* will almost certainly want to run away with the circus!

“This is family circus at its very best. Highly recommended.” **Sydney Morning Herald**

“Gasp inducing acrobatic feats... the performers captivate and inspire.” **Daily Telegraph**

“The country’s next generation of circus performers link impressive acts with a warm story... inspired.” **The Australian**



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## FREE CREATIVE PLAY, FAMILY PACKAGE and more...

Join other children for a live, interactive game during free **Creative Play** in the Western Foyers every day of the holidays. Democracy rules as children collaborate to move their Player, projected onto a wall, to escape the Hunter. Team up to control the actions of characters in a high-stakes chase across the foyer walls. Creative Play has been conceived and developed by the Sydney Opera House Creative Play Artistic Team and incorporates floors, walls, two locations and technology. For longer plays, turn up early or stay after shows.

Spend a full day at the Opera House with the **Family Package**. See *Snugglepote & Cuddlepie*, enjoy a harbour side lunch at Opera Kitchen and take a Junior Tour to become an Opera House expert.

Discover the illustrations that inspired the stories of *Snugglepote & Cuddlepie* with an exhibition of May Gibbs' works, free every day in the Western Foyers.

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The Sydney Opera House Kids at the House program is a year-round series of performances and creative experiences for young people. Keep up to date with Kids at the House by joining the Facebook page: [Kids at the House – Sydney Opera House](#)

### SNUGGLEPOT & CUDDLEPIE

**Dates:** 27 June – 12 July

**Venue:** Playhouse, Sydney Opera House

**Website:** [http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/kath\\_2015\\_snugglepote\\_and\\_cuddlepie.aspx](http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/kath_2015_snugglepote_and_cuddlepie.aspx)

*Snugglepote & Cuddlepie* is part of **The Balnaves Foundation Open House Program** – a new partnership between the Opera House and The Balnaves Foundation, helping to make the arts more accessible to everyone, regardless of their circumstance. The three-year program will assist up to 12,000 socially and economically disadvantaged adults and children to attend performances at the country's premier cultural venue over three years. Visit [www.sydneyoperahouse.com/balnaves](http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/balnaves)

### CIRCUS UNDER MY BED

**Dates:** 1 – 12 July

**Venue:** Studio, Sydney Opera House

**Website:** [http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/kath\\_2015\\_circus\\_under\\_my\\_bed.aspx](http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/whatson/kath_2015_circus_under_my_bed.aspx)

### FREE CREATIVE PLAY

**Dates:** 27 June – 12 July, 10am – 4pm every day

**Venue:** Western Foyers, Sydney Opera House

**Website:** [http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/kath2012/creative\\_play.aspx](http://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/kath2012/creative_play.aspx)

### FAMILY DAY PACKAGE

**Dates:** 27 June – 12 July

### JUNIOR TOUR

**Dates:** 27 June – 12 July

**Prices:** from \$18 children, \$29.60 adults or \$95 for a family (2 adults, 2 children)

### JUNIOR LUNCH

Kids lunch options available at Opera Bar, Opera Kitchen, The House Eatery by George and Theatre Bars

**Dates:** 27 June – 12 July

**Prices:** from \$7.50

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### FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONTACT:

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**THE BALNAVES FOUNDATION  
& SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE**  
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