

Things I know to be True

by Andrew Borrell

Love binds them. Truth divides them.

Gallery

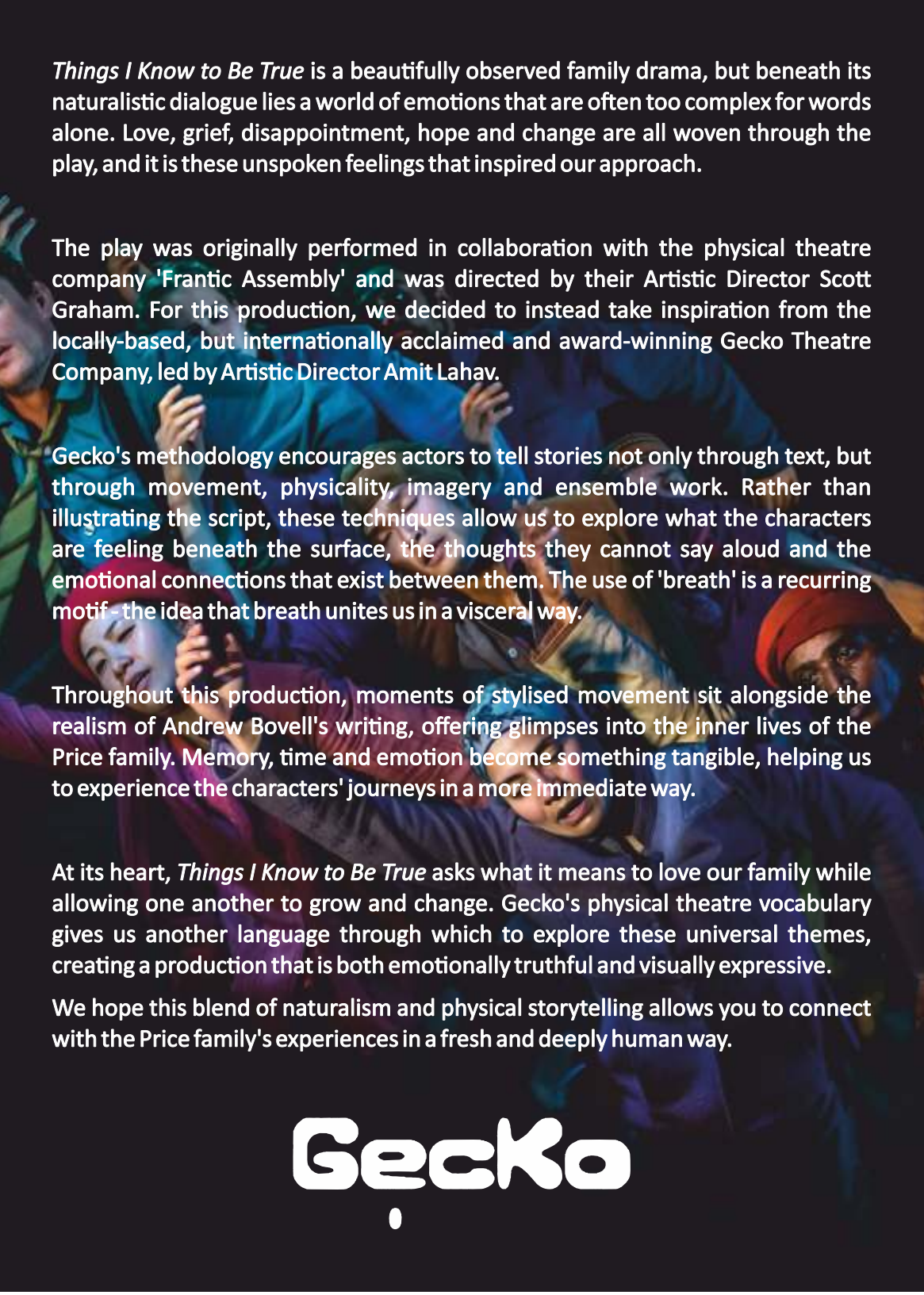
Directory Notes

I first saw this play a number of years ago and fell in love with it immediately. It's such a moving and thought-provoking piece of theatre which explores the mechanics and complexities of family (and marriage) and how family can both hurt and love each other in a way that would be incomprehensible in any other relationship. It asks the complex and somewhat messy question of what the two generations of parent and child might owe one another. It looks at the conflict between the 'sacrifice now, live later' ethos of the parents' generation and the 'live for the moment' approach of the younger characters. It's a play for the children who crave the love, pride and acceptance of their parents and for parents who struggle with the space between the dreams they had for their children and the reality of what they become. All of this is so hugely relatable on different levels which is why it is such a deeply moving play for a wide range of audience members.

The play, written by Australian playwright Andrew Bovell, premiered in 2016. The play's themes of family, loss, love and dreams are universal and therefore the play could be set anywhere in the West - we have set the play here in the UK in the present day to make it as relatable in setting as it is in content. The play spans a year and follows the Price family through the seasons that change as they do, as they discover the truths that show that 'people aren't perfect. Even the people you love. Especially the people you love.'

With such 'meaty' and well-written scenes to rehearse and such a talented cast, this has truly been a joy to work on. There have been laughter and tears, goosebump-inducing rehearsal moments and so much in-depth character psychoanalysis and opening up on how the play has related to our own lives. We hope you enjoy watching it as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to life.

Rachel Lansdowne



Things I Know to Be True is a beautifully observed family drama, but beneath its naturalistic dialogue lies a world of emotions that are often too complex for words alone. Love, grief, disappointment, hope and change are all woven through the play, and it is these unspoken feelings that inspired our approach.

The play was originally performed in collaboration with the physical theatre company 'Frantic Assembly' and was directed by their Artistic Director Scott Graham. For this production, we decided to instead take inspiration from the locally-based, but internationally acclaimed and award-winning Gecko Theatre Company, led by Artistic Director Amit Lahav.

Gecko's methodology encourages actors to tell stories not only through text, but through movement, physicality, imagery and ensemble work. Rather than illustrating the script, these techniques allow us to explore what the characters are feeling beneath the surface, the thoughts they cannot say aloud and the emotional connections that exist between them. The use of 'breath' is a recurring motif - the idea that breath unites us in a visceral way.

Throughout this production, moments of stylised movement sit alongside the realism of Andrew Bovell's writing, offering glimpses into the inner lives of the Price family. Memory, time and emotion become something tangible, helping us to experience the characters' journeys in a more immediate way.

At its heart, *Things I Know to Be True* asks what it means to love our family while allowing one another to grow and change. Gecko's physical theatre vocabulary gives us another language through which to explore these universal themes, creating a production that is both emotionally truthful and visually expressive.

We hope this blend of naturalism and physical storytelling allows you to connect with the Price family's experiences in a fresh and deeply human way.

Gecko

Creative Team



Rachel Lansdowne



Sarah Hajiloizou

Director Rachel Lansdowne
Choreographer Sarah Hajiloizou
Set Design Rachel Lansdowne
Set Construction Dave Borthwick
Lighting and Sound Design James Aleksic
Stage Manager Jo Strudwick
Lighting and Sound Operative Harry Stammers
Publicity Wade Ablitt & Becky Linge
Wardrobe Cast
Programme Content Rachel Lansdowne
Programme Design Steve Taplin
Production Photography Mike Kwasniak
Publicity Photography Sam Ward

Bob Phil Cory
Fran Rachel Keveren
Rosie Becky Linge
Pip Emilia Green
Ben Tom Mayhew
Mark Steve Withers

Cast



Fran - Rachel Keveren

When our wonderful director, Rachel, sent me a clip of the West End production of this play I was completely hooked. What a great play - intense, funny, moving and beautifully written. I knew the part of Fran would be one I would relish. Fran has such fire; outspoken, seemingly fearless, yet often full of self-doubt. She is the stitching that holds her family together and she loves them fiercely. As her story unfolds, we begin to understand what she's sacrificed of herself in holding her family together.



For me, the greatest part has been the cast. Not only have I finally had the privilege to work with Phil Cory, playing Bob - someone I'd admired many times from the audience - but I've also had the absolute joy of getting to know the four incredibly talented actors who play our children. There was an immediate bond between us all and we've laughed and cried together bringing this beautiful play to life.

We've found this play to be so relatable; a story for anyone who has been a parent and anyone who's been a child. I hope our audiences are as moved by it as we have been.

Bob - Phil Cory

The rehearsal process for 'Things I Know to Be True' has been such a joy from the initial reading, through the rehearsal process and, hopefully, to the performances. Being given the chance to play Bob has been a blessing and, in my opinion, we (the cast) have managed to bond as a family from day one (even though I should really be playing a slightly older brother and not the Dad!) and meeting and acting with Rachel (my stage wife) for the first time, has been just wonderful as indeed it has been with my 'sons and daughters'. Bob, I feel, is a very proud family man and all seems well...for the moment! This play rates as one of my favourites that I have done, not just with Gallery Players, but overall - and there have been a few to choose from. I hope you enjoy the production as much as we have enjoyed the process and maybe you can see, in the characters, little bits of people you may know or even yourself?



Pip - Emilia Green

I hadn't read the play before I was asked to participate, but as soon as I did, I knew I wanted to be part of this production. It's such a gripping and emotionally powerful piece of theatre, which is exactly the kind of work I love.

Pip certainly goes on her own journey throughout the play. As she faces incredibly difficult decisions and choices that will shape her future, she is also forced to confront the demons of her past. That complexity is what has made playing this role so exciting and rewarding for me.

The whole process has been incredibly enriching for so many reasons, but working alongside such a talented group of actors and being guided by Rachel's direction have been particular highlights. We've shared so many laughs and, at times, it has felt like genuine family bonding as we've worked together to bring this beautiful play to life.

I hope audiences will be just as enthralled by it as I have been.



Rosie - Becky Linge

'Things I Know to Be True' is one of those plays that quietly stays with you. At least, that has been my experience since I first encountered it years ago. Andrew Bovell captures family life with such honesty that it's impossible not to recognise pieces of ourselves somewhere within it.

Rosie has been a joy to explore. She wears her heart on her sleeve, loves deeply and dreams unapologetically, yet beneath her optimism is someone desperately trying to understand where she fits and what she truly wants from life. I see a lot of my teenage self in her. Rehearsals have been an incredibly special experience. Working alongside such a talented and supportive cast, under Rachel's thoughtful and beautiful direction, has allowed us to uncover both the humour and tenderness woven throughout the script. I hope audiences leave the theatre reflecting on the relationships that shape their own lives. If this play reminds us of anything, it's that families are wonderfully complicated, imperfect and, above all, deeply human.



Tom Mayhew - Ben

Working on 'Things I Know to Be True' has been an absolute privilege. Delving into the intricate dynamics of the Price family has been a deeply rewarding journey, and stepping into the shoes of Ben has challenged and inspired me in equal measure.

At its core, this play is a stunning reflection of the messy, beautiful reality of family life. I truly believe that every single member of the audience will see a piece of themselves or someone they love in these characters. You will laugh at their wit, empathise with their flaws, and perhaps even find yourselves moved to tears by their resilience and vulnerability. Andrew Bovell has crafted a truly magnificent, deeply human piece of theatre. Bringing this to life has been a joy, and working alongside such a wonderfully talented cast and dedicated production team has been a fantastic experience. Thank you for sharing this journey with us tonight and supporting local theatre.



Steve Withers - Mark

These are the turbulent moments, the formative and the beautiful moments. A family navigating un-met expectations, mis-aligned values and how it looks and feels to love unconditionally in spite of it all. Perhaps that's what family is?

I fell in love with this play immediately so I'm over the moon that our brilliant director Rachel invited me into fold. Mark is a bit of a mis-fit in the family, he never wanted to be and it's taken his adult life to figure out why. Perhaps he never truly found his voice before... He intends to now!

Aside from some emotional and fiery dialogue, a significant part of the rehearsal process has been building the physicality of the show. It's a kind of movement expression that I haven't explored since I was a much younger man! It's challenging but it's a creative space I've really enjoyed inhabiting it's been such a joy bringing our version of this play to the stage.





rehearsal photos:- Mike Kweznjak

Why - Famous Blue Raincoat?

Leonard Cohen's song *Famous Blue Raincoat* is mentioned more than once in the script. Why this song?

- The song links directly to the themes of love, betrayal, regret and the complicated nature of relationships, making it a wonderful parallel for the Price family
- Cohen's letter-like structure is also significant; the singer is speaking to someone who is absent, trying to make sense of a relationship that has changed. This echoes the play's feeling of people trying to communicate across emotional distances.
- The raincoat in the song is an ordinary item which carries an emotional history, like Bob and his roses in the play.
- Cohen never gives us a neat resolution, in keeping with the play.

Things we know to be True?

That loving someone doesn't mean being able to protect them.
That our children will become people we don't always recognise.
That leaving can sometimes be an act of love.
That families can hurt each other more deeply than anyone else.
That sometimes the things we don't say matter most.

Thanks to:

Thank you to the Gallery Players steering group: Steve Taplin, Steve Wooldridge and Wade Ablitt for the opportunity and for their support throughout.

Co-op Juniors for set piece loan
Steve Withers for support with the set



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1985 Cowardy Custard, 1986 Happy as a Sandbag, 1987 Sail Away, 1988 Something's Afoot, 1989 Company, 1990 The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, 1991 The Hired Man, 1992 Snoopy - The Musical, A Little Night Music, 1993 Stepping Out, Cabaret, 1994 Assassins, The Ghost Train, Into the Woods, Hobson's Choice, 1995 Man of La Mancha, Steel Magnolias, City of Angels, Scent of Flowers, 1996 Little Shop of Horrors, The Most Happy Fella, Blue Remembered Hills, 1997 Dancing at Lughnasa, Pacific Overtures, Chicago, Hard Times, 1998 The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui, Sweeney Todd (The Demon Barber of Fleet Street), Shadowlands, Something's Afoot, 1999 Carnival, Trip to Bountiful, The Boys From Syracuse, Tons of Money, 2000 On Golden Pond, The Bakers Wife, Kiss of the Spider Woman, A Slice of Saturday Night, One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest, 2001 Mrs Warren's Profession, A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum, Billy, Breezeblock Park, 2002 The Memory of Water, Flora The Red Menace, A Slice of Saturday Night, Radio Times, 2003 Kiss Me Like You Mean It, Days of Hope, Honk!, And A Nightingale Sang, 2004 Bouncers, Merrily We Roll Along, Talking Heads, You're A Good Man Charlie Brown, 2005 Kindertransport, She Loves Me, A Night At The Dogs, 2006 Amy's View, Passion, With Love, Colder Than Here, 2007 This Happy Breed, Grand Hotel, You Want Chilli Sauce With That & Marry Me A Little, The Sunshine Boys, 2008 Oh Kay!, Spend Spend Spend, To Kill A Mockingbird, 2009 The Long Road, Follies, Flare Path, 2010 Ordinary Days, Rent, Spring & Port Wine, 2011 My Mother Said I Never Should, Our House, Heroes, 2012 Putting it Together, Love Story, Be My Baby, 2013 A Man of No Importance, Into the Woods, The Importance of Being Earnest, 2014 Oh What a Lovely War!, Galileo, The History Boys, 2015 A Day in the Death of Joe Egg, Hairspray, A Streetcar Named Desire, 2016 Jumpers For Goalposts, The House Of Bernarda Alba, Spring Awakening, Ushers, 2017 Urinetown, Far From The Madding Crowd, 2018 Wolf Hall, Grow Up Grandad, Lucky Stiff, 2019 The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, The Lady In The Van, A New Brain, 2020 Gallery @ 35 (an online celebration), 2021 The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Macbeth, Bully Boy/Mortuary Sisters (a double bill), 2022 Celebrating Sondheim, Gutenberg - The Musical, Di & Viv & Rose, Come Back to the Five & Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean, The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13 3/4 - The Musical, Sunday in the Park with George, 2023 Daddy Long Legs, The Kitchen Sink, Xanadu, Kiss of the Spider Woman, Piaf, 2024 Playhouse Creatures, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Lovesong, The Bridges of Madison County, Parade, 2025 Fun Home, God of Carnage, The Great British Bake Off Musical, The Way Old Friends Do, 2026 Beautiful Thing, A Little Night Music, Hadestown, Things I Know To Be True . **Future Productions:-** Our 2026 season continues with - **Amelie - the Musical** in November. For more info. www.galleryplayers.co.uk



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*She lives quietly in the world
but loudly in her mind.*



*Amélie is an extraordinary
young woman.*



*She covertly improvises small but surprising
acts of kindness that bring joy and mayhem!*

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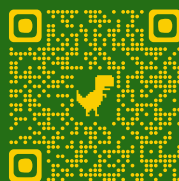
The musical

Amélie

Book Craig Lucas
Music Daniel Messe
Lyrics Nathan Tysen & Daniel Messe

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Gallery

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Amélie

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