

Nick Cave and the aftermath of grief

An article by *ABR* Fellow Felicity Plunkett

Felicity Plunkett – the 2019 *ABR* Patrons' Fellow – brings all her musical and literary discernment to this appreciation of Australian-born musician and writer Nick Cave's ever-protean creativity following the death of his adolescent son Arthur in 2015.

Dynamic, divisive and eloquent, Nick Cave has been making art since the 1970s. In 2015, during the recording of his album *Skeleton Tree* with his band The Bad Seeds, his fifteen-year-old son Arthur died after an accidental fall. It goes without saying that the impact of this on Cave's life and work has been profound.

This essay captures some of the ways Cave has dealt creatively with trauma, charting an astonishing resilience and the ways mourning has changed his work, from the documentary account of the making of *Skeleton Tree*, *One More Time With Feeling* and beyond, into a series of intimate letters in response to fans' vulnerable questions.



Susie Bick, Nick Cave, Earl Cave, Rick Woollard, and Andrew Dominik in *One More Time with Feeling* (photograph by Kerry Brown)



Felicity Plunkett

About Felicity Plunkett

Felicity Plunkett is a poet and critic. Her first collection of poetry, *Vanishing Points* (UQP, 2009), won the Arts Queensland Thomas Shapcott Prize and was shortlisted for several other awards. Her new collection, *A Kinder Sea*, is forthcoming. Felicity was Poetry Editor for University of Queensland Press and edited *Thirt Australian Poets* (UQP, 2011). She has a PhD from the University of Sydney and her reviews and essays have been widely published.

Further information:

More information about *Australian Book Review* can be found on the *ABR* website, including a publisher profile, media photos, a timeline, and recent media releases.

Interviews:

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