

BLACK SWAN STATE THEATRE COMPANY & PIGRAM PRODUCTIONS PRESENT

RAISED IN BIG SPIRIT COUNTRY

IN ASSOCIATION WITH GOOLARRI MEDIA



3-5 SEPTEMBER 2026 / GOOLARRI AMPHITHEATRE

PRESENTED BY



IMPACT PARTNER



PRINCIPAL PARTNER



Black Swan State Theatre Company of Western Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and live.

First Nations People have been telling stories on this country for many thousands of years, and we acknowledge their incredible contribution to the cultural and environmental landscape we reside in. In addition, we acknowledge and recognise all First Nations People with whom we work and whose lands we travel to in Western Australia. We pay our respects to all Elders past and present, and their ancestors that walked this country before them, as we stand united towards a shared future.

Total running time

Total running time: 1 hour 15 minutes (no interval)

Content warnings: Contains minor coarse language, use of haze and smoke effects. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander audiences are also advised that the presentation will contain images of deceased persons.

Cover Image

Boy From Beyond

Production Photography

Daniel J Grant & Boy From Beyond

Program Design

Troy Barbitta

IMPACT PARTNER



This season of *Raised in Big Spirit Country* has been made possible through the generosity of Minderoo Foundation. Black Swan is incredibly grateful to have received a three year grant from Minderoo to support the embedding of First Nations Programming and Engagement across our annual season. We are thrilled to work in collaboration with Minderoo to celebrate WA stories, artists and perspectives.

Pigram Productions and Black Swan State Theatre Company would like to thank those who generously provided images, footage, music, stories and permissions for *Raised in Big Spirit Country*.

We acknowledge the music, artistry and legacy of Kuckles – the late Jimmy Chi, Stephen Pigram, Michael Manolis, Gary Gower and Patrick Bin Amat – and Scrap Metal – Stephen, Alan and Phillip Pigram, Michael “Nemo” Teh, John Albert, the late Michael Ambi and the late Duncan Campbell. Your contributions to the iconic Broome sound have lived in the hearts and minds of our people for decades. Your work has helped shape the identity and pride of generations from across the region, and we are grateful for the opportunity to celebrate these extraordinary contributions through this production.

We also acknowledge the artistry of the late Stephen “Bamba” Albert and thank his family for allowing us to include his much-loved *Fishing Skit* in the production.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who took the time to speak with the creators of this work. Special thanks to Mums Pat and Bek, Aunties Anthea and Cailine,

Nanna Pearly Hamaguchi and Nanna Sally Demin. We also gratefully acknowledge the family members who offered their support and gave permission for the images and artistry of loved ones who are no longer with us to be included.

We thank the teams at Goolarri Media Enterprises and PAKAM; Peter Strain for material from his documentary *What Time Low Tide*; Jane Castle for footage and photographs from the *Broken Down Man* music video; Environs Kimberley; Getty Images; Stephen Smith; Broome Historical Museum; and Boy from Beyond Photography.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to the families and support networks of our cast and crew for their time, love and support.

Raised in Big Spirit Country is supported by the WA Government through Tourism WA and Royalties for Regions.

Pigram Productions acknowledges the support from Member for Kimberley, Divina D’Anna MLA.

A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM HON ROGER COOK MLA, PREMIER; MINISTER FOR TOURISM, TRADE AND INVESTMENT HON STEPHEN DAWSON MLC, MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT; KIMBERLEY

THE COOK LABOR GOVERNMENT IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF *RAISED IN BIG SPIRIT COUNTRY* THROUGH TOURISM WESTERN AUSTRALIA’S REGIONAL EVENTS SCHEME, FUNDED BY ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS.

The Regional Events Scheme (RES) was established to support event holders across the State with the development of events to drive tourism to regional Western Australia. The RES plays an important role in creating a timely reason for visitors to travel to the State’s regions, activating pockets of Western Australia and creating vibrancy, while showcasing the host region’s unique and diverse attractions.

A total of 64 regional events across Western Australia have been awarded funding through the 2026-27 funding round. This includes a \$150,000 funding pool for the Regional Aboriginal Events Scheme, which exclusively allocates funding to events delivering Aboriginal activities and experiences.

HON ROGER COOK MLA
PREMIER; MINISTER FOR TOURISM, TRADE AND INVESTMENT

The Western Australian Government is proud to sponsor these regional events, which help bring vibrancy to local communities and drive visitor spend, injecting millions into regional economies.

Tourism is a key part of our plan to diversify the economy, create jobs and develop business opportunities, especially in regional Western Australia. Events play an important role in this plan and also contribute to the Government’s vision for Perth and Western Australia to be the fastest growing events destination in the South East Asia region.

The Western Australian Government sponsors a range of sporting, cultural, arts and culinary events across the state, to attract visitors and encourage them to stay longer, disperse further and spend more while they are here.

We hope everyone enjoys *Raised in Big Spirit Country* and takes the time to explore the Kimberley region.

HON STEPHEN DAWSON MLC
MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER FOR KIMBERLEY

A NOTE FROM NAOMI PIGRAM-MITCHELL



BROOME'S ORIGINAL MUSIC WAS MORE THAN JUST GOOD MUSIC. IT WAS OURS. IT GAVE OUR GENERATION PRIDE IN WHO WE WERE, BELONGING AND PERMISSION TO DREAM. OUR CREATIVE GIANTS MADE BROOME VISIBLE TO US AND THE WORLD. WE COULD SEE IT, SO WE COULD BE IT.

Their legacy lives in us. This work makes room for Broome's next story and generation.

Development began in 2023 with Kate Champion's outstretched hand and big-sister (Ngurnu) guidance. I accepted apprehensively, knowing the greatness of those who made the bush tracks before me. I doubted I was good enough and worried people back home might say, "She think em self."

The journey brought self-discovery, acceptance, healing and courage to take the reins. Not from ego, but from an inherent obligation felt deep in my bones to protect what was handed down and make room for what comes next.

In 2024, it premiered locally with an all-Broome cast and creatives. Drawing on my father's music picture show tradition, we used music, imagery and performance to tell our story: a Broome generation shaped by original music, profound change and the fracturing of a once-unified community.

In 2025, 14 Broome creatives brought the second development to a sold-out season at the State Theatre Centre's Studio Underground.

It became bigger than a show. We established Pigram Productions, a locally owned and operated First Nations creative company, and Wiyawiya, an Indigenous performing arts mentorship program, connecting generations and keeping our stories in community.

From our backyards to the big stage – and now back home.

My gratitude goes to cast, crew and creatives; families, elders, community and audiences; Black Swan and sponsors; and those who shared films, photographs, documents and family stories to bring Broome's history to life.

Bringing it home honours Country and the people who shaped us, giving hope to those who follow.





RAISED IN BIG SPIRIT COUNTRY, WHICH HAD A SOLD-OUT SEASON HERE IN PERTH IN 2025, IS MAKING ITS JOURNEY BACK HOME TO BROOME, THIS SEPTEMBER!

While *Raised In Big Spirit Country* is brought to audiences by a range of talented artists and creatives, we got the chance to sit down with the musical director, Bart Pigram, to get the scoop on the upcoming season.

Can you let our readers know a little bit about how the music/songs of RIBSC first came to together?

The songs come from an extremely important social turning point for Broome and the Kimberley region, the 80's and early 90's where cultural expression and freedom collided with northern development, land rights movements, and the Native Title policy. As kids in that era, it was music and community that we absorbed the most. These days it's not quite like that. The music in those songs is an interesting mix of rock, reggae, ska and Kimberley country music. There are also original songs in the production that are our expressions of the current state of affairs, and some beautiful old memories.

Music is such a compelling, and, as artforms go, a very direct way to connect to and tell stories. What do these stories mean to you in 2026?

I think it's the best of "true telling" and being able to connect our truth to the audience and leaving them with an empathetic insight to who we are as multicultural people in Broome. These stories are stories we have lived, not read about. It's not subject matter; it is living matter. That's why the audience will feel a range of emotions in the show that has the authentic Broome sound that's developed over decades.

How has the music evolved across this journey?

We have tried to remain true to the original sound of when these songs were played in the pubs of Broome right down to the instrumentation. As much as we would like to add this

instrument and that instrument, the musicians in the production have the heritage and the sound that we need to tell the story, so we are happy with remaining true to the old sound.

What is a something you would like audiences to take away from RIBSC 2026?

I would hope that audiences familiar with the old songs can reminisce and appreciate what those songs gave to the community throughout that era, but for the contemporary part of the production I really want audiences to be able to understand that Broome is not just about sandy beaches, pearls and camels. I want them to be able to connect to our story and have deeper appreciation for the people and culture of Broome.

Has this musical journey inspired other projects for you?

Definitely! We have had many lightbulb moments throughout the production, and we've parked them for future endeavours. This production highlights our experiences, but we know there is much more to tell, so I suspect moving forward that we will be collaborating with other people with different stories.

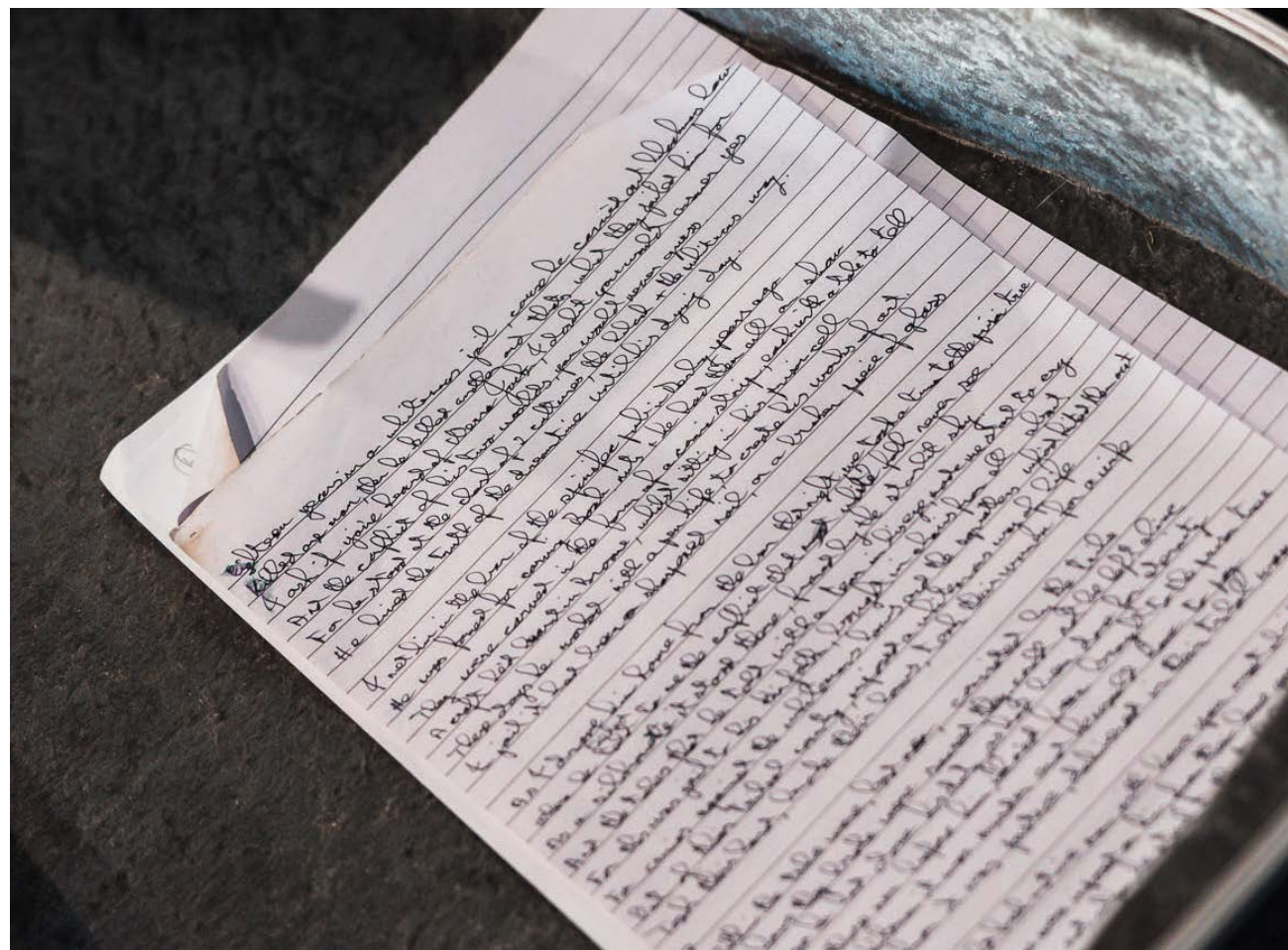
What have you been loving at the moment?

I love being a part of playing these classic old songs that I have heard all my life, and to be able to place my own song amongst the set list of these legends, or "giants" as Naomi refers to. This is our musical heritage, and I am fully invested in sharing it and paying our respects to those who created it!

"IT'S NOT SUBJECT MATTER; IT IS LIVING MATTER."

THE SOUND OF BROOME

WITH MUSICAL DIRECTOR, BART PIGRAM



CAST, CREATIVES AND CREW

CAST

Naomi Pigram-Mitchell
Bart Pigram
Nelson Baker
Raphael Hunter
Tehya Makani
Miss Genius
Gavin Mitchell
Chase Pigram
L'aja Pigram
Ryleigh Pigram
Luke Puertollano
Emma Sibosado

CREATIVES

Naomi Pigram-Mitchell
Writer, Director, Set &
Costume Designer
Bart Pigram
Music Director
Kristie Smith
Lighting Designer
Simon Stewart
Movement Choreographer
Katy Malacari
Stage Manager
Teejay Dingo-Woods
Assistant Stage Manager
& Assistant Production
Manager
Kate Champion
Creative Consultant
Chris Isaacs
Dramaturg

CREW

Joey Coombes
Production Manager
Tim Collins
Audio Operator & System
Designer
Jordan Lee
Head Mechanist



RAISED IN BIG SPIRIT COUNTRY SONG LIST

ACT ONE – BACKYARD

1. *Westerley* – N. Pigram-Mitchell
2. *Olanji* – S. Pigram, A. Pigram, P. Pigram, M. Teh
3. *Common Gate* – S. Pigram, P. Pigram, A.E. Pigram, D. Pigram, M. Teh, G.A. Pigram, B. Tolentino, M. Rahman, J. Bin Demin, M. Ambi
4. *Broome And Pearls* – E. Puertollano
5. *Fishing* – M. Manolis

ACT TWO – THE ROEBUCK

6. *Maybe I Will* – S. Pigram, A. Pigram, P. Pigram, J. Albert, M. Teh, D.C.H Campbell
7. *Howling At The Moon* – S. Pigram, A. Pigram, P. Pigram, J. Albert, M. Teh, D.C.H Campbell
8. *Common Gate* – S. Pigram, P. Pigram, A.E. Pigram, D. Pigram, M. Teh, G.A. Pigram, B. Tolentino, M. Rahman, J. Bin Demin, M. Ambi
9. *King Tide* – A. Pigram, S. Pigram, J. Albert
10. *Shadow Of Your Eyes* – S. Pigram, A. Pigram, P. Pigram, M. Teh, A. John
11. *Sun Don't Shine* – S. Pigram, A. Pigram, P. Pigram, J. Chi, J. Albert, M. Teh, D.C.H Campbell, vocal arrangement by Tehya Makani
12. *Millaya Rumarra (Bran Nue Dae)* – J. Chi, M. Manolis
13. *Shangeye In The Kitchen* – S. Pigram, A. Pigram, P. Pigram, M. Teh, C.H.L. Fowler
14. *Broken Down Man* – S. Pigram, A. Pigram, P. Pigram, J. Albert, M. Teh
15. *Trouble In The Land* – S. Pigram, A. Pigram, P. Pigram, M. Teh, J. Albert

ACT THREE – COUNTRY

1. *Mangrove Song* – S.W.B. Pigram, vocal arrangement by Tehya Makani
2. *Vice* – S.W.B. Pigram
3. *Mimi* – S. Pigram, A. Pigram, A. Wasiliev
4. *Where I B'long* – S. Pigram



NAOMI PIGRAM-MITCHELL WRITER, DIRECTOR, SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

Naomi Pigram-Mitchell is a Broome-based singer-songwriter, director, creative producer and Managing Director of Pigram Productions. A member of the renowned Pigram family, she continues the legacy of the Kimberley's "saltwater sound" through contemporary performance, storytelling and community-led practice.

With more than 25 years' experience in the arts, Naomi is dedicated to nurturing artists and creating spaces where stories can be shared. She is the creator and director of *Raised in Big Spirit Country* and has worked as Associate Director on *Bran Nue Dae*, Assistant Director on *The Shepherd's Hut*, and Associate Artistic Director at Black Swan State Theatre Company. She also performs with Crest of Crows and leads *Wiyawiya*, an Indigenous performing arts mentorship initiative.



BART PIGRAM MUSIC DIRECTOR

Bart Pigram is a Yawuru musician, performer, and storyteller whose creativity is deeply rooted in the saltwater Country of Broome. As a musician and performer, Bart uses song, story, and memory to celebrate heritage. He is the Musical Director for the acclaimed production *Raised in Big Spirit Country* and a key contributor to *A Taste of Broome*. Beyond the stage, Bart is a prominent cultural entrepreneur. He founded Narlijia Experiences Broome, a cultural tourism venture that actively shares Yawuru history and stories. His work, including contributions to exhibitions like *Lustre: Pearling & Australia*, demonstrates his commitment to Yawuru language revitalisation and translating his culture into powerful community inspiration.



NELSON BAKER

Nelson Baker is an actor, model and proud Nyikina man.

After completing his studies at WAAPA (Aboriginal Theatre & Screen Performance), Nelson made his professional screen debut in the critically-acclaimed ABC series, *The Warriors* starring alongside Vince Colosimo and Lisa McCune in the leading role of Zane.

Following this, Nelson starred as the series regular role of JJ for Channel Nine's hit series, *Bad Mothers*. He has also appeared in *Spreadsheet* (Paramount), *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart* (Prime Video) in the role of Aiden, as well as portraying Johnny in the popular Foxtel series, *The Twelve S2*.

Nelson's theatre credits include, *Brothers Wreck* for Malthouse Theatre and *Raised in Big Spirit Country* for Black Swan State Theatre Company.

Nelson can currently be seen as the key support role of Ilijah, in the SBS comedy series, *Warm Props*.



RAPHAEL HUNTER

Raphael Hunter (known as "Womp") is a versatile musician, vocalist, and lead guitarist from Broome and the Dampier Peninsula. He proudly identifies as a Nimanburr person. His musical roots are firmly set in the local scene. Raphael is a member of the band King of Hearts, known for their Coastal Reggae sound, and has performed at local festivals. Raphael is a key figure in the Black Swan State Theatre Company production *Raised in Big Spirit Country*. In this acclaimed concert event, he contributes as a Vocalist and Lead Guitarist, showcasing his talent across the distinctive "Broome sound" and celebrating the region's rich musical heritage.



TEHYA MAKANI

A graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, Tehya Makani is an actor, singer and proud Yawuru, Wadjarri, Pitjantjatjara and Wadjuk (Noongar) woman. Tehya made her professional screen debut in Jub Clerc's SBS comedy series, *Warm Props* in the leading role of Charlie. Most recently, Tehya starred as Julie in Queensland Theatre Company's production of *The Sapphires*. Her other theatre credits include, Opera Australia's revival of Jimmy Chi's celebrated musical *Bran Nue Dae*, Big hART's *Songs for Freedom*, *Punkaliyarra* which presented at Perth Festival and MONA FOMA Festival, as well as Wesley Enoch's award-winning production of *The Sunshine Club*, in the role of Pearl Doyle.



MISS GENIUS

Miss Genius is a hip hop and soul artist and songwriter from regional Western Australia. Her music is built on raw honesty, sharp lyricism and powerful storytelling – turning lived experience into songs that connect, heal and inspire. With a voice that's both vulnerable and unapologetic, Miss Genius writes from the heart and delivers with purpose.

Miss Genius has performed at major festivals and events across Australia including Perth Festival, Boorloo Block Party, Hatched (Sydney), Nannup Music Festival, Collision Festival, Saltwater Music Festival, WAMFest, Hidden Treasures and NAIDOC celebrations. She has supported Briggs and shared the stage with some of Australia's most respected artists, bringing high energy, real lyrics and unforgettable performances.



GAVIN MITCHELL

Gavin Mitchell makes his stage debut in *Raised in Big Spirit Country* as the production's drummer.

Best known for his AFL career with the Fremantle Dockers and St Kilda Football Club, Gavin is no stranger to performing under pressure. This production, however, marks his first official performance as a musician.

Growing up in Broome during the 1980s, Gavin was immersed in the music of local bands including Scrap Metal, Footprints and Ganada. Even while playing football away from home, the Broome sound remained a constant, with Scrap Metal's music always bringing him back to where it all began.

Although he built his career in sport, Gavin has always been drawn to the rhythm of music. *Raised in Big Spirit Country* is a full-circle moment, taking him from backyard jam sessions to the stage in celebration of the songs and stories that shaped his hometown.



CHASE PIGRAM

Chase Pigram is a Broome-based musician, singer-songwriter, and performer whose music is deeply inspired by the culture, stories, and landscapes of where he grew up. Having learned his craft from his grandfathers, he carries forward a strong tradition of storytelling through song, blending contemporary performance with a deep respect for his heritage and community.

Recent credits include *Raised in Big Spirit Country* (2025) and *Raised in Big Spirit Country* (2024) both in collaboration with Black Swan State Theatre Company contributing to the live performance of his grandfather's original music.

His work is driven by a passion for sharing authentic stories through music and creating meaningful connections with audiences across Western Australia. Whether performing on stage or within the community, he is committed to celebrating local voices, honouring the knowledge passed down through his grandfathers, and ensuring those stories continue to inspire future generations.

Chase is more than thrilled to be joining the RIBSC team again to honour the giants of the past, and to ensure the survival of their sound moving forward to the future.



RYLEIGH PIGRAM

Ryleigh Pigram is the youngest cast member of *Raised in Big Spirit Country*, where her beautiful voice and natural stage presence have captured audiences beyond her years. She made her stage debut in the production's sold-out 2025 season at the State Theatre Centre of Western Australia and returns to the cast for its homecoming Broome season.

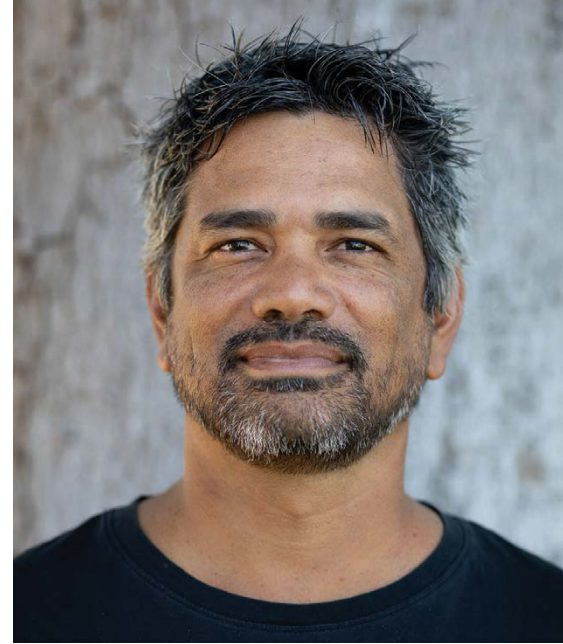
Ryleigh's performing journey began early. In 2020, at just five years old, her voice featured in the Western Australian Museum Boola Bardip's Connections Gallery as part of the Tianqi Lithium Australia Ghost Net Crocodile installation.

Growing up surrounded by music, storytelling and performance, Ryleigh is part of a new generation of Kimberley artists finding their own voice while honouring those who came before. As the youngest performer in *Raised in Big Spirit Country*, she is a reminder that the Broome sound continues to grow through the next generation of storytellers and musicians.



L'EJA PIGRAM

L'ēja Pigram is a musician from Broome, Western Australia, and an emerging guitarist whose artistry is deeply influenced by the rich musical legacy of her family and Country. Growing up surrounded by music, storytelling and culture, she has developed a distinctive style that blends contemporary guitar with the rhythms and spirit of the Kimberley. As a member of the next generation of the renowned Pigram musical family, L'ēja brings both sensitivity and confidence to the stage, creating performances that are authentic, expressive and deeply connected to place. In *Raised in Big Spirit Country*, she contributes her exceptional musicianship to a powerful celebration of family, culture and the stories that have shaped Broome. L'ēja represents the continuing evolution of the Kimberley sound, carrying tradition forward while forging her own unique musical path.



LUKE PUERTOLLANO

Luke Puertollano is a vocalist and guitarist from Broome, Western Australia, known for his powerful presence in the town's contemporary music and theatre scene. Luke is a core member of the acclaimed Black Swan State Theatre Company production *Raised in Big Spirit Country*, where he performs as a Vocalist and Guitarist, contributing to the multi-generational celebration of the "Broome sound." He is also an active member of the local band Puertside, a group known for their big jam-session style performances at local events like the Saltwater Music Festival. Luke is a versatile performer who helps continue the tradition of Broome storytelling through song.



EMMA SIBOSADO

Emma Sibosado is a soulful singer and songwriter from Broome, Western Australia, with deep roots as a proud Bardi and Yawuru woman of the Dampier Peninsula. Coming from a musically gifted family, Emma is a recognized voice in the Broome arts scene, known for her compelling vocal performances at events like KIPAS and the Kimberley Camp Fire Sessions. She frequently performs as part of the duo Emma & AJ (sometimes Saltwater Kin), collaborating with fellow Yawuru artist AJ Moore. Her work extends to significant cultural productions, including being a vocalist for the Black Swan State Theatre Company's *Raised in Big Spirit Country*. With a recent release like the single *Take Me Home (Live)*, Emma continues to share her voice and stories, representing the heart and spirit of the Kimberley through her music.



KRISTIE SMITH LIGHTING DESIGNER

Kristie Smith is a Boorloo/Perth-based lighting designer for theatre, musical theatre, ballet and contemporary dance. She is passionate about new Australian productions and enjoys working with fellow local and emerging creatives. Kristie graduated from WAAPA with a Bachelor of Performing Arts (Lighting Design) in 2017 and has been working in Perth theatres since, as well as touring state-wide with local productions and nationally with commercial musicals.

Recent designs include *Raised in Big Spirit Country* (2025) for Black Swan State Theatre Company, *The 7 Stages of Grieving* (2025) for Yirra Yaakin, *The Wild Between Stars: Ballet at the Quarry* (2025) for the West Australian Ballet, *Same Time Next Week* (2024 & 2026) by Scott McArdle (awarded Best Production (Musical) and Outstanding New Work at Performing Arts WA Awards 2025) and *Nocturnal* (2024) for Brooke Leeder & Dancers (awarded Outstanding Lighting Design and Best Independent Production (Dance) at Performing Arts WA Awards 2025).



SIMON STEWART MOVEMENT CHOREOGRAPHER

Simon Stewart is a Contemporary movement Artists, choreographer and Director from Broome Western Australia. Simon's cultural heritage comes from the East Simon Studied Dance (Diploma in dance) at NAIDSA College in Sydney, 'National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association'.

Simon has worked extensively though out the East Kimberley's, Northern Territory, Perth metropolitan and on community youth dance projects in regional WA and NT.

Simon has been a sessional Lecturer at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts WAAPA, Aboriginal Theatre Course in Broome and Perth since 1999.

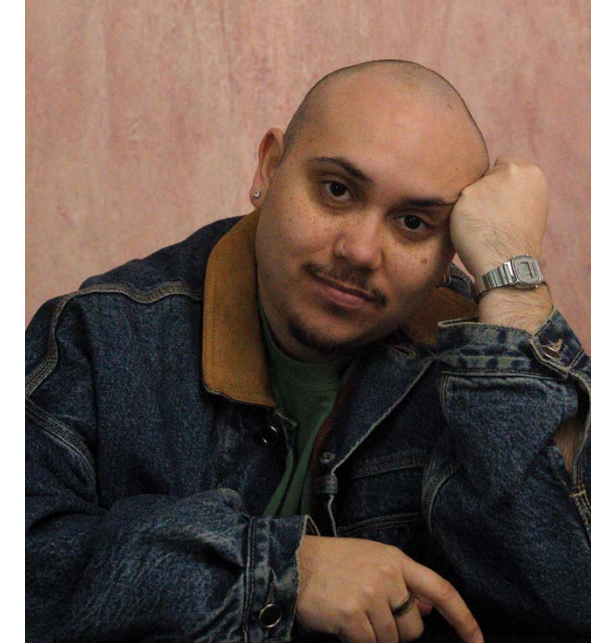
Simon's professional work as performer and choreographer has been with: Company Lian in Paris, The 8th Pacific Arts Festival New Caledonia, Buzz Dance Theatre Perth, Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company Perth, OCHRE Contemporary Dance Company Perth, Phillip Walley Stack International Perth, Strut Dance Company Perth, Ausdance WA, Sand Piper Productions Perth, 2012 Australian Dance Awards Perth, John Curtin College of the Arts Perth and the Intercultural Institute Singapore. Choreographer/performer for 'Crossing Borders' collaborative theatre project with WAAPA and Ryerson University Toronto Canada, Interdisciplinary Dialogue with WAAPA's Aboriginal Performance and the European Theatre and Film Institute in Croatia and Hungary.

Simon expresses his dance and movement technique practice through Contemporary based movement embodied practice, and research.



KATY MALACARI STAGE MANAGER

Katy Malacari is a highly experienced stage manager and educator, currently serving as a sessional lecturer and mentor at the prestigious Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA). With a rich career in stage management, she has led productions for the West Australian Ballet as Production Stage Manager, and worked on high-profile shows such as *Wicked*, *Les Misérables* and *Legally Blonde the Musical*, in Australia. Katy has also contributed her expertise to international productions with Franco Dragone Entertainment Group on *The House of Dancing Water* in Macau, Blue Man Group, and *Walking With Dinosaurs* for Global Creatures. Katy has worked on stage managing GWB Entertainment & Andrew Henry Presents' *Death of a Salesman* with Anthony LaPaglia at Crown Theatre Perth.



TEEJAY DINGO-WOODS ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER & ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER

Teejay Dingo-Woods is a Yamatji/Noongar actor and emerging voice in Australian theatre, known for his commitment to Indigenous storytelling and cultural expression. A graduate of the Aboriginal Performance and Advanced Diploma in Acting program at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), Teejay has been involved in productions that explore the intersection of traditional First Nations culture and contemporary performance. In 2022, Teejay was part of a studio production of *Black Medea*, Wesley Enoch's adaptation of the Greek tragedy, reimagined within an Australian First Nations context. This production, performed by First Nations actors enrolled in WAAPA's Aboriginal Performance program, utilized yarning as a methodology to explore themes such as the destruction of Country, intergenerational violence, and the Spirit World. Teejay is an advocate for transgender visibility and inclusion. In 2024, he publicly shared his journey as a transgender man, launching a fundraiser to support his top surgery, highlighting the challenges faced by transgender individuals in accessing gender-affirming healthcare.

Teejay Dingo-Woods continues to be a dynamic presence in the arts, using his platform to amplify Indigenous voices and advocate for inclusivity within the performing arts community.



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BLACK SWAN FUTURE FUND

Supported by Minderoo Foundation, generous philanthropists, and legacy gifts, Black Swan's Future Fund was established in 2017 to build a strong financial foundation to support growth and sustainability. The investment fund enables the delivery of works of exceptional quality, scale, and ambition. We thank those who have supported the Future Fund, in particular, we acknowledge the extraordinary generosity of Nicola and Andrew Forrest, and look forward to creating many more opportunities for our artists and audiences.

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- Visit Carnarvon's Gwoonwardu Mia Cultural Centre, which celebrates the stories and culture of the five Aboriginal language groups of the Gascoyne Region.
- Soak up the sun and crystal-clear waters of Coral Bay and snorkel through lively coral gardens.
- Discover Geraldton / Jambinu, the Coral Coast's only city and the gateway to the 122 Houtman Abrolhos Islands.
- Start your day in Shark Bay / Gathaagudu by meeting the friendly Monkey Mia dolphins, then go four-wheel driving in Francois Peron National Park.
- Swim alongside gentle whale sharks, humpback whales or manta rays in the Ningaloo Reef World Heritage Area.

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