

SKYLAB

by Melodie Reynolds-Diarra



BLACK SWAN
STATE THEATRE
COMPANY



yirra yaakin
THEATRE COMPANY



Knowledge grows

Yara Pilbara

We're part of the Karratha community and proud to support the Skylab Regional Tour



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human energy

the arts help communities to thrive

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Water is a precious resource that connects us all.

We're excited to support the tour of *Skylab* to Karratha and Carnarvon.

Fresh Water Thinking



STUDIO UNDERGROUND
STATE THEATRE CENTRE OF WA
PERTH

16 AUG TO 02 SEP

RED EARTH ARTS PRECINCT
KARRATHA

05 SEP

CAMEL LANE THEATRE
CARNARVON

08 SEP

DURATION: approx. 2 hours (including interval)

WARNING: Some strong language, strobe lighting, haze, dynamic sound, ages 12+.

We would like to respectfully inform you that you will hear the voices of people who have passed.

Please remember to turn off your mobile phone during the performance.



Black Swan State Theatre Company and Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company would like to acknowledge the Whadjuk people from the Noongar nation who are the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which this work was created. We pay respect to the Elders; for they hold the history, the cultural practice and traditions of their people. We would also like to acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the lands and languages of the areas that Skylab will be visiting in this tour. In the city of Karratha, we would like to acknowledge the Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi people from Ngarluma Country. In Carnarvon, we would like to acknowledge the Inggarda as the area's first people. It is a privilege to be together on Aboriginal land.

Building a stronger community for 25 years.

As Australia's largest independent oil and gas company, Woodside has proudly supported Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company as Development Partner since 2012. We congratulate Yirra Yaakin on 25 years of inspiring contemporary Aboriginal theatre, and the next generation of artists through the *Next Step Training Program*.

WOODSIDE AND YIRRA YAAKIN. WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD A STRONGER COMMUNITY.

Shakara Walley and Ian Wilkes, Kaarla Kaatjin, 2014

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GENUINE RELATIONSHIPS
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FEATURING

GARY COOPER	Uncle Harvey
ALAN LITTLE	Nev
RAYMA MCGRATH MORRISON	Nan
LAILA BANO RIND	Jem

OPENING NIGHT CAST

EVA BARTLETT	Amy
DONNATHIA GENTLE	Sonia
JACOB NARKLE	Nate

CLOSING NIGHT & TOURING CAST

LIANI DALGETTY	Amy
JULIETTE LAYLAN	Sonia
BENJAMIN NARKLE	Nate
DR CLINT BRACKNELL	Composer/Sound Designer
KAREN COOK	Assistant Stage Manager
DR SUE FENTY STUDHAM	Stage Manager
KELLY FREGON	Production Design Assistant
MIA HOLTON	Vision Designer
JACOB LEHRER	Movement Consultant
MATTHEW MCVEIGH	Set & Costume Designer
IAN MICHAEL	Assistant Director
KYLE J MORRISON	Director
MIKE NANNING	Lighting Designer
SERGEY PEVNEV	Russian Language Consultant
NELMA WELSH	Chaperone
JENNY EDWARDS	Costumer
BEN GREEN	Set Construction
NICOLE MARRINGTON	Costume Maker
JULIA RUTHERFORD	Wardrobe Assistant
MAREK SYZLER	Scenic Artist
KIM WESTBROOK	Transport

THE PERTH SEASON WAS MADE POSSIBLE WITH THE SUPPORT OF

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THE REGIONAL TOUR OF SKYLAB WAS ALSO MADE POSSIBLE WITH THE SUPPORT OF

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THE IMPOSSIBLE
POSSIBLE

NOONGAR SHAKESPEARE
PROJECT PARTNER

Kyle J Morrison, Artistic Director



SYNOPSIS



Skylab company in rehearsals. Photo by Ian Michael.

It's July 1979 in the remote Western Australian town of Esperance. Jem and Nev are planning dinner for their family while their kids, Amy, Nate and Sonia, watch Monkey Magic on the television. Nan is collecting sticks and Uncle Harv is keeping guard with an alfoil helmet and metal diviner out front. NASA's Skylab space station is falling to earth and Jem, Nev and the kids have no idea that their world is about to change.

Uncle Harv knows that something's amiss and tries to get the family to see things from his point of view. Jem thinks he's being paranoid and should just shut off his ham receiver if he's so worried about the 'radio waves'. The kids however, are firm believers of 'magic' in their world and pinch their mum's alfoil to build some helmets too. Life continues as normal until the sonic booms start, each boom getting louder and closer. Eerily, everything Uncle Harv predicted becomes reality – and then some!

After the sonic booms from Skylab's fall to earth, everything changes in town. Uncle Harv keeps to his shed with a secret and the notion that "with our thoughts we make the world". Things Jem and Nev had dreamed about start to become reality – a full fridge, full bellies and a diamond ring big enough to choke a horse!

It's a contemporary Dreaming story with a whole lot of magic.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Black Swan would like to thank Brian Heller and the Arts Angels and Cathy Penglis. We would also like to thank the team at the State Theatre Centre of Western Australia for their support and assistance. Special thanks to the following for their support in creating the *Skylab* pop-up museum: Lynda Horn, Cultural Officer, Shire of Esperance; Neville Mulgat, Esperance Museum; Tanya Edwards, Manager Exhibition and Design (a/g), Stuart Leach, Travelling Exhibitions Coordinator, Exhibition & Design, and Jim Cook, Graphic Technician, WA Museum.

Skylab was originally developed by Ilbijerri's Black Writers Lab; Moogahlin's Yellamundie National First Peoples Playwriting Festival, Playwriting Australia's National Play Festival with Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company.

Melodie would like to extend her thanks to the Dramaturgs who worked on the project with her: Kamarra Bell-Wykes (her soul sister), Isaac Drandic, Polly Low and Ian Sinclair. In addition, Melodie would like to thank Peta Murray and Mari Lourey who introduced her to the world of writing. Special thanks to all the wonderful actors and creatives who helped develop the work.

The *Skylab* company would like to thank Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre for their assistance in translation.



MELODIE REYNOLDS-DIARRA Playwright

Melodie is a Wongutha, Nadju woman from Western Australia. She made her acting debut at the age of 16 in *No Sugar* at Belvoir St and went on to graduate from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) in 1996.

Melodie has performed in several ABC radio plays and recorded the audio book of *My Place*. Some of her theatre credits include *Coranderrk – We Will Show the Country* (Ilbijerri Theatre Company/Sydney Opera House), *The Dirty Mile*, *Chopped Liver* (Ilbijerri Theatre Company), *Black Sheep*, *Glorious Bastards* (Ilbijerri Theatre Company/Melbourne International Comedy Festival), *Headhunter* (Ilbijerri Theatre Company/Polyglot), *Wild Cat Falling*, *Honey Spot*, *King For This Place*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (The Dreaming Festival/STC), *Actors at Work* (Bell Shakespeare), *Holy Day* (Playbox), *Stolen*, *Shrunken Iris*, *Master Builder*, *Quilting the Armour*, *Yandy* (Black Swan State Theatre Company), *Yibiyung* (Company B), *The Man from Mukinupin* (Melbourne Theatre Company) and *Jackie* by Elfriede Jelinek (Redstitch Theatre).

Melodie's television credits include *Natural Justice*, *Broken Shore*, *Hard Rock Medical* and *Redfern Now* (series 2). In 2013 Melodie made her debut in an associate directing role in *The Shadow King* at Malthouse Theatre.

In 2015, Melodie's first play *Skylab* was picked up by Moogahlin's Yellamundie Festival and in 2016 was selected for Playwriting Australia's National Play Festival at Malthouse Theatre.

Melodie has recently appeared in the successful season of *Black is the New White* for Sydney Theatre Company.

A NOTE FROM THE
PLAYWRIGHT

This play is dedicated to my son Amakai with whom I started this journey. And to our Ancestors. May their love, strength and wisdom help guide us in our present Dreaming.

Since I started writing *Skylab* a few years ago I feel as though I've gone through many metamorphoses. What started as a writing exercise turned into a lifeline. Comedy and hope on the page, tears and grief off. "Practice what you preach" and "with our thoughts we make the world" kept echoing in my head. Along with the constant challenge to 'be here now' to keep the fears at bay. Surely we must be evolving as a human race by now? This is where the idea of 'spontaneous human evolution' became even more interesting, and invited me to pull the many threads of "what if?" Waking up the other 90% of our brain, activating our pineal gland and kick starting our 'junk' DNA. Add *Monkey Magic* into the mix, (my childhood teaching tool on wisdom, demons and Buddha), a magic wishing staff made from Mum's broom and then put it together with a lab in the sky.

The crash landing of *Skylab* years ago, along with many nights on the lounge with my Nana watching *Dr Who*, inspired me to write a play that married my interests in sci-fi, conspiracy theories and esoteric knowledge.

For many years, the plays I was performing told the real history of this country: the stolen generations, the rapes, the murders, the massacres. At this time in Australia, these stories weren't being told and I felt it was an honour to give voice to our Ancestors. This taught me our true history, the power of storytelling, and developed my craft as a performer. Over the years I have discovered different dynamics that open doors to new perspectives on when to tell which stories, and why? Knowing the power of our thoughts and the tools to break the programming of fear. Stories of our people thriving physically and spiritually. Taking the best of each of us and manifesting a world, where we focus on what we want with love and go forward to a higher consciousness together. I know this sounds all very 'save the world'; maybe I just wrote it for a good yarn and to see people laugh?

Thank you to all the beautiful people and spirits that have inspired, loved and supported me, especially over the last couple of years and my husband Souleymane, my Muku. Without all of you, I wouldn't have had the strength to rise from the ashes and write my first play.

MELODIE REYNOLDS-DIARRA
Playwright

A NOTE FROM THE **DIRECTOR**

I was first introduced to Melodie Reynolds-Diarra's script Skylab at Playwriting Australia's National Script Workshop in 2015.

Skylab is a story of a close-knit family living in the bush who are put to the test spiritually and philosophically by a major global event. When you walk into the world of *Skylab*, you enter a conversation about science fiction, space travel and consciousness that has been brewing for the last decade. To me, the world of spirituality and the world of quantum physics go hand in hand. Contemporary science fiction is a beautiful vehicle to tell stories about dreaming. I believe *Skylab* decolonises with love and spirituality where deep Noongar and Wongutha ideologies are explored through an unconventional form. Consciousness and spirit are central to this story and the idea of how fear can stop growth in these areas is something Melodie and I have talked about at length for the past decade.

Melodie and I, like many Western Australian black fullas, share a lifelong love of the cult TV show "Monkey". Growing up in Karratha in the 80s, it was the only TV show I had access to that shared a culture other than Anglo Christian culture. Monkey Magic is a Chinese dreaming story told in a Japanese studio and dubbed by irreverent British actors. I love it for its hotpot of cultures and ideas. Buddhist and Chinese in its philosophy but told in the Japanese slapstick and comedic way. The Japanese flavour of Monkey Magic's style and themes are still infused in the contemporary anime I watch today.

Skylab is the first production in Australia that has brought together all three fully funded First Nations theatre companies: the inception of the idea beginning in Ilbjerri Theatre Company's Writer's Residency, developed as part of Moogahlin's Yellamundie Festival and now, co-produced by Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company and Black Swan State Theatre Company. The audience is led into a conversation that Melodie and I have been having for the last decade. This production is a full circle for Melodie and I, working together as pre-teens on Black Swan productions in the 90's and now working with the next generation of theatre makers. My heart is full of pride and hope for the future of Aboriginal theatre as I get to live out my Monkey Magic fantasy with these kids in the rehearsal room.

KYLE J MORRISON
Director



KYLE J MORRISON Director

Kyle J Morrison has Budimja and Watjari heritage and is culturally Noongar. He has been working in the theatre industry in Western Australia as an actor for over 20 years, working for such theatre companies as Black Swan (*Waiting for Godot* 1993), Deckchair Theatre (*King For This Place* 1999, *Jimmy and Pat Meet The Queen* 2000 and *Wonderlands* 2007), Barking Gecko (*Amy's Monster* 2000 and *Own Worst Enemy* 2001) and Yirra Yaakin (*King Hit* 1999, *Booyi Koora Koora* 1999, *Djill Djitt* 2000, *Inside Out* 2001, *One Day in 67* 2004, *Warloo* 2005, *In The Nyitting Time* 2006, *Muttacar Sorry Business* 2001-2005). In 2008 Kyle was the assistant director on Sydney Theatre Company's production of *Romeo & Juliet*, *Female of The Species*, written by Joanna Murray-Smith for Black Swan Theatre Company and *Yibbiyung* by Dallas Winmar for Company B Belvoir.

Productions directed by Kyle for Yirra Yaakin include: *Muttacar Sorry Business* (2007 - 2010), *In The Nyitting Time* (2008), *Good Lovin* (2009 - 2010), *Honey Spot* (2010), *Mother's Tongue* (2010) *Kaarla Kaatjiin* (2010 - 2012), *The Cake Man* (2013), *King Hit* (2014), *The Fever and The Fret* (2015) and *So Long Suckers* (2016) which was also co-created and written by Kyle, *Sista Girl* (2017) for State Theatre Company of South Australia and Yirra Yaakin.

Kyle is currently the Artistic Director of Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company and is a proud Yamatji/Wongi/Noongar man.



Kyle J Morrison with children cast in rehearsals.

Photo by Dana Weeks.

CAST



GARY COOPER Uncle Harvey

BLACK SWAN: *Corrugation Road*. Gary Cooper was born in Kalgoorlie and raised in the Goldfields. He is a member of the Wongutha people and speaks the Wongutha language. Gary has traditional ties to this region as Kalgoorlie is home to his great grandmother and her people.

Gary was the inaugural Aboriginal graduate from the three year theatre course at WAAPA and has enjoyed a successful career as an actor in film, television and theatre both nationally and internationally. **OTHER THEATRE:** Sydney Theatre Company: *The Festival of the Dreaming: A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Festival of Sydney: *The Aboriginal Protesters* including a tour of Germany: Kunstfest Weimar and Munich's Culture Fest. Bell Shakespeare: *Richard III, Macbeth, The Taming of the Shrew, Romeo & Juliet, Hamlet*. **TELEVISION:** *The Circuit, E Street, Skippy, GP*. **FILM:** *No Worries, Stone Bros* (which included Gary's dog Merlin). Gary has also forged his way as an award-winning film maker receiving best director at the WA Screen Awards for his doco drama *Sugar Bag* and picking up an Honourable Mention at the Imaginative Film Festival in Toronto, Canada. **TRAINING:** WAAPA Theatre Graduate.



ALAN LITTLE Nev

BLACK SWAN: *Skylab* marks Alan's debut with the company. Alan was born in Port Hedland and grew up in the Wheatbelt town Pingelly. He is a proud Noongar man from Bunbury. **OTHER THEATRE:** Yirra Yaakin: *Conversations with the Dead*; Shakespeare 400 Perth Festival: *Gala Concert*; WAAPA: *Conversations with the Dead*; Just Improvise: Improv Club. AB Theatre: *Rodeo Moon* show. Plays Readings for Black Swan *Kid Stakes* and *Other Times* at City of Perth Library. **FILM:** *The Naked Wanderer*. **AWARDS:** Community Member of the Year, Bunbury (2017), Artist of the Year, Bunbury (2016). **TRAINING:** Bachelor of Arts (2015), AB Theatre Certificate, WAAPA. Screen Performance Diploma (2016) WAAPA.



RAYMA MCGRATH MORRISON Nan

BLACK SWAN: *Skylab* marks Rayma's debut with the company and her professional theatre debut. **OTHER:** Rayma was born in Yalgoo and raised by her maternal grandmother on country. She speaks the Wongutha language and is a respected elder. She originally trained as a community liaison worker and in marketing with Yirra Yaakin. Rayma worked in

Aboriginal health, promoting healthy eating for over 20 years. She was the first Aboriginal woman to head up Radio Mulba station in Port Hedland, where she also worked at the *North West Telegraph*. Rayma has always had an interest in the arts and is thrilled to be a part of the *Skylab* cast and being directed by her youngest son Kyle.



LAILA BANO RIND Jem

BLACK SWAN: *Skylab* marks Laila’s debut with the company. Laila is a proud Yamatji/Wongi woman from Mount Magnet. She is quad lingual and of Persian descent. Her family comes from a line of Afghani cameleers from a sheep station in Boolgarbadoo WA. **OTHER THEATRE:** Universal Bar: Verbatim Theatre Piece, *I Walk in Your Words*, Part 1. Sydney Theatre

Company: *I Walk in Your Words*, Part 2. **SHORT FILM:** *Deadly*. **CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS:** *Euridike and Orpheus; Medea, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, The Season at Sarsaparilla, Cracked, Bollywood Dreaming, The 7 Stages of Grieving*. **TRAINING:** Bachelor in Fine Arts, NIDA, 2018; AB Theatre Certificate, WAAPA, 2014.

*All the children will be making their debut performances
with both Black Swan and Yirra Yaakin.*



EVA BARTLETT Amy

Eva is nine years old and enjoys playing netball and softball. She also takes classes in ballet, jazz and contemporary and is a part of her school senior choir. Eva has family ties to the Ballardong, Wadjuk, Knarla Karla Boodja, Yued and Wargle Kep tribes.



LIANI DALGETTY Sonia

Liani is 12 years old and has family ties to the Yamatiji/Wongi tribe. She enjoys cricket, netball, AFL football and playing the guitar. She was a member of DanceForce and participated in the school choir.



DONNATHIA GENTLE Sonia

Donnathia is an 11-year-old Whadjuk Yok (girl) with traditional links to the Perth region as well as the Ballardong tribe of the Wheatbelt and Wadjuri tribe of the Murchison/Gascoyne River area. Donnathia has always had a passion for dance and theatre and has been a student of the Irina Asotoff Ballet School in Swan View since she was 5 years old.

In 2017 she participated in the musical production of *Hairspray*, met and worked with her favourite Australian musical theatre actor Jemma Rix and Indigenous singer/song writer Christine Anu. Her hobbies include dancing, singing, acting and playing netball with her local community group. She loves spending time with her family and friends and really enjoys attending regular musicals that tour in Perth. Her favourite so far is *Wicked* and she dreams of one day working in the musical theatre industry. Donnathia is looking forward to performing in this collaboration production of *Skylab* and feels so fortunate to be working with such an amazing team of creative minds.



JULIETTE LAYLAN Amy

Juliette is a Balladong yorga of the Noongar nation. She is 8 years old and enjoys jumping on her trampoline. Her favourite singer is Pink. She is excited to be appearing in *Skylab* with her grandmother Rayma McGrath Morrison and being directed by her uncle Kyle.



JACOB & BENJAMIN NARKLE Nate

Both Jacob and Benjamin (11) perform in a traditional Aboriginal Children's Dance Group 'Koolangkas Kreate', which they have been a part of for four years. This is the first time the twins will be sharing an acting role. The family moved from Bunbury to Perth to pursue the boys' dreams of acting and performing arts.

CREATIVES



DR CLINT BRACKNELL Composer/Sound Designer

BLACK SWAN: *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. **OTHER THEATRE:** Mission Songs Project: *The Palm Island Strike of 1957*, Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company: *King Hit*, Barking Gecko Theatre Company: *Shaun Tan's The Red Tree*. **POSITIONS:** Senior Lecturer and Associate Dean (Indigenous Strategy and Services) at Sydney Conservatorium of Music, The University of Sydney.



KAREN COOK Assistant Stage Manager

BLACK SWAN: *Skylab* marks Karen's debut with the company. **OTHER THEATRE:** Yirra Yaakin (as stage manager): *Mother's Tongue*, *Honey Spot*, *I Don't Wanna Play House*. Spare Parts Puppet Theatre (as stage manager): *Carnival of the Animals*, *The Arrival*, *Tales From Outer Suburbia*, *Cat Balloon*, *Hare Brain*, *Miss Lily's Fabulous Feather Boa*, *The Night Zoo*, *Splat!*, *The Bugalugs Bum Thief*, *The Deep*, *The Little Prince*, *Blueback*, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *Hachiko*. **TRAINING:** Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts: Adv. Dip. Lighting For Performance. Curtin University: BA (Communication and Cultural Studies).



DR SUE FENTY STUDHAM Stage Manager

Skylab marks Sue's debut with Black Swan. She has stage managed for Yirra Yaakin on *So Long Suckers*, *The Fever and The Fret*, and *Ialuru, A Celebration of 21 Years*. Sue has worked as a professional stage manager for more than three decades in 13 countries. She is the head of the BFA Stage Management Program at DePaul University in Chicago, earned a PhD at West Australian Academy of Performing Arts, ECU, and a BFA from Adelphi University, New York. Originally from NYC, she is an AEA stage manager with hundreds of credits, including productions on Broadway, at Lincoln Centre, Carnegie Hall, the Sydney Opera House, His Majesty's Theatre, the Victorian Arts Centre, among others. She was resident stage manager for the West Australian Ballet Company for eight years and has stage managed for heads of state including Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the King of Malaysia, and the Prime Minister of Australia.

Sue's doctoral thesis *Stage Management: a question of approach in intercultural theatre* (2015) investigated the complexities of cultural exchange in theatrical contexts, including the training of stage managers. She is a mentor and an arts researcher with interests in regional identity and theatrical processes that respect cultural variation. Sue has taught and mentored stage managers in Australia, USA and Southeast Asia and is currently managing editor of *Behind the Scenes: Journal of Theatre Production Practice*.



MIA HOLTON Vision Designer

BLACK SWAN: *When The Rain Stops Falling*, *Dust*, *The Damned*, *The Shape of Things*, *Yellow Moon*. **OTHER THEATRE:** Perth Theatre Company: *From The Rubble*. Renegade Productions: *Unveiling: Gay Sex For End Times*, *Letters Home*, *The Tribe*. Red Ryder Productions: *Grounded*. WAYTCO: *Another Twin*. Ochre Dance Company: *Dreamtide*. Company Complexo: *In This CDV: If I Drown I Can Swim*, *Bridging Puentes*, *Phaedra's Love*, *Corazón de Vaca (A Cow's Heart)*, *The Riddle of The Sphinx*. STCWA: Video Designer for the gala opening of the State Theatre Centre, WA. **AWARDS:** 2006, ECU Best Electronic Artist. **POSITIONS:** Currently Vision Design sessional lecturer, WAAPA, ECU. **TRAINING:** 2006 SOCA, ECU BA Visual Arts Graduate.



MATTHEW MCVEIGH Set & Costume Designer

BLACK SWAN: *Skylab* marks Matthew's debut with the company. **OTHER THEATRE:** Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company: *Kaarla Katijin, Boodja Kaatijin, Kep Kaatijin, Fever and the Fret*, IALARU: *A Celebration, Mother's Tongue*. Lost and Found Opera: *Medee*. Spare Parts Puppet Theatre: *Farmer's Daughter, Hachiko*. Steamworks: *Ghost Child*. Deckchair Theatre: *Danger*

Age. Ochre Contemporary Dance: *Kaya, Dreamtide, Diaphanous*. Western Australian Ballet: Ballet at the Quarry. Maxima: *Fearless*. Sensorium Theatre: *Whoosh*. **ASSISTANT THEATRE:** Australian Ballet: *Firebird*. BigHart: *Three Trees*. **VISUAL ART:** Solo exhibitions: *MINE, BUILT* Linton and Kay upcoming exhibitions: *AUSTRALIYANIALITY* Janet Holmes à Court Gallery, **COLLECTIONS:** Art Gallery of WA, City of Joondalup, City of Perth, Holmes à Court Collection, Perth College, Tom Price Senior High School, Shire of Ashburton, Keizo Ushio (Japan) and private collections nationally and internationally. **TRAINING:** WAAPA Graduate 2008.



IAN MICHAEL Assistant Director

BLACK SWAN: *Skylab* marks Ian's assistant directorial debut with the company. He is a proud Noongar man from Western Australia. **AS ACTOR:** *Let the Right One In*. **OTHER THEATRE:** She Said Theatre: *HART, Laika and Wills*. Ilbijerri Theatre Company: *Flashbacks, Northwest of Nowhere, Big Day Out*, Black Writers Lab. Malthouse Theatre: *Blak Cabaret*. Melbourne

Theatre Company: *The Kid*. The Arts Centre: *The New Black*. **WORKSHOPS:** Bunuba Films: *Jandamarra*. **FILM:** *Where are the Warriors* (Wirrim Films); *Needle* (Nexus 6 Films). Short Film: *Project Petey DNA* at Toronto imagineNATIVE Festival, St Kilda Film Festival, Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival and premiered at the Dungog Film Festival. **AWARDS:** Most Outstanding Indigenous Artist for his roles in *Laika and Wills* and *HART*, Melbourne Fringe Festival in 2013 and 2015. In 2015, *HART* won two awards to tour New Zealand and Adelaide Fringe Festivals and Best Emerging Artist for Ian at Adelaide Fringe. **TRAINING:** WAAPA Graduate 2008.



MIKE NANNING Lighting Designer

BLACK SWAN: *The Laramie Project, Looking off the Southern Edge, Meekatharra*. **OTHER LIGHTING DESIGN:** Ausdance: Australian Dance Awards 2012. Steamworks Arts Productions: *Standing Bird* – Perth, Hong Kong. Strut Dance: *Hari Kiri*. Kompany Kido: *Pivot and Enter*, Perth and Alice Springs. Bill Handley: *Cats and Dogs*, Perth, Melbourne

Comedy Festival. PICA: *Shadow Boxing, Geography of Haunted Places*, Australian and London Tour, Paul O'Sullivan: *Borders and Crossings*. Skadada: *Skadada*, Perth, Taiwan. PVI Collective: *Panopticon*. **FILM/TV:** Channel 10: *The Icarus Principle* and *Kamakazi Karaoke*. **OTHER:** Lighting Design Workshops – Facilitator 1994 – 2000 Weekend Lighting Workshops (For self-producing artists). Lighting Visualiser – *Drovers Wives* 2007 Shanghai International Arts Festival and Beijing International Dance Festival, *Electronic Big Top 2* 2002 Hobart, Tasmania. Mike currently lectures at WAAPA in Lighting and Computer Aided Design. **TRAINING:** WAAPA graduate 1992.

PLAY REFERENCES

WONGAI

GULBURTS	Grey kangaroo
GOOGA	Meat
WODJELLA	White fellas
SMELLIN YA SELF	Sleeping
GOON GOON	Sleep
RABBIT GOONA	Rabbit poo
MYLYA MIDGIT	Dirty nose
MARLU TAIL	Kangaroo tail
GWARDA	Wait
GOONA MYA	Toilet
GUPPI PALYA	Good water
QUANDONGS	Fruit
DOUD-DOUDS	Quandongs (fruit)
GURULS	Eyes
NGULYA	Forehead
MURRAJEE	Brother-in-law
THAA WANGEGOO	Speak my language
NGULLEBA BINI. NUTHEE	Us mob.
NGOORLARRINGOO NGUTHARRI	Don't be scared of the strangers.
BIRNI GOO.	
UNNA	Isn't that so?
YUWA	Yes
WEEYA	No
MAYEE	Food
GARBEE	Water
GARDA	Head
GARDIELLA	Head / Wrong—not working.

ENGLISH

MONKEY MAGIC:	A cult must see adventure TV series, popular during the 70's and 80's for a legion of Aussie kids who would tune into the ABC at 6pm before mum and dad watched the news. It was filmed in China and Mongolia using Japanese actors and crew.
CHARACTERS MONKEY, PIGSY, SANDY, MONK TRIPITAKA, BUDDHA	
GOODIES	A trio of British comedians: Tim Brooke-Taylor, Graeme Garden, and Bill Oddie. They wrote for and performed in their television comedy show during the 1970s and early 1980s, combining sketches and situation comedy.
PRISONER (BEE / VINEGAR TITS)	An Australian TV series set in Wentworth Detention Centre, a fictional women's prison, ran from 1979–1986.
WEETBIX, FRUIT LOOPS	Favourite Australia breakfast cereals
CHICKEN LITTLE	Also known as Henny Penny is a folk tale about a chicken who believes the world is coming to an end.
TEKTITE	Meteorite
GROPER	Fish



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BENEFIT FROM A BLACK SWAN PARTNERSHIP

GIVING TO BLACK SWAN

The generous support from all our valued donors continues to contribute to the sustainability and longevity of Black Swan as Western Australia's state theatre company.

BLACK SWAN PRODUCTION FUND

A future fund designed to ensure we can develop works of exceptional quality, scale and ambition, and to work with the best artists locally, nationally and internationally. We thank the following inaugural donors for helping us launch the Production Fund.

FOUNDING PARTNER



FOUNDING DONORS

Mimi & Willy Packer	Ungar Family Foundation
Tim Roberts	Linda Savage & Stephen Davis
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Sue McDonald &
Mark Westbrook
Anonymous (1)

PATRONS CLUB

Helping create opportunities for artist development in the Studio Underground. We thank the Patrons Club members for their generous support.

Michela and Adrian Fini	Simon Lee Foundation
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Stan and Jean Perron	

PLAYING YOUR PART

If you are interested in supporting Black Swan, please contact us on donate@bsstc.com.au or call 6212 9300.

YIRRA YAAKIN GIVING

Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company would like to thank our Koordahs (Friends) and Donors for their support.

KAYA, WANDJU

HELLO, WE WELCOME YOU

Do YOU want to help us to train and nurture the next generation of Aboriginal artists and arts workers?

"Over the next year and a half we've got to train ourselves, you know, this is a brand new language for us. I didn't grow up speaking Noongar...I never got to feel, to hear what it's like to have your own culture." Kyle J Morrison – Artistic Director of Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company speaking at the Perth Festival showing of *MacBeth in Noongar* in February 2018

WE INVITE YOU TO SUPPORT AN ARTIST. OUR SUPPORT AN ARTIST FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE CONTRIBUTES TO:

1. The Next Step Program: offering a range of pathways and opportunities to Aboriginal creative artists and arts workers to enter the performing arts industry and to succeed in achieving their professional goals in the professional theatre sector.

2. The Yirra Yaakin Writer's Group: is an annual three month training program culminating in an invitation for 6-10 writers to present their work at our annual Yirra Yaarnz event during NAIDOC Week. In 2017, six writers developed their skills through this program. This year we successfully raised funds for ten writers to be developed through this three month program.

MAJOR DONORS \$5,000 AND ABOVE

Lavan	David Glance
Spinifex	

FOUNDATIONS

The Aesop Foundation	Noongar Charitable Trust
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YOUR DONATION WILL DIRECTLY SUPPORT AN ARTIST

For more details on how you can support Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company to continue share Aboriginal stories into the future, please contact Fleur on (08) 9380 3040 or partnerships@yirrayaakin.com.au or to donate now please visit yirrayaakin.com.au



YIRRA YAAKIN THEATRE COMPANY



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YIRRA YAAKIN THEATRE COMPANY

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BLACK SWAN STATE THEATRE COMPANY

Black Swan is a theatre company of national significance, promoting collaborations of excellence and creating work with a vibrant hub of collaborators that celebrates and excites our Western Australian communities.

Founded in 1991, Black Swan has earned both critical and popular acclaim for its world premiere productions and highly distinctive reinterpretations of international theatre classics – all of which are infused with the unique culture of Western Australia.

In addition to the work produced for the stage, Black Swan's underlying strength is in artist development and broadening access and engagement with our state-wide community. Over the past five years, the company has seen enormous growth in audiences, built its internal capacity and established a benchmark for quality productions of scale in Western Australia. Looking to the future, the three areas of core strategic focus are artist development, education and regional engagement.

In October 2016, Clare Watson joined the company as Artistic Director.

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Jessica Knight

What if we took theatre into the playground?

Our Principal Partnership with Black Swan State Theatre Company is helping take arts experiences to regional communities. **FITTER. FASTER. BETTER.** is one of the creative ways we are supporting young people to actively engage with the arts, regardless of where they live in Western Australia. To learn more about how we are supporting vibrant communities, visit riotinto.com.au

RioTinto