

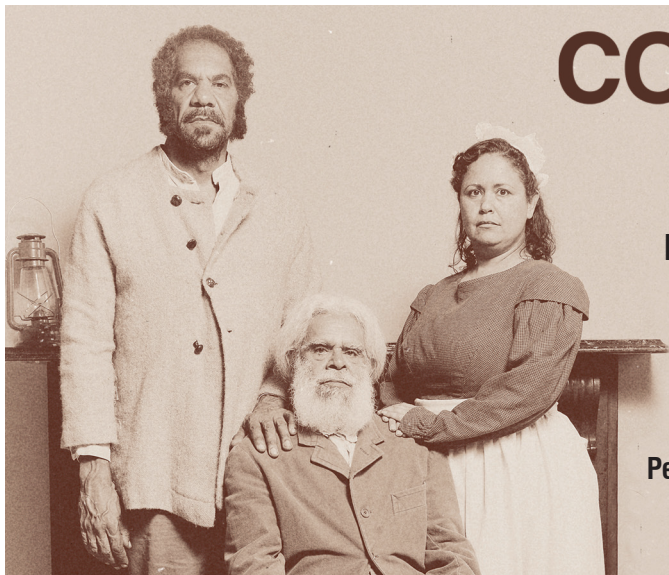


media release

LA MAMA

ILBIJERRI  
THEATRE COMPANY

bold. black. brilliant.



# CORANDERRK

*We Will Show The Country*

Produced by ILBIJERRI Theatre Company  
and the Minutes of Evidence Project

Performed by Syd Brisbane, Jack Charles, Jim Daly,  
Peter Finlay, Greg Fryer, Liz Jones,  
Tom Long, Melodie Reynolds, Glenn Shea

*'We want the Board and the Inspector to be no longer over us.  
We want only one man here, Mr. John Green, and the station to be under the Chief  
Secretary; then we will show the country that the station could self-support itself.'*

(Petition signed by William Barak and the men and women of Coranderrk  
16 November 1881 — Minutes of Evidence of the Coranderrk Inquiry)

**VICTORIA, 1881:** the men and women of the Coranderrk Aboriginal Station take on the Board for the Protection of Aborigines in a fight for justice, dignity and self-determination. Following a sustained protest campaign against the Board's attempts to disband the station, the people of Coranderrk succeed in pressuring the Government to hold an Inquiry that will decide upon the future of the station and its inhabitants. As the evidence is heard and placed on the record, the truth emerges.

**130 YEARS LATER,** for the first time ever, we bring back to life Coranderrk's voices — both black and white — through a theatrical re-enactment of their official testimonies before the 1881 Coranderrk Inquiry. Consisting entirely of extracts from the Minutes of Evidence of the Inquiry, **CORANDERRK: We Will Show the Country** unites the power of oral history and the authority of the written-word to forge a personal connection with the voices of the past; allowing key figures such as William Barak and several of the men and women of Coranderrk — as well as their allies and opponents in the white community — to speak directly to a contemporary audience.

Not a story of "black vs white", **CORANDERRK** pays tribute to the resilience and adaptability of a people who rose to the challenge despite all odds, appropriating the power of the written word and white political discourse to make their voice loud and clear; whilst also celebrating the spirit of friendship, and the power of genuine collaboration, between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

**CORANDERRK** lies at the heart of the **Minutes of Evidence Project**, a groundbreaking collaboration between leading Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists, researchers, education experts and Community members, which aims to encourage a shared understanding of the past and promote new modes of publicly engaging with historical and structural injustice.

**Supported by the Australian Research Council, The Minutes of Evidence Project is a partnership between ILBIJERRI Theatre Company, La Mama Theatre, The University of Melbourne, The Koorie Heritage Trust, VicHealth's Arts About Us program, The Department of Education, Arts Victoria, Regional Arts Victoria, The State Library of Victoria, and the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc (VAEAI).**

**Isaac Drandic** is Noongar/Croatian and grew up in Western Australia. He has worked in theatre as an actor for over ten years, training at WAAPA (Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts) and collaborating with renowned companies across the country. **CORANDERRK** will be Isaac's directorial debut with ILBIJERRI.

**Andrea James** graduated from LaTrobe University with a Bachelor of Art in Drama, was the Artistic Director of Melbourne Workers Theatre (2001-08) and has written and directed several works, among which is *Yanagai! Yanagai!* — a play about her father's people, the Yorta Yorta, and their struggle for land rights justice.

**Giordano Nanni** straddles the worlds of academic and creative writing. He moved to Melbourne in 2002 to complete a PhD in History at Melbourne University, which led to his work and fascination with the 1881 Coranderrk Inquiry; and to his first book, *The Colonisation of Time* (Manchester University Press, 2012).

## CORANDERRK We Will Show The Country

**concept**  
Giordano Nanni

**director**  
Isaac Drandic

**dramaturgy**  
Rachael Maza Long

**adaptation**  
Andrea James  
Giordano Nanni

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 **LA MAMA**  
courthouse  
theatre

349 Drummond Street, Carlton  
November 16 – 27, 2011  
Wed, Sun at 6.30pm  
Thurs, Fri, Sat at 8.00pm  
Matinee: Sats at 4.00pm  
Duration: 90 mins approx.

**Tickets:**  
\$25 = full  
\$15 = concession  
\$10 = Community  
\$5 = under 10 years  
**Bookings: 9347 6142 /**  
[www.lamama.com.au](http://www.lamama.com.au)

