

ANNUAL REPORT 2010



ILBIJERRI
THEATRE COMPANY

bold. black. brilliant.



ILBIJERRI THEATRE COMPAY celebrated 20 Years of developing and presenting bold, black and brilliant stories from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Victoria. We are passionate about illuminating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories from the community – to share with both our own community and the broader non-Indigenous community. We believe these stories are integral to the cultural fabric of our communities and the broader Australian community.

In it's 20th year ILBIJERRI presented a slate of stories – which reminded our communities of their resilience through adversity through three new works including – BLACK SHEEP: GLORIOUS BAASTARDS; BODY ARMOUR; and JACK CHARLES V THE CROWN. ILBIJERRI continues to position itself as a leading and integral voice within the Australian cultural landscape through partnership within the arts with Melbourne International Arts Festival, Melbourne International Comedy Festival as well as innovative community partnerships such as with Mumgu Dhal, Victoria University as part of our Indigenous audience development strategies. We continue to advocate the value of the arts and theatre through the production of high quality works through innovative and sustained partnerships with the Department of Human Services and Hepatitis C Council of Victoria.

Integral to ILBIJERRI's future and the future of our stories on Australian stages is the development and nurturing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers. To this end ILBIJERRI developed and presented an innovative BLAK WRITERS LAB that supported new and emerging writers (especially playwrights and theatre-makers) to develop their skills and seed new works for performance.

We were proud to partner with Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Melbourne Museum who celebrated 10 Years – to present a retrospective exhibition celebrating our journey – as well as the 10th Victorian Indigenous Performing Arts (VIPA) Awards.

We also supported young people in our community through the WADDAWEWANT project with workshops at Worowa Aboriginal College.

ILBIJERRI THEATRE COMPANY looks forward to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists from our community to tell our bold, black and brilliant stories on the Australian stages.

CHAIR Gavin Somers

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Rachael Maza-Long

GENERAL MANAGER John Harvey



OUR PURPOSE

ILBIJERRI THEATRE COMPANY creates challenging and inspiring theatre by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists that gives voice to our cultures.

OUR VISION

To establish ILBIJERRI THEATRE COMPANY as a leading and integral voice within Australia's cultural landscape.

WHAT WE VALUE

THE POWER OF INDIGENOUS VOICES

We work with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander storytellers (writers, directors, actors, key creatives, theatre practitioners) to tell our stories through theatre. No voice is too small.

INDIGENOUS PROTOCOLS AND WAYS OF WORKING

We respect our people, community and storytellers by working in accordance with the Australia Council's Indigenous Arts Protocols. We encourage other theatre practitioners to work in accordance with these protocols.

SELF DETERMINATION

We encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be involved in key decision making processes within ILBIJERRI THEATRE COMPANY including creative and administrative.

RESPECT

We always give our fullest respect to our people, our Elders, our culture and country and to all peoples who share this land of ours.

INDIGENOUS DIVERSITY

We respect, celebrate, and embrace the cultural diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, our stories, our culture and our experiences.

PRODUCTIONS 2010

BLACK SHEEP: GLORIOUS BAASTARDS

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL
MARCH-APRIL

BLACK SHEEP: GLORIOUS BASSTARDS continued ILBIJERRI's partnership with the Melbourne International Comedy Festival – celebrating our 5th comedy show in the festival. The growth of our productions has coincided with the growth of Indigenous comedy through the Comedy Festivals Deadly Funny program.

CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR

Rachael Maza Long

CO-WRITERS

Isaac Drandic, Cy Fahey, Lisa Maza, Melodie Reynolds, Mia Stanford & Nelly Thomas

FEATURING

Cy Fahey, Lisa Maza, Melodie Reynolds, Mia Stanford

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Suzi Cordell

STAGE MANAGER

Lionel Austin

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Maddie Clarke

THE DREAMING FESTIVAL, QUEENSLAND
JUNE

Following the success of the Melbourne International Comedy Festival season – ILBIJERRI toured BLACK SHEEP: GLORIOUS BAASTARDS to The Dreaming Festival in Queensland – to sold out performances.

CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR

Rachael Maza Long

CO-WRITERS

Isaac Drandic, Cy Fahey, Lisa Maza, Melodie Reynolds, Mia Stanford & Nelly Thomas

FEATURING

Cy Fahey, Lisa Maza, Melodie Reynolds, Mia Stanford

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS

Lia Pa'apa'a & John Harvey



BODY ARMOUR

VICTORIAN REGIONAL TOURING
AUGUST

BODY ARMOUR was the result of a very successful and long-term collaboration with the Department of Human Services and Hepatitis C Council of Victoria. BODY ARMOUR follows on from the highly successful production CHOPPED LIVER that toured to over 10,000 audience members in over 150 communities nationwide over 4yrs.

CREATIVE TEAM

WRITER

Kamarra Bell-Wykes

DRAMATURGE

John Romeril

DIRECTOR

Margaret Harvey

SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

Alison Ross

SOUND DESIGNER

Anna Liebrezeit

TOUR & STAGE MANAGER

Bronwyn Dunston

ACTORS

Sandy Greenwood, LeRoy Parsons, Murial Spearim

JACK CHARLES V THE CROWN

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL
OCTOBER

As part of our 20th Year Anniversary – ILBIJERRI created a very special show with Uncle Jack Charles and John Romeril called JACK CHARLES V THE CROWN. This powerful one-man show shone a spotlight on the colourful life of one of the nation's near-forgotten treasures. ILBIJERRI presented a critically acclaimed and near sold out season of JACK CHARLES V THE CROWN as part of the 2010 Melbourne International Arts Festival in October 2010.

CREATIVE TEAM

CO-WRITERS

Jack Charles & John Romeril

DRAMATURGE

John Romeril

DIRECTOR

Rachael Maza Long

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Nigel MacLean

SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

Emily Barrie

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Danny Pettingal

VIDEO DESIGNER

Peter Worland

MUSICIANS

Nigel MacLean, Mal Beveridge, Phil Collings

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Bronwyn Dunston

STAGE MANAGER

Ashley Groenen

VICTORIAN INDIGENOUS
PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS

BUNJILAKA ABORIGINAL CULTURAL CENTRE,
MELBOURNE MUSEUM
NOVEMBER

ILBIJERRI was proud to present the 10th VIPA Awards in partnership with Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Melbourne Museum who were celebrating their 10th Anniversary. The VIPA Awards celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander theatre in Victoria.

THE 2010 AWARD RECIPIENTS INCLUDED:

UNCLE BOB MAZA AWARD

Recognising a significant contribution to Indigenous theatre over a number of years
TAMMY ANDERSON

UNCLE JACK CHARLES AWARD

Recognising the outstanding achievement of a Victorian Indigenous theatre practitioner in the last 12 months.

UNCLE JACK CHARLES

AUNTY ELEANOR HARDING MEMORIAL AWARD

Encouraging and supporting an emerging talent in Victorian Indigenous theatre
MIA STANFORD

BLACK WRITERS LAB

WORKSHOP
JUNE–NOVEMBER

One of ILBIJERRI’s key strategic priorities is to “support the growth and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers.” We acknowledge that it is from our writers that new works for ILBIJERRI can be nurtured and developed into productions. We also recognise this as being the fertile creative soil in which artists of the company can continue to grow – thus supporting the growth to ILBIJERRI’s work.

CREATIVE TEAM

FACILITATORS

Peta Murray & Mari Lourey



20 YEARS. BOLD. BLACK.
BRILLIANT. ILBIJERRI
THEATRE COMPANY:
A REPTROSPECTIVE
EXHIBITION

BUNJILAKA ABORIGINAL CULTURAL CENTRE,
MELBOURNE MUSEUM
JULY–NOVEMBER

ILBIJERRI collaborated with Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Melbourne Museum to celebrate our 20th Anniversary. The exhibition was the perfect opportunity for ILBIJERRI to dust off some old costumes, sets, and memorabilia. The partnership was both a key creative collaboration as well as an opportunity for ILBIJERRI to reach new audiences. ILBIJERRI teamed up with Aboriginal Curator Ben McKeown to develop the exhibition. For some, it was a walk down memory lane. For others, a glimpse into the madness behind the magic. But for everyone, this exhibition was a celebration; and as we looked back at the power of Black Theatre and forward to a future of possibilities –where the journey is one of discovery, and the rules are simple. Be bold, black and brilliant.

CREATIVE TEAM

CURATOR

Ben McKeown

WADDAWEWANT

WORKSHOP WORAWA ABORIGINAL COLLEGE
JULY–DECEMBER

ILBIJERRI continued our partnership with Worowa Aboriginal College in Healesville running workshops for students at the College.

CREATIVE TEAM

FACILITATORS

Margaret Harvey & Des Connellan

FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS

CORE FUNDING

Core Funding
Australia Council for the Arts
Arts Victoria
Office for the Arts, Department of
the Prime Minister and Cabinet
City of Melbourne

PROJECT FUNDING

Helen MacPherson Smith Trust
Department of Human Services
Department of Justice
VicHealth
(Victorian Health Promotion Foundation)

PROJECT PARTNERS

Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre
Melbourne Museum



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