ANNUAL REPORT 2017

ILBJERRI THEATRE COMPANY



MESSAGE FROM THE ELDERS IN RESIDENCE

Dear friends and family,

We are quite pleased to be a part of ILBIJERRI's inaugural Elders in Residence program. Our vision is to contribute to ILBIJERRI's strategic and cultural direction, with a particular focus on nurturing future generations.

ILBIJERRI is a company that has for many years given voice to Indigenous stories in and around Victoria, across the county and in recent years, across the world. These productions give us the opportunity to show that we are not the deficit, nor are we the victims. We are the builders of this nation. The wealth of many people, businesses and organisations have been built off the backs of our people and we are proud to share stories of amazing achievements, resilience and stories of our heroes.

The Elders in Residence program is an integral part of ILBIJERRI. Moving beyond token consultation, our involvement is about Black ways of doing business and bringing our ways and our law into a western business model.

As Elders in Residence we are committed to our most valuable assets in the arts - our young people.

Carolyn Brogg

Aunty Carolyn Briggs

harry Walsh

Uncle Larry Walsh





MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Dear Friends,

As you explore our 2017 Annual Report you will see the extraordinary amount of tangible success that ILBIJERRI Theatre Company has achieved in 2017. We invite you to admire the images of our creatives in their finest moments on stage and appreciate the diverse and unique locations where we have been privileged to set up stage. From Turtle Island to Aotearoa, you will get a sense of the far reaching spaces we have made for our Black stories, both across Australia and the world.

Looking back over the last year, we are very proud of how far we have come; our bigger, longer national tours, our growing revenue and financial stability, and most importantly our growing relationships with community, both black and white.

We are a company who will never have the luxury of just making theatre, the advocacy for our people is woven into our very existence. Our theatre making is a contemporary expression of art as living culture and one of our unique connections to our old ways as storytellers. Behind the scenes, we continually and proudly push for recognition of our culture through our art, often at times clashing loudly against a largely western and conservative model.

As one of Australia's longest running theatre companies, from our humble beginnings we have experienced incredible growth, which is a credit to our dedicated staff, crew, performers and you, our supporters. However we continually aspire to nurture our next generation of creatives and administrators, to cultivate First Nations artistic successes even further within a white framework, while maintaining our integrity, our connection to our roots and our identity.

So as we reflect on 2017, we consider our global reputation for creating tourable, quality theatre, telling stories of resilience and strength that nurture our highest aspirations, while continually advocating for the elimination of dispossession, injustice and systemic racism that First Peoples face in this country.

We thank you for supporting us while we grapple, explore, cry, fall down, rise up and laugh through the beautiful story that is ILBIJERRI Theatre Company.

Gavin Somers President

Lydia Fairhall **Executive Producer**

Lauhade My

/Co-CEO

Rachael Maza Artistic Director /Co-CEO

MISSION

ILBIJERRI Theatre Company creates challenging and inspiring theatre by First Nations artists that gives voice to our cultures.

VISION

Our voices are powerful in determining the future of Australia. Our cultures are respected, celebrated and embraced.

WHAT WE VALUE

THE POWER OF FIRST NATIONS VOICES

We work with First Nations storytellers (writers, directors, actors, key creatives, theatre practitioners) to tell our stories through high quality theatre as a continuation of our culture.

FIRST NATIONS PROTOCOLS AND WAYS OF WORKING

We respect our people, community and artists by working in accordance with the protocols of our own community, and those whose country we are working on.

SELF-DETERMINATION

We ensure First Peoples drive all key decision making processes within ILBIJERRI.

RESPECT

We always give full respect to our people, Elders, culture and country - and to all peoples with whom we share our land.

DIVERSITY OF FIRST PEOPLES

We respect, celebrate, and embrace the cultural diversity of First Peoples, our stories, our culture and our experiences.

2 0 1 7 M A J O R A C H I E V E M E N T S

TOURING LEGEND Artistic Director Rachael Maza wins the Drover Award for Touring Legend JACK CHARLES V THE CROWN Becomes our first production to tour to the US with a premiere season in New York

BLOOD ON THE DANCE FLOOR Wins the Green Room Award for Best Production CORANDERRK Visits 28 venues across Australia - ILBIJERRI's biggest ever tour

TANDERRUM Wins the Melbourne Award for Contribution to Community

"Which Way Home feels as safe and generous as a tight hug from a loved one" $\bigstar \bigstar \bigstar \bigstar$ - Time Out Sydney

SYDNEY FESTIVAL

WHICH

Tash and her Dad have hit the road they're going home to country, where the sky is higher and the world goes on forever.

It's a long way from the wide streets and big old houses of Tash's childhood, back when she was a black face in a very white suburb. Dad still thinks he's the King of Cool, but he's an old fella now. It's time for Tash to take him home.

BELVOIR

11 January - 5 February 2017 Performances: 27 Audience: 2314

BLOOD ON DANCE

When choreographer, dancer and writer Jacob Boehme was diagnosed with HIV he reached out to his Ancestors in search of answers. In an unapologetic physical monologue he explores the legacies and memories embedded in our bloodlines and each person's need for community and connection.

CARRIAGEWORKS

21-25 January 2017 **Performances: 5** Audience: 765

WAY HOME

CREATIVE TEAM

Writer Katie Beckett **Director Rachael Maza** Performers Katie Beckett & Tony Briggs Dramaturge Jane Bodie Sound Designer Mark Coles Smith Set & Costume Designer Emily Barrie Lighting Designer Niklas Pajanti Production Manager Kellie Jayne Chambers **Technical Assistant Nick Glen**

THE FLOOR

CREATIVE TEAM

Writer & Performer Jacob Boehme **Director Isaac Drandic Choreographer Mariaa Randall** Sound Designer James Henry **Spatial Designer Jenny Hector** Video Artist Keith Deverell **Costume Designer Kelsey Henderson Movement Consultant Rinske Ginsberg** Script Dramaturge Chris Mead **Production Managers Emily O'Brien & Jenny Hector Stage Manager Jenny Hector**

JACK CHARLES V THE CROWN

Now in its seventh consecutive year of touring, JACK CHARLES V THE CROWN broke new ground in 2017, returning to North America for ILBIJERRI's first ever performances in the USA. Presented by PS122 at New York Live Arts, the US leg of the tour preceded a second visit to Canada where the show featured as part of Canadian Stage's Spotlight Australia showcase in Toronto.

NORTH AMERICAN TOUR

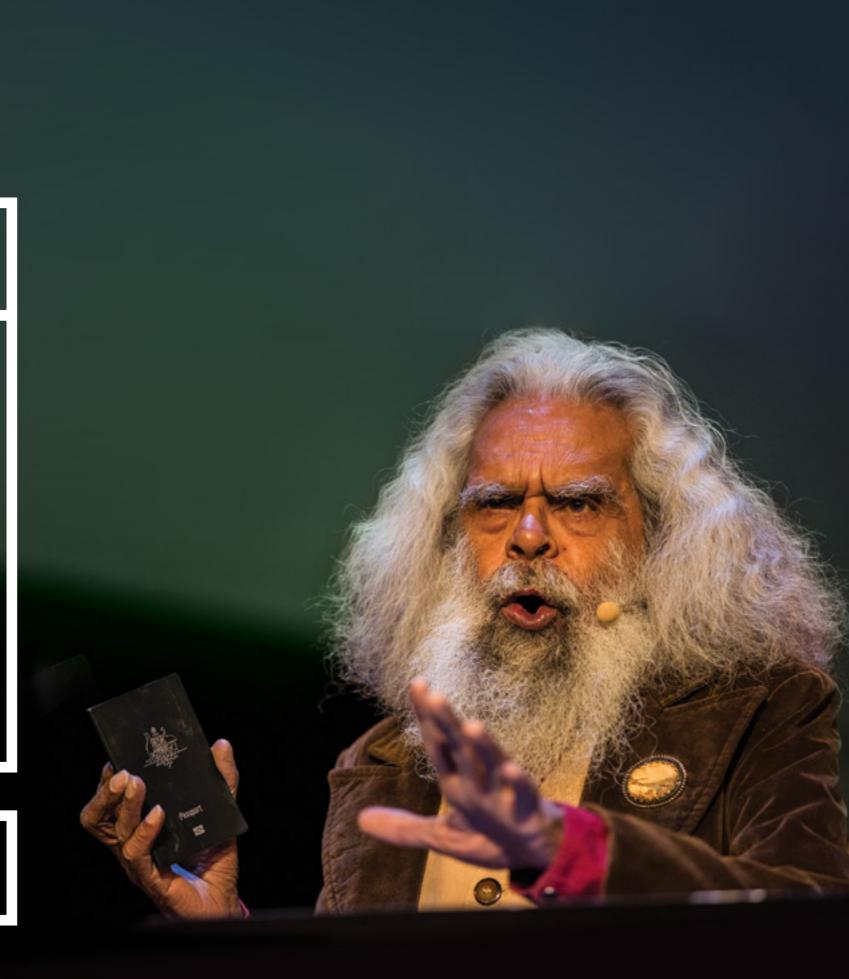
22 March - 8 April 2017 Performances: 14 Audience: 1373

JACK CHARLES V THE CROWN was toured by Performing Lines.

CREATIVE TEAM

Performer Jack Charles Writers Jack Charles & John Romeril **Director Rachael Maza** Dramaturg John Romeril Musical Director Nigel MacLean Guitar & Violin Nigel MacLean Bass Mal Beveridge Percussion Phil Collings Set & Costume Designer Emily Barrie Lighting Designer Danny Pettingill Audio Visual Designer Peter Worland Audio Engineer & AV Realiser Gary Dryza Production Manager John Byrne Stage Manager Jess Keepence Tour Producer Fenn Gordon (Performing Lines)

"Harrowing and redemptive, Jack Charles V The Crown is a fascinating and dynamic autobiographical performance art piece" - TheatreScene, New York



CORANDERRK

CORANDERRK is about what might have been.

At a Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry in 1881, the men and women of the **Coranderrk Aboriginal Reserve went** head-to-head with the Aboriginal Protection Board. Their goal was both simple and revolutionary: to be allowed to continue the brilliant experiment in self-determination they had pioneered for themselves on the scrap of country left to them.

CORANDERRK recreates the Inquiry. This is both great theatre and great history. It revives the voices of all those, black and white, who fought for a better pact between the country's oldest and newest inhabitants.

This special production pays tribute to the resilience and adaptability of a people who rose to the challenge despite the odds, appropriating the power of the written word to make their own voices ring loud and clear.

CREATIVE TEAM

Director Eva Grace Mullaley Performers Trevor Jamieson, Mathew Cooper, **Jesse Butler & Ebony McGuire** Writers Andrea James & Giordano Nanni Sound Designer James Henry **Original Sound Design Ben Grant** Audio Visual Designer Keith Deverell **Original AV Design Peter Worland** Set Designers Brynna Lowen & Tegan Evans Lighting Designer Tegan Evans Costume Designer Brynna Lowen **Production Manager Sarah Wong** Stage Manager Brock Brocklesby

NATIONAL TOUR

18 April - 7 July 2017 **Performances: 46 Audience: 10.549**

TOUR VENUES

The National Theatre, St Kilda Her Majesty's Theatre, Ballarat Whitehorse Performing Arts Centre, Nunawading The Lighthouse Theatre, Warrnambool **Horsham Town Hall** Ulumbarra Theatre, Bendigo The Cube, Wodonga **Riverlinks**, Shepparton **ESSO BHP Billiton Wellington Entertainment Centre, Sale** Latrobe Performing Arts Centre, Traralgon Plenty Ranges Arts & Convention Centre, South Morang Cardinia Cultural Centre, Pakenham **Altona Theatre Frankston Arts Centre** Drama Theatre, Monash University Academy of Performing Arts, Clayton **Clocktower Centre, Moonee Ponds Footscray Community Arts Centre Kyneton Town Hall Geelong Performing Arts Centre Canberra Theatre Centre Orange Civic Theatre Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre Cessnock Performing Arts Centre** The Art House, Wyong **Riverside, Parramatta Northern Rivers Performing Arts, Lismore Empire Theatre, Toowoomba Darwin Entertainment Centre**

CORANDERRK was toured by Regional Arts Victoria and supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, and the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.

"Storytelling at its best" - The Canberra Times

CORANDERRK Photo: James Henry

TANDERRUM

Each year the first words of Melbourne Festival come from those who have carried this land's stories the longest the First Peoples of Melbourne.

TANDERRUM is a ceremony of the five clans of the Central Kulin Nation - a communal celebration that reaches across time to a tradition that has been hidden since European arrival. Five years ago the Kulin Nation brought TANDERRUM back to central Melbourne to open the Festival. This cross-cultural moment has quickly become an essential and living element of Melbourne Festival, and a Welcome to Country for local and international artists and audiences.

In 2017 TANDERRUM ended with a Kulin Nation tribute to the murrup (spirit) of William Barak. Barak was Ngurungeta a leader, warrior and spokesperson for Wurundjeri Country. For the final dance the Kulin Nation invited the audience to join them for a song reclaimed from rare historical recordings of Barak.

With sand, fire, leaves and bark a space is made, and it's a space to be shared.

MELBOURNE FESTIVAL

4 October 2017 Performances: 1 Participants: 140 Audience: 3000

TANDERRUM was presented by Melbourne Festival in association with the Bardas Family Foundation. TANDERRUM was supported by the Australian Government through the Indigenous Languages & Arts Program.

ELDERS

Wurundjeri Aunty Di Kerr & Aunty Irene Morris

Boon Wurrung Aunty Carolyn Briggs & Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir

Taungurung Aunty Bernadette Franklin, Aunty Jacqui Stewart & Uncle Stephen Walsh

Wadawurrung Aunty Marlene Gilson, Aunty Judy Dalton-Walsh & Aunty Naomi Surtees

Dja Dja Wurrung Aunty Fay Carter & Uncle Hurtle Atkinson

SONG MEN & SONG WOMEN

Wurundjeri Mandy Nicholson, Jacqui Wandin & Brooke Wandin Boon Wurrung Jodie Seiuli Taungurung Mick Harding Wadawurrung Barry Gilson Dja Dja Wurrung Wendy Berick & Michael Bourke

CREATIVE TEAM

Final Dance Composer Dr Lou Bennett

Final Dance Choreographers Mandy Nicholson, Damien Nicholson, Ky-ya Nicholson-Ward & Dharna Nicholson

Narrator Uncle Jack Charles

Artistic Mentor Rachael Maza

Producers J-Maine Beezley, Lisa Parris & Lauren Bok

Production Manager Ilana Russell Stage Manager Brock Brocklesby

TANDERRUM Photo: James Henry

CHOPPED LIVER

She ran away. He ran amuck. And one day they ran into each other...

Meet Lynne & Jim. They've both been around the block - working, protesting, jail, partying, and raising kids. Now they've come home - but can they leave their past behind?

A Blak Comedy about life, love and being more than "chopped liver".

CHOPPED LIVER was written by Kamarra Bell-Wykes to raise awareness of hepatitis C in the Indigenous community, and toured nationally from 2006 to 2009. In 2017 the show returned by popular demand and has been updated to communicate that a cure is now available for hepatitis C.

This show is deadly. Hepatitis C doesn't have to be.

VICTORIAN TOUR

10 July - 21 July 2017 Performances: 17 Audience: 660

CREATIVE TEAM

Writer & Director Kamarra Bell-Wykes Performers Gregory J Fryer & Nazaree Dickerson Dramaturg John Romeril Choreographer Carly Sheppard Set & Costume Designer Darryl Cordell Sound Designer Richie Hallal Tour Facilitator Richie Hallal Stage Manager Ari Maza Long

CHOPPED LIVER was supported by the Victorian Government.

HEALTH PARTNERS

Victorian Government

Hepatitis Victoria

Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO)

University of Melbourne Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health

TOUR PARTNERS

Dandenong & District Aborigines Cooperative cohealth Korin Gamadji Institute Odyssey House Star Health Corrections Victoria Victorian AIDS Council Macedon Ranges Health Institute of Koorie Education, Deakin University Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative

TOUR VENUES

The Drum Theatre, Dandenong Harmsworth Hall, Collingwood **Richmond Football Club** Launch Housing, Southbank Chapel Off Chapel, South Yarra **Metropolitan Remand Centre Positive Living Centre Gisborne Secondary College** Harold Mitchell Performance Space, Deakin University, Waurn Ponds **Barwon Prison Mooregrace Acting Studio** Harmony Centre, Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative, Mooroopna **Tarrengower Prison Middleton Prison Loddon Prison**

"A very powerful performance with an equally powerful message" - Audience Feedback



DAREBIN PERFORMANCE LAB

The Darebin Performance Lab was a week-long theatre-devising and performance skills workshop for First Nations performers of all ages, abilities and experience levels. Directed by renowned theatre director and drama teacher John Bolton with the support of lead artist Kamarra Bell-Wykes, the Lab developed the skills of artists in techniques for creating group devised theatre, physicalising text and embodying lived and historical experience on the stage.

ALL SAINTS, PRESTON

6-10 February 2017 Participants: 20

CREATIVE TEAM

Director John Bolton Lead Artist Kamarra Bell-Wykes

The Darebin Performance Lab was supported by the City of Darebin.

The MARGUK School Workshop Series used drama to engage students in First Nations culture, histories and storytelling. Workshops were available for all ages, from prep to VCE, and aligned with the Aboriginal & Torres **Strait Islander Histories and Cultures** cross-curriculum priority.

The workshops provided a rare opportunity for students to work with **First Nations facilitators in interactive** drama activities that allowed students to develop a deep understanding of Indigenous culture, social and political history and the contemporary lived experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"It was deadly to be in a room of inspiring, passionate Black artists" - Participant

"This was an outstanding workshop. The ability of facilitators to get students involved and active and really thinking about issues facing Aboriginal people was fantastic" - Teacher Feedback

MARGUK SCHOOL WORKSHOP SERIES

VICTORIAN TOUR

7-25 August 2017 Workshops: 35 Participants: 1438

CREATIVE TEAM

Lead Artist Kamarra Bell-Wykes Facilitators Jack Sheppard & Matt Coleman

The MARGUK School Workshop Series was toured by Regional Arts Victoria.

DAREBIN PERFORMANCE LAB Photo: Darren Gill

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

NE MORE RIVER \mathbf{O} \bigcirc **C R O S S**

In the 1960s Wilma Reading, a young Indigenous woman from Cairns, embarked on an adventure that would take her around the world and home again. ONE MORE RIVER TO CROSS is a very personal love story told against the backdrop of world politics. A largescale theatre work, ONE MORE RIVER TO CROSS uses text, archival material, digital projection and live music to tell Wilma's remarkable story.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

February - October 2017

CREATIVE TEAM

Writers Wilma Reading & **Dr Romaine Moreton**

Director Rachael Maza

Musical Director Dr Lou Bennett

Performers Wilma Reading, Shakira Clanton, Elaine Crombie, Amanda Davis, Nazaree Dickerson, Ben Graetz, Jessica Hitchcock, Ian Michael, Liam Maguire, Carly Sheppard

Musicians Darrin Archer, Eugene Ball, Malcolm Beveridge, Phil Collings, Sam Keevers, Gary Watling & Julien Wilson Set Design Concept Robyne Latham Set & Costume Designer Marg Horwell Audio Visual Designer Sean Bacon Dramaturge Kamarra Bell-Wykes

The ONE MORE RIVER TO CROSS creative development was supported by the Australian Government through the Major Festivals Initiative, in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals and Melbourne Festival, the Australia Council for the Arts and the Indigenous Languages & Arts Program.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

MY URRWAI

Ghenoa Gela - little sister, daughter, granddaughter, comic, teacher, fighter, gold medallist, air guitarist, charmer, TV star, Torres Strait mainlander, walking political statement - has made a show.

MY URRWAI is a revealing reflection on and celebration of cultural and familial inheritance, and an unflinching comment on race relations in Australia.

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

May - December 2017

In 2017 ILBIJERRI began creative development of our new health promotion work STIGMA STORIES. **STIGMA STORIES is our third health** education work focusing on Hepatitis C. In light of the new treatment, Hepatitis C is now curable in most cases. STIGMA STORIES leads the audience through the complexities of stigma and high risk behaviours via character-scapes, parodies, social, political and historical commentary of the virus and the outdated stigma that surrounds it. **STIGMA STORIES shines light on a** dark topic, playfully challenging the audience to start taking their health seriously.

CREATIVE TEAM

Creator/Performer Ghenoa Gela **Director Rachael Maza** Dramaturg Kate Champion **Composer Ania Reynolds** Lighting Designer Niklas Pajanti Set & Costume Designer Michael Hankin Produced by Performing Lines

STIGMA STORIES

CREATIVE TEAM

Writer Kamarra Bell-Wykes Facilitator Shiralee Hood Performer Nazaree Dickerson

CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT

November - December 2017

The STIGMA STORIES creative development was supported by the Victorian Government.

DEADLY FRINGE

Deadly Fringe is our brand-new artist development program delivered in partnership with Melbourne Fringe. Deadly Fringe seeks to unearth and nurture new works by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.

In 2017 we mentored Joel Bray (Wiradjuri) and his new dance-theatre work BILADURANG and Kate ten Buuren (Taungurung) who brought together five artists from different artistic mediums in DIS PLACE.

DIS PLACE

Lead Artist Kate ten Buuren

Presented by Kate ten Buuren and the This Mob collective of emerging First Nations artists, DIS PLACE responded to displacement as a result of colonisation and its ongoing repercussions. Through a future-focused and inter-personal lens, DIS PLACE connected Indigenous art-makers, by creating a temporary space to explore these themes.

BILADURANG

Creator & Performer Joel Bray

Joel is black. Well, he's white, but black. Y'know? He's trapped in a hotel room somewhere in Melbourne; the audience trapped with him.

In this no-where-place he takes a pause, looks over his shoulder and takes a good look at his life. "Is this where I am supposed to be? Is this who I am supposed to be? What is all this? The drugs? The sex? The cigarettes?"

Loosely echoing the Wiradjuri story of the Biladurang – the platypus, this piece of dance-theatre is physical, tender, funny and dark.

WINNER Best Performance, Market Ready Award & Arts House Evolution Award - 2017 Melbourne Fringe Awards

"A physical, funny and tender piece of dance-theatre" - The Weekly Review





FINANCIALS

IN E) S1

S1 0| P(

		2017	2016
	INCOME	\$	\$
NCOME &	INCOME Event Income	570,862	323,093
XPENDITURE	Philanthropy & Donations	84,330	162,755
TATEMENT	Other Income	40,149	23,662
	Government Grants	964,216	876,240
	Funds Received & Transferred	40,000	-40,000
	TOTAL INCOME	1,699,557	1,345,750
	EXPENSES		
	Salaries, Wages & Fees	1,156,962	912,509
	Presentation & Touring	312,927	298,098
	Other programs	67,909	179
	Marketing	42,446	37,153
	Infrastructure Costs	110,003	93,235
	TOTAL EXPENSES	1,690,247	1,341,174
	NET SURPLUS	9,310	4,576
		11.000	and the second se
	and the second s	2017	2016
		\$	\$
TATEMENT	CURRENT ASSETS		State of the second
F FINANCIAL	Cash & Cash Equivalents	1,003,427	975,741
OSITION	Trade & Other Receivables	111,770	251,989
	Other Current Assets	20,995	37,274
	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,136,192	1,265,004
	TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	0	0
	TOTAL ASSETS	1,136,192	1,265,004
		120	and the
	CURRENT LIABILITIES Trade & Other Payables	CT TEE	107 520
	Short-Term Provisions Payable	67,355	127,520 43,587
	Income in Advance	77,475 708,000	819,844
	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	852,830	990,951
1 1 1 1	TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	0	0
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	852,830	990,951
5 100000	NET ASSETS	283,362	274,053
S A BEAM	A STATE OF THE STATE OF		
2 百姓要素。	EQUITY		
	Retained Earnings	274,052	269,477
1.011.63	Current Earnings	9,310	4,576
	TOTAL EQUITY	283,362	274,053
		Supervised in the local division of the loca	100

Aunty Carolyn Briggs

President Gavin Somers

Secretary Kareena Gay

Treasurer Tony McCartney

STAFF

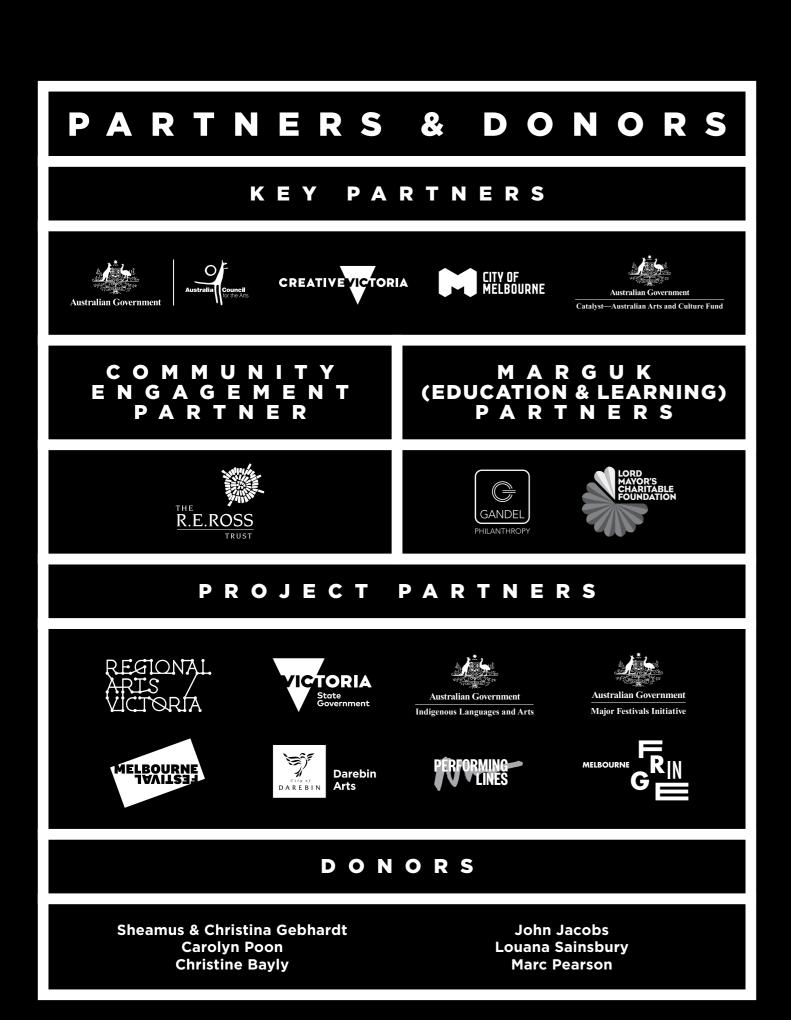
Artistic Director/Co-CEO Rachael Maza Executive Producer/Co-CEO Lydia Fairhall General Manager Kathy Morrison **Creative Director Kamarra Bell-Wykes** Producers Nina Bonacci & Lisa Parris **Associate Producers J-Maine Beezley** & Davey Thompson

> Simeon Moran (Executive Producer), Ben Graetz (Creative Producer), Lauren Bok & Julia Valentini (Associate Producers).

Graphic Design Tom William Francis



BLOOD ON THE DANCEFLOOR Photo: Dorine Blaise





MELBOURNE IS A CREATIVE CITY

The City of Melbourne proudly supports major and emerging arts organisations through our 2018–20 Triennial Arts Grants Program

African Music and Cultural Festival Aphids Arts Access Victoria Australian Art Orchestra Australian Centre for Contemporary Art BLINDSIDE Chamber Made Circus Oz Craft Victoria Emerging Writers' Festival Human Rights Arts & Film Festival ILBIJERRI Theatre Company KINGS Artist-Run Koorie Heritage Trus La Mama Liquid Architecture Lucy Guerin Inc. Malthouse Theatre Melbourne Festival Melbourne Fringe Melbourne Internatio Festival Melbourne Internatio

melbourne.vic.gov.au/triennialarts

	Melbourne Symphony Orchestra
st	Melbourne Writers Festival
	Multicultural Arts Victoria
	Next Wave Festival
	Polyglot Theatre
	Speak Percussion
	St Martins Youth Arts Centre
onal Comedy	Victorian Youth Symphony Orchestra
onal Film Festival	West Space
onal Jazz Festival	The Wheeler Centre
lm Festival	Wild@Heart Community Arts















ILBIJERRI Theatre Company

Meat Market 5 Blackwood Street North Melbourne VIC 3051 AUSTRALIA

T +61 3 9329 9097 F +61 3 9329 9105 E info@ilbijerri.com.au ilbijerri.com.au facebook.com/ilbijerri @ILBIJERRI