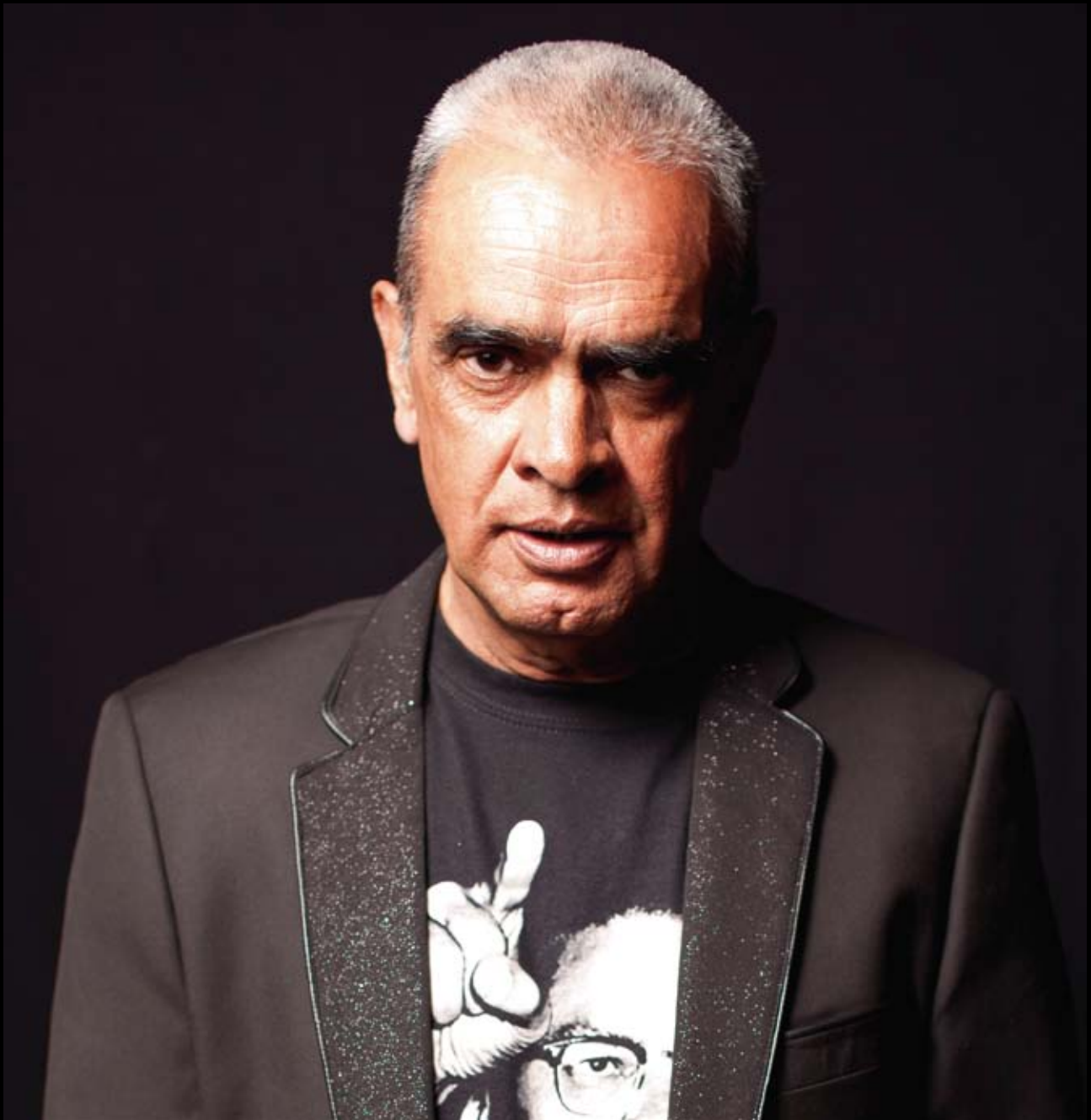


# IL BIJ ERRI

**BOLD. BLACK. BRILLIANT.**  
ANNUAL REPORT 2012





# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE

ILBIJERRI Theatre Company continued to bring new Australian works creatively led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to the main stages of the nation's theatres and festivals during 2011. We also proudly represented Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and artists at theatre forums, arts boards and in public settings, promoting our rich culture in the arts and continuing the struggle for Indigenous justice and equality.

Uncle Jack Charles continued to entertain, enlighten and be adored by audiences across the country. His show JACK CHARLES V THE CROWN was presented at Belvoir St Theatre in Sydney (for a sold out three week season) and at the Brisbane International Arts Festival in the Powerhouse Theatre on the banks of the Brisbane River.

Based on his history lectures and starring the man himself, Gary Foley, our new, groundbreaking production FOLEY was commissioned by both Melbourne and Sydney Festivals. FOLEY charts a course through the 20th Century bringing to light the ongoing struggle for land rights and justice by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. From federation to the Aboriginal tent embassy, this production tells with charm and great honesty an untold chapter of Australian history.

CORANDERRK - WE WILL SHOW THE COUNTRY, saw first time director Isaac Drandic making his debut in a sold out two week season at La Mama Theatre, with additional shows also selling out. This important work tells the story of the Coranderrk reserve and their fight for independence in 1881, with all of the dialogue derived directly from government inquiries of the day.

ILBIJERRI has continued our strong commitment to train and develop new Indigenous artists, directors and writers to better enable our stories to be heard.

Our BLACK WRITERS LAB which entered its first full year, is instrumental in drawing out unique works from our own community. A number of new works were developed and a reading held in the middle of the year demonstrated the success of the program, which we plan to continue in years to come. By developing the next generation of Indigenous writers we ensure our stories will be seen on the stage.

We also furthered our commitment to keeping Indigenous people and communities healthy and strong by touring our work BODY ARMOUR across Victoria to great acclaim. In 2011 ILBIJERRI continued to make a unique and significant contribution to Australian theatre through dialogue about what it means to be Australian, while always being bold, black and brilliant.



**Gavin Somers**  
President



**Rachael Maza**  
Artistic Director



**Brad Spolding**  
General Manager

# 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 and 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 creative and administrative decision making processes within ILBIJERRI Theatre Company.

## RESPECT

We always pay full 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.



# 2011 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

## **JACK CHARLES V THE CROWN**

Belvoir St Theatre, Sold Out Three Week Season

## **BODY ARMOUR**

Victorian Regional Tour to Over 2000 Students

## **JACK CHARLES V THE CROWN**

Brisbane Festival Season

## **FOLEY**

Melbourne Festival Premiere Season

## **CORANDERRK: WE WILL SHOW THE COUNTRY**

La Mama Theatre, Sold Out Two Week Season





# PRODUCTIONS 2011

“There is something special about Uncle Jack. Something about his voice, his stature, his laugh, his story – something powerful but humbling. It was that something that ricocheted people to their feet to give the man a standing ovation. It is most certainly, something that you won’t want to miss.”

Australian Stage

## JACK CHARLES V THE CROWN

Following a successful premiere season at the 2010 Melbourne International Arts Festival, JACK CHARLES V THE CROWN toured to a sold out three week season at Belvoir St in Sydney and to the Brisbane Festival. This powerful and endearing one-man show showcases the colourful life of one of the nation’s near-forgotten treasures.

### **BELVOIR ST THEATRE**

30 March – 17 April

Number of performances: 23

Number of audience: 6,498

### **Creative Team**

**Featuring** Uncle Jack Charles

**Director** Rachael Maza

**Co-Writers** Jack Charles & John Romeril

**Dramaturg** John Romeril

**Script Consultant** Melanie Beddie

**Set & Costume Designer** Emily Barrie

**Lighting Designer** Danny Pettingill

**Audio Visual Designer** Peter Worland

**Musical Director** Nigel MacLean

**Production & Stage Manager** Susie Franke

**Musicians** Nigel MacLean, Mal Beveridge & Phil Collings

### **BRISBANE FESTIVAL, BRISBANE POWERHOUSE**

7 – 10 September

Number of performances: 4

Number of audience: 1,048

### **Creative Team**

**Featuring** Uncle Jack Charles

**Director** Rachael Maza

**Lighting Designer** Danny Pettingill

**Musical Director** Nigel MacLean

**Musicians** Nigel MacLean, Mal Beveridge & Phil Collings

**Production Manager** Suzie Franke

**Stage Manager** Caitlin Chessell

“A fast-paced comedy drama... speaks with such empathic attunement to marginalised groups.”

The Age

## BODY ARMOUR

Our touring community show, BODY ARMOUR drove home the message about Hepatitis C in the Indigenous community and beyond through regional high schools.

### VICTORIAN REGIONAL TOURING

18 July – 12 August

Number of performances: 32

Number of audience: 2,700

#### Creative Team

**Performers** Leroy Parsons, Maurial Spearim & Sandy Greenwood

**Director** Margaret Harvey

**Writer** Kamarra Bell Wykes

**Dramaturge** John Romeril

**Set & Costume Designer** Alison Ross

**Sound Designer** Anna Liebzeit

**Tour/Stage Manager** Caitlin Chessell





## FOLEY

Political agitator Gary Foley has been a key figure in fighting for Aboriginal rights for over forty years. He weaves his extraordinary life and experiences around the major happenings that have shaped modern Australia in this lively presentation.

### MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

6 – 15 October

Number of performances: 10

Number of audience: 3,089

#### Creative Team

**Writer, Performer & Co-devisor** Gary Foley

**Director** Rachael Maza

**Co-devisor** Jon Hawkes

**Audio & Lighting Designer** Danny Pettingill

**Audio Visual Designer** Peter Worland

**Costume & Set Designer** Emily Barrie

**Sound Designer** Anna Liebzeit

**Researcher** Edwina Howell

**Research Coordinator** Lisa Wallace

**Production Manager** Caitlin Chessell

**Stage Manager** Pippa Wright

**AV & Lighting Technician** Marco Cher-Gibard

**Featuring Guest Artists** Nazeem Hussain,

Aamer Rahman, Tiriki Onus, Boori Pryor,

Arlene TextaQueen, Stephen Cummings,

Jack Charles, Tony Birch, Marianna Doherty

& Stephen Magnusson

“Invigoratingly irreverent, driven by an unflinching lifelong passion for justice, it makes absorbing theatre. It’s a warts and all presentation, and often hilarious.”

Alison Croggon, Theatre Notes

#### AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

Last night I saw FOLEY at the Arts Centre and thought it was absolutely wonderful... very entertaining as well as educational. I remember nearly all the events, but it was good to hear them put together in a sequence. The director, lighting and sound people, designers etc. all did a terrific job. Congratulations!

Just keep doing what you ILBIJERRI mob do so well.



## **CORANDERRK: WE WILL SHOW THE COUNTRY**

The historical dramatisation of the 1881 Inquiry about the Coranderrk Aboriginal Station is brought to life by a talented cast of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal actors. CORANDERRK: WE WILL SHOW THE COUNTRY was created by the Minutes of Evidence Project, a collaboration between leading Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists, researchers, education experts and community members. The performances sold out before the season began.

### **LA MAMA COURTHOUSE THEATRE**

16 - 27 November

Number of performances: 13

Number of audience: 1,123

#### **Creative Team**

**Performers** Syd Brisbane, Uncle Jack Charles, Jim Daly, Peter Finlay, Greg Fryer, Liz Jones, Tom Long, Melodie Reynolds & Glenn Shea.

**Director** Isaac Drandic

**Concept by** Giordano Nanni

**Adapted by** Andrea James & Giordano Nanni

**Production Manager** Bronwyn Pringle

**Set Designer** Darryl Cordell

**Costume Designer** Emily Barrie

**Audio Visual Designer** Peter Worland

**Lighting Designer** Bronwyn Pringle

**Sound Designer** Ben Grant

**Research** Giordano Nanni

**Stage Manager** Jessica Smithett

“With lessons to be learnt at so many levels – historical, social, language and geographical – this play should be compulsory reading in high schools across Australia.”

Jane Canaway, Australian Stage

### **AUDIENCE FEEDBACK**

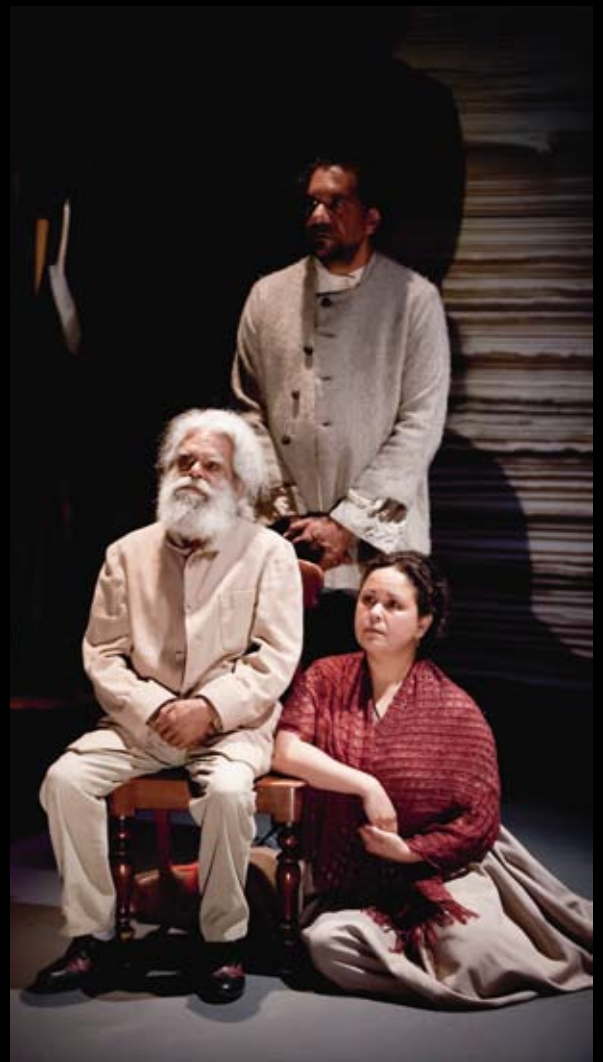
Love the variety of work you do. Letting Melbourne audiences in on experience and knowledge that we don't often get access to. Very, very important and great.

Keep up the good work. CORANDERRK is such a fine production – so honest.

I hope this gets out to as many people as possible and tours.

All power to the Corranderk mob who stood up against oppression and fought for justice. Lighting the way for generations to follow and, of course, the non-Koorie supporters who saw that something was wrong and something had to be done. Congrats one and all on a power-full production.

To one and all. Well done and thank you, it was something special.





## **BLACK WRITERS LAB**

Integral to ILBIJERRI Theatre Company's future and the future of Indigenous stories on Australian stages, our innovative skills development program, BLACK WRITERS LAB develops and nurtures Indigenous artists and community. The 12-week program for new and emerging theatre makers and writers was well attended and continues to grow from strength to strength in its second year. It culminated in a reading at Melbourne Aboriginal Youth, Sport and Recreation (MAYSAR).

### **WORKSHOPS**

February to November

### **Creative Team**

**Facilitators** Peta Murray & Mari Lourey

## WADDAWEWANT

ILBIJERRI Theatre Company partnered with the Victorian Indigenous Youth Advisory Council (VIYAC) to establish a reference group and worked with 42 Koori youths aged 13 - 18 years to address a range of issues making an impact upon Indigenous youth today. A creative development process occurred concurrent to workshops and culminated in a showcase presentation to teachers, Elders, family and friends in the community. WADDAWEWANT was an amazing success and the participants were deeply engaged in the workshops. We shared ideas and stories, nurtured talents and built self-confidence and friendships.

### WORKSHOPS

January to March

### Creative Team

**Facilitator** Tammy Anderson



# LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY

ILBIJERRI Theatre Company exists to support the growth and development of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander artists. As such we play a key role in leading and advocating for Indigenous artists. In 2011 the ILBIJERRI Executive took part in the following roles:

## **RACHAEL MAZA**

### **Member of**

ATSIA Board of Australia Council  
Australia Theatre Forum Advisory Group  
Black Arm Band Board (Public Officer)  
Black Lines Touring Advisory Group  
Docklands Indigenous Advisory Group  
– City of Melbourne  
National Indigenous Theatre Forum  
Advisory Group  
Opera Australia Indigenous Advisory Group  
Playing Australia Committee  
Play Writing Australia Assessment Panel  
Songlines Board  
Vic Health Assessment Panel

### **Mentored**

Ian Michaels  
Kylie Farmer (ATSIA Board Fellowship)

## **BRAD SPOLDING**

### **Member of**

Arts and Participation Panel,  
City of Melbourne (Chair)  
Arts Advisory Board, City of Melbourne  
New Leaders Network  
Puppet Peepshow (Treasurer)  
Woor-Dungin Steering Committee Member

# COMPANY HISTORY

## **2011**

### **Foley**

Melbourne International Arts Festival

### **Jack Charles V The Crown**

Belvoir St Theatre, Brisbane Festival

### **Coranderrk: We Will Show the Country**

La Mama Courthouse

### **Body Armour**

Victorian Tour

### **Waddawewant**

Worawa Aboriginal College

### **Black Writers Lab**

## **2010**

### **Jack Charles V The Crown**

Melbourne International Arts Festival

### **Coranderrk: We Will Show the Country**

La Mama Courthouse

### **Black Sheep: Glorious Bastards**

Melbourne International Comedy Festival

### **Body Armour**

Victorian Tour

### **20 Years: Bold Black Brilliant, Anniversary Exhibition**

Bunjilaka, Melbourne Museum

### **10th Victorian Indigenous Performing Arts (VIPA) Awards**

### **Black Writers Lab**

## **2009**

### **Sisters of Gelam**

Malthouse Theatre

### **A Black Sheep Walks into a Baa**

Melbourne International Comedy Festival

### **Chopped Liver**

National Tour

### **9th VIPA Awards**

## **2008**

### **Songlines of a Mutti Mutti Man**

North Melbourne Town Hall

### **Jacky Jacky in the Box**

Federation Square Installation

### **Dirty Mile**

Fitzroy Walking Trail

### **Chopped Liver**

National Tour

### **8th VIPA Awards**

**2007**

**7 Deadly Gins**

Melbourne International Comedy Festival

**Itchy Clacker**

Melbourne International Comedy Festival,  
The Dreaming Festival

**Headhunter**

Come Out Festival

**Chopped Liver**

South Australian/Victorian Tour

**7th VIPA Awards**

**2006**

**The Dirty Mile**

Fitzroy Walking Trail

**Natives Getting Funny**

Adelaide Fringe

**Natives Strikin' Blak**

Melbourne International Comedy Festival,  
Dreaming Festival

**Headhunter**

Victorian Tour

**Chopped Liver**

Premiere Victorian Tour

**6th VIPA Awards**

**2005**

**Rainbow's End**

Melbourne Museum

**Natives Getting Funny**

Melbourne International Comedy Festival,  
The Dreaming Festival

**Headhunter**

Premier Melbourne season,  
Victorian Tour

**New Indigenous Voices**

New York

**5th VIPA Awards**

**2004**

**Oh My God I'm Black!**

Adelaide Cabaret Festival

**New Indigenous Voices**

New York

**ILBIJERRI Naidoc Players**

**4th Victorian Indigenous Playwrights' Conference**

**4th VIPA Awards**

**2003**

**Shrunken Iris**

North Melbourne Town Hall

**Oh My God I'm Black!**

Theatreworks

**3rd Victorian Indigenous Playwrights' Conference**

**3rd VIPA Awards**

**2002**

**2nd Victorian Indigenous Playwrights' Conference**

**2nd VIPA Awards**

**2001**

**Inaugural Victorian Indigenous Playwrights' Conference**

**Inaugural VIPA Awards**

**1998**

**Up the Road**

Playbox, Company B Belvoir

**1992 - 2005**

**Stolen**

National and International Tours

**1991**

**Up the Road**

Commissioned

**Incorporated as ILBIJERRI Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander Theatre Co-operative**





# FINANCIALS

## PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Event Income	265,635	46,211
Other Activities	1,834	0
Philanthropy & Donations	30,233	23,085
Other Income	50,962	18,952
Government Grants	482,326	491,922
Funds Received & Transferred	24,679	69,015
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>855,669</b>	<b>649,185</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries, Wages & Fees	566,528	501,656
Presentation & Touring	133,743	46,556
Other Programs	16,152	0
Marketing	43,686	35,449
Infrastructure Costs (Admin)	89,146	60,159
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>849,255</b>	<b>643,820</b>
<b>NET PROFIT/(LOSS)</b>	<b>6,414</b>	<b>5,365</b>

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	507,828	345,653
Trade & Other Receivables	12,646	63,154
Other Current Assets	59,154	1,742
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>579,628</b>	<b>410,549</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Trade & Other Receivables	0	0
Property, Plant & Equipment	0	0
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>579,628</b>	<b>410,549</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade & Other Payables	27,371	68,838
Short-Term Provisions Payable	15,787	11,334
Financial Liabilities	0	0
Grants Carried Forward	308,626	108,946
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>351,784</b>	<b>189,118</b>
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>351,784</b>	<b>189,118</b>
<b>NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)</b>	<b>227,884</b>	<b>221,431</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Issued Capital	0	0
Retained Earnings	227,844	221,431
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>227,844</b>	<b>221,431</b>

# FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS

## CORE FUNDING



Australian Government



**ARTS  
VICTORIA**



Australian Government  
Indigenous Culture Support



## PROJECT FUNDING



VicHealth

State Government  
of Victoria, Department  
of Health



SIDNEY MYER FUND

## DONOR

Chris Kirkpatrick

## PRESENTING PARTNERS



ARISARAF FESTIVAL

MELBOURNE  
FESTIVAL



## THANK YOU

Many thanks to supporters and friends who have contributed to making 2011 a brilliant year for ILBIJERRI Theatre Company. We would like to thank all the staff at Belvoir St Theatre, Brisbane Festival, Melbourne Festival, Brisbane Powerhouse, Victorian Arts Centre, Melbourne University, Koorie Heritage Trust, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, VicHealth's Arts About Us program, The State Library of Victoria, the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc, LaMama Theatre, Jim Stenson and Arts House, Stephen Rhall, Peter Spolding from 548 Support and Cecilia Kavara-Verran.

## STAFF AND BOARD

### Artistic Director

Rachael Maza

### General Manager

John Harvey (until January 2011)

Brad Spolding (from February 2011)

### Office Manager

Sauna Maguire (until December 2011)

### Production Manager

Caitlin Chessell (from May - December 2011)

### Program Producer

Shalini Nair (from August - December 2011)

### Finance Manager

John Paxinos

### Book Keeper

Jon Hawkes

### Administration Assistant

Ann Fuata (from June to August 2011)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President** Gavin Somers

**Vice President** Angela Clarke

**Treasurer** Aunty Frances Bond

**Secretary** Rosie Smith

**Director** Jane Harrison (from June 2011)

**Director** Greg Fryer (from June 2011)

### Photography credits

Jack Charles V The Crown - **Heidrun Lohr**

Body Armour - **courtesy of VicHealth**

Foley - **Steven Rhall**

Coranderrk: We Will Show The Country - **Steven Rhall**

Black Writers Lab - **Steven Rhall**

### Creative direction & design

Sweet Creative

**ILBIJERRI THEATRE COMPANY**

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