



NGALAKA DAA ENSEMBLE

Ngalaka Daa means “our tongue” in Noongar.

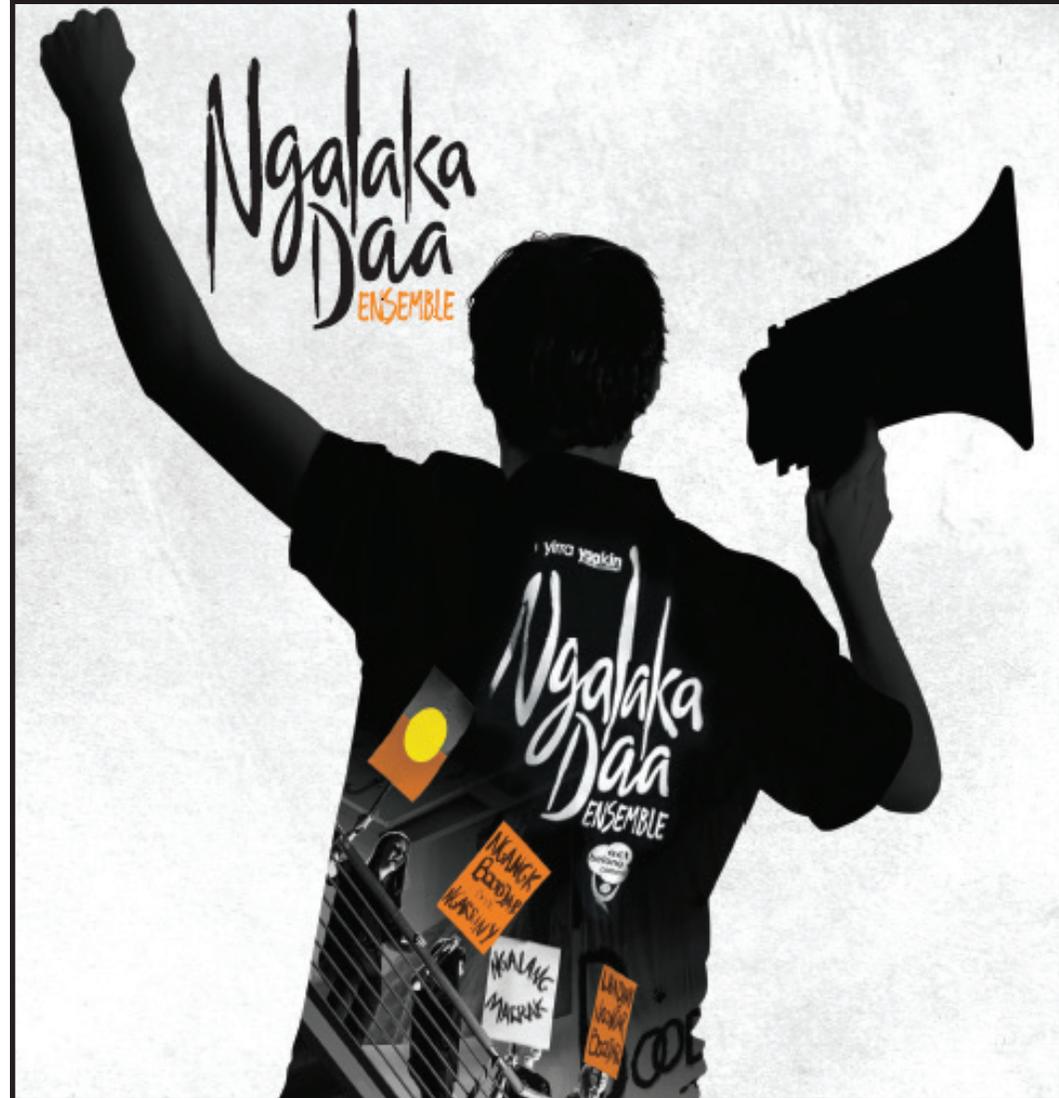
The Ngalaka Daa Ensemble is a collaboration between Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company and WA Youth Theatre Company that is focused on creating opportunities for young people in Western Australia to learn Noongar Language and Theatre Performance Skills.

This is the second year of this collaboration for these two companies.

Driven by the sharing of Noongar language and culture, the Ngalaka Daa Ensemble is led by Della Rae Morrison and is made up of emerging young artists from Yirra Yaakin’s Junior Sonneteers Program and WAYTCo.

In addition to providing young people with opportunities within the arts, the Ngalaka Daa Ensemble is an avenue to ensure the sustainability of one of the oldest languages on the planet, while promoting cultural awareness along with a greater sense of connection and understanding of the community they live in.

This year we are delighted to share with you this traverse presentation of Ngalaka Daa here at Hackett Hall, Boorla Bardip. Originally programmed to premiere as part of the 2021 NAIDOC Week, the July COVID lockdown meant that the final performance had to be postponed to August. Although we unfortunately lost some of the ensemble due to this date change, we have still been able to hold the performance tonight without further disruption. We hope you enjoy the work of this year’s Ngalaka Daa mob.



Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company &
WA Youth Theatre Company Present

Ngalaka Daa Ensemble

Ngalaka Daa

(Our Tongue)

Transcribed & Directed by Cezera Critti-Schnaars

Translated by Della Rae Morrison

This year's Ngalaka Daa performance features text taken from four interviews between Cezera Critti-Schnaars and four arts workers centred around two questions: 'What was the moment you fell in love with the arts and/or realised it was what you wanted to do with your life?' and 'Have you ever been a part of or seen a piece that has changed you?', translated into the Noongar language by Della Rae Morrison.

This showing is a performative response by the entire Ngalaka Daa Ensemble, to the stories generously given in these interviews.

Transcribed & Directed by: Cezera Critti-Schnaars

Translated by: Della Rae Morrison

Facilitation by: Della Rae Morrison, James Berlyn, Zac James, Janine Oxenham, Charley Caruso, Merindah Hansen and Colin Hansen

Featuring: Jen Bagg, Jayda Corunna, Sebastian Critti-Schnaars, Indigo Ellis, Stella Finn, Elaina Hinder, Oliver Hughes, Nicola Kinnane, Ivy Lynch, Louis Neylon-Williams, Rick Radalj, Makaela Rowe-Fox, Yamani Saba-Edge

Music: composed by Zac James, Della Rae Morrison and Charley Caruso.
Guitar played by Louis Neylon-Williams.

Production Manager: Mike Nanning

Producers: Elinor King and Bobbi Henry

Translation Mentors: Merindah Hansen and Colin Hansen

Technician: Andre Van Vulpen

Special thanks to Owen Hasluck, Bobbi Henry, Maitland Schnaars and Rubeun Yorkshire for sharing their stories for this performance.

Thank you to Nick Abraham for presenting the Welcome to Country.

Thank you to all previous Ngalaka Daa participants who were able to be with us for part of the journey this year: Courtney Cavallaro, Rai Costin, Lana Dodd, Tionne Hart, Te'arna May, Tia Pinnegar and Imogen Thompson.

From Cezera Critti-Schnaars (Director)

Pride. That is the word that comes to mind when I think of this show. From late starts to postponed shows, a few things have almost gotten in the way of what you will see tonight. In some ways though, I am grateful for those things as this piece wouldn't be what it is without them. Who knows what you would be watching had things been a little different?

Back to pride. I am so proud of the performers. They have taken text close to my heart and worked with it and performed it in a way that is nothing short of beautiful.

So thank you to the performers. Thank you for trusting me and going on this journey with me. I am so proud!

And to the audience, thank you for being here! Let the words and movements take you to a palace that is joyful. Enjoy!

From Della Rae Morrison (Head Facilitator & Translator)

I have had the privilege of working with Yirra Yaakin and Western Australian Youth Theatre Company as a facilitator on 2021 Ngalaka Daa (Our Tongue), as a mentor to our young participants and up coming young Director Cezera Critti-Schnaars. I am so proud of this year's beautiful works Directed by Cez and performed by amazing young talented rising superstars, it has been an absolute honour to work with the team and to see how far they have come in confidence and in artistic expression. I would like to wish them all the best in their future endeavours and have a safe and wonderful year ahead.

Yirra Yaakin & WAYTCO would like to acknowledge the following partners for their support of the Ngalaka Daa Ensemble

