



YIRRA YAAKIN

# PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL 2023

SHOWCASING  
FIRST NATIONS  
PLAYWRIGHTS



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# EMPOWERING FIRST NATIONS ARTISTS

Woodside has proudly supported Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company as Development Partner since 2012. Through the Next Step Training Program, Yirra Yaakin inspires the next generation of First Nations artists and continues to create exceptional contemporary Aboriginal Theatre.



Woodside  
Energy

# YIRRA YAAKIN PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL 2023

## PLAYWRIGHTS

**Bruce Denny, Bobbi Henry, Barbara Hostalek, Jannali Jones, Tegan Mulvany, Narelle Thorne and Alexis West**

**Note:** *Contains coarse language and adult themes.*

*Recommended for ages 15+* 

## CAST AND CREATIVES

**Dramaturgs:** Nazaree Dickerson, Luke Hewitt and Rachael Maza

**Directors:** Bruce Denny, Isaac Drandic and Ian Wilkes

**Performers:** Sebastian Critti-Schnaars, Simone Detourbet, Tyren Maclou, Ebony McGuire, Della Rae Morrison, Rayma Morrison, Calen Tassone and Rubeun Yorkshire

**Narrators:** Simone Detourbet, Teresa Moore, Marlanie Haerewa and Bobbi Henry

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND SPECIAL THANKS

Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company would like to acknowledge the support of our current donors and supporters along with the following partners:

The Australian Government through the Australia Council, its principal arts funding and advisory body, The State Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Woodside, Wesfarmers Arts and LAVAN.





Photo By Dana Weeks

The top half of the page features a dark background with several abstract, colorful shapes. On the left, there are green and blue shapes resembling stylized letters or symbols. In the center, there is a red shape that looks like a zigzag line and a cyan shape that resembles a hand or a stylized arrow. On the right, there are yellow horizontal bars stacked vertically, and a pink wavy line at the bottom right.

## **PROGRAM OUTLINE**

### **SHOWCASING FIRST NATIONS PLAYWRIGHTS**

**Yirra Yaakin Playwriting Festival has supported seven playwrights from Western Australia and South Australia to develop their scripts with First Nations directors and dramaturgs.**

**Yirra Yaakin is proud to present the developed scripts as three nights of staged readings during NAIDOC Week 2023.**



# ISO MADNESS

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## by Narelle Thorne



Narelle is a proud Yamatji-Noongar woman. A mother and grandmother. She has always been passionate about telling stories of her people, whether it was a historical account or inspired by yarnning around the campfire with family. This passion has led to a career spanning more than 20 years in Media/Communications and Community Engagement after starting as a television news journalist at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Narelle has also worked as a public servant at the Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA) broadening her skills in media relations, events coordination, speech writing, research and policy development. Another passion of Narelle's is volunteering her time to a number of not-for-profit groups and she has previously served on the boards of Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company and the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts. She also enjoys going back on country practising culture and dancing with her aunties.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- *Dating Black*, Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company (world premiere production 2021)
- *Iso Madness*, Yirra Yaarnz, Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company (2020)
- *Dating Black*, Yirra Yaarnz, Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company (2019)



We're into the future, there's an outbreak of a new virus sweeping the world, forcing authorities to take drastic measures to reduce the risk of it spreading. An elderly Yamatji couple, with several health issues are considered more susceptible to contracting this disease. They live in Perth, far away from their homelands, to be close to their daughter and grandchildren.

Myrtle, a woman in her 60s. She is proud of her home and wants it protected from nasty germs.

Thomas is in his early 70s. He struggles to remember things as he ages and mostly with short term memory.

Tracy is a community nurse providing home care for the couple.

# CULTURE SLAP

by Alexis West



Alexis West is a Birra Gubba, Wakka Wakka, South Sea Islander and Anglo Australian woman. She is a mother, writer, director, collaborator and performer in life, film, theatre, poetry, dance, weirdness and events. She has written and directed works for No Strings Attached Theatre of Disability, Karrikarinya Theatre Collective, Kurruru Youth Arts, State Theatre Company South Australia, Act Now Theatre Company and Theatre Republic. Alexis has presented and shared stories for *Around the Traps* on NITV as well as written and directed short form life story documentaries. She was a co-writer for the award-winning feature length documentary *King's Seal*. Alexis has shared her poetry on stage as well as being published in *Growing Up Aboriginal in Australia*, *Mindshare*, *Ora Nui*, *Our Mob* and *Spirit Festival Catalogues* as well as translated into Polish for *Poetiks*.

Alexis has worked with Act Now Theatre creating and performing *Responding to Racism* as well as working as a facilitator, curator and mentor for the First Nations Pathway Program since 2016.

Alexis is currently working with Slingsby Theatre Company's Flying Squad as a collaborator, deviser, writer and performer.



A heightened state of learning....

Whhhhhkkkkrrrrssshh (sound it out)

This theatricalised adventure follows the faux pas' FUP UPS of a black woman stomping, tripping, fumbling her way through the often treacherous, patient, healing process of protocol.

You get it wrong culturally...  
You're gonna get a  
CULTURE SLAP!

Whhhhhkkkkrrrrssshh!

# LOST

## by Bruce Denny



Bruce Denny's heritage is Yamatji down his mother's side and native American down his father's. Bruce started his acting career in the late 1980s, firstly in Community Theatre and then progressing to professional work both as an actor and director.

Acting credits include *The Sum of Us* and *Cracked* with Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, *Macbeth*, *Tristan & Isolde*, *Nabucco*, *Madam Butterfly*, *Carmen*, *La Traviata*, *The Magic Flute*, *Rigoletto* and *Aida* with WA Opera.

Some of film and television credits include *Below*, *The Heights*, *Itch*, *Paper Planes*, *Gallipoli*, *Cloud Street*, *Bran Nue Dae*, *Leather*, *The Mickelburg Stitch*, *Surviving Mumbai*, *Sundowner*, *Speed Date*, *Storm World*, *Two Fists One Heart* and *Bush Patrol*.

Directing credits include *Dating Black* for Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, *Kangaroo Stew* for Desert Wirla, *Presence* for So Frenchy Productions, *Scheherazade* and selected monologues for the Lux bar. Bruce was Assistant Director for *FIFO – Fit In of F\*\*k Off!* with Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company.



Lost is a fictional story about two siblings who because of family secrets have never known their mob or where their country is. Until their dying grandmother gives them a job to do from her deathbed.

This sets them on a road trip where the unexpected happens and the Ghosts from the past are revealed.



# DOWNSTREAM

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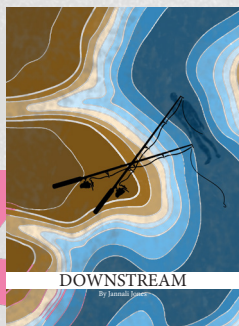
by Jannali Jones



Jannali Jones is a Gunai writer based in South Australia. She completed a Master of Arts in Creative Writing at the University of Technology, Sydney. Her debut novel, *My Father's Shadow*, a YA thriller, was published by Magabala Books and won the black&write! Indigenous Writing Fellowship.

Jannali's work has been published in Australia and overseas, including both fiction and non-fiction, spanning across genres and forms. Recently she was awarded the First Nations Fellowship through the University of Adelaide JM Coetzee Centre, a 2022 Varuna Residential Fellowship and has been shortlisted for the 2023 Deep Creek Fellowship.

She is thrilled to be part of the Yirra Yaakin Playwriting Festival, having been a lover of theatre her whole life.



On the outskirts of a small town, Tony and Ben meet while fishing on the river. Although from different worlds, the young men form an instant connection, and Ben convinces Tony to help protest the new mine threatening the traditional lands of his people.

Against the backdrop of this uncertain future, *Downstream* follows the members of a family grappling with their past choices in order to find their way forward.

# THISTOPIA

by Bobbi Henry and Tegan Mulvany



Bobbi Henry is a Noongar woman from the Southwest of WA. She is an actress and theatre maker who after a long break to raise her three sons returned to the theatre and acting in 2019. Bobbi's theatre credits include *Dating Black* (2023) (2021), *FIFO-fit in or f\*\*off* (2020), *Hecate* (2020), *Cracked* (2019), *Runamuck* (1997) with Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, *Randolph Stowe's Tourmaline* (1993) with Black Swan Theatre, *Educating Rita* and *By Degrees* with The Effie Crump Theatre and Queensland State Theatre Company.

Bobbi's film credits include *Genie from Down Under* with The Australian Children Television Foundation, the award-winning short film *Pilbara Pearl (Pearl)* and the *Life of Harry Dare*.

She has been engaged in the facilitation of Noongar language as part of the *Ngalaka Daa Ensemble* workshops with Yirra Yaakin and in collaboration with WAYTCO. Bobbi has completed Masters in Performing Arts at WAAPA ECU. She is currently the Associate Producer at Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company.

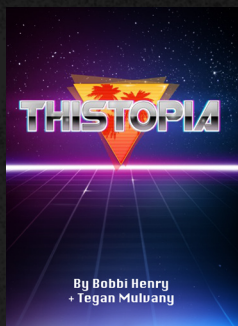


Tegan Mulvany has been working in the theatre industry since 2002. She completed her studies at Curtin University's Hayman Theatre. Whilst studying there she worked on over thirty productions including *Terrible Infants of Christmas*, *Unidentified Human Remains* and *the True Nature of Love* and *Cosi*.

She has worked extensively throughout Australia; her theatre credits include *This Is Not a Love Song* (The Blue Room, 2013 | Fringe Award Winner), *Frankie's* (Variegated Productions, 2018), *Someone Stole Dee Perse's Tree* (Runaway Balloon, 2021), *Pull the Pin* (Just Friends TC) and *Dating Black* with Yirra Yaakin.

Tegan's film credits include *DAFUQ?* for ABC, *Upright* for Foxtel, *Mad Kids*, original *Gavin Tanner* series, and the award-winning sketch *Margaret's Got Talent* (2018 Official Selection Australia's Funniest Shorts).

Tegan also works as an improviser, role-player and educator. She teaches Improvisation at WAAPA and for the WA Youth Theatre Company.



The year is 2020. Humans have survived the Cyborg Wars of 2001. The Sun is dead. A prophecy looms...

'Thistopia: A Musical for Future Past' portrays 2020 through the eyes of a 1980s Schwarzenegger synth pop blockbuster. Using rocking tunes, killer imagery and a fantastical story, we delve deeper into the surprisingly prescient warnings contained in the VHS tapes from the 80s.

Badass female cast. Proud First Nations story. Plus lasers.

A huge thank to our collaborators Nathan Jamieson, Crystal Nguyen, Della Rae Morrison, Simone Detourbet, Ebony McGuire, Ian Wilkes.

# THIRST

by Barbara Hostalek



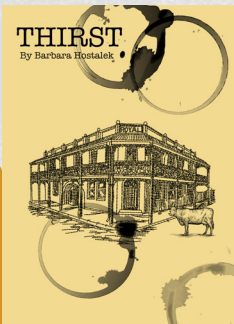
Barbara was born on Larrakia Country in Darwin and now calls Noongar Boodjar home. Her maternal connections are to families of Clarkes and Murphys of the East Kimberley's, Broome and Port Hedland. Her paternal heritage is Territorian with grandparents of Czech and Castellorizian backgrounds.

Barbara has been crafting her voice as a participant of Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company Writers' Groups since 2015. Her collection of short works include *Cracked*, *Banned*, *Go Fish*, *Turtle Pool*, *Thirsty*, *Perpetuity* and *Prickly*.

*Prickly* was inspired by the complex nature of identity politics colliding with moral values, connections and responsibilities to land and peoples.

In 2018, Barbara's play *Banned*, produced by Mudskipper Productions in association with Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company and Playwriting Australia, premiered at The Blue Room Theatre, as part of FRINGEWORLD Summer Nights. Barbara was nominated for best new work at 2018 PAWA awards for *Banned*.

In 2019 Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company produced Barbara's first main stage production *Cracked* at Subiaco Arts Centre.



The Glass Slipper Tavern is the only pub for miles amongst the Yellow Springs district of canola and cattle farmers. Tavern owner Lola and her entrepreneurial long-term partner and band member, Chico never thought they'd be settling down in the Country let alone receive an inheritance from Lola's estranged, whitefella god parent.

But the Tavern is in need of solar panels and are hoping the Country Womens Association annual fundraiser will cover installation. It's not easy operating on a shoestring budget and need to keep a young local girl, Roxy for help. But Roxy will need to find her voice and decide whether her thirst is to be quenched or not at the Slipper and in Yellow Springs.





Photos By Dana Weeks

## DRAMATURGES



### Nazaree Dickerson

Nazaree Dickerson, or Naz, as she prefers is a Wardandi Bibbulman Noongar and Burmese woman from Boorloo (Perth), Western Australia, now based on Gunditjmarra country in Victoria. Naz started acting as a teenager with Yirra Yaakin. Now an accomplished actor, writer and director Naz is currently teaching theatre at Victorian College of the Arts and mentoring young artists with Ilbijerri Youth Ensemble. Her works include *CRUMBS* and *Ngarnkg; Giver of Life* which debuted at Yirramboi Festival 2021.

Naz is a staunch advocate for First Nations people of Australia and a proud representative of the LGBTIQ community. She reflects in her work and commitment to sharing First Nation narratives.



### Luke Hewit

Luke has been acting professionally in Perth for more than 25 years in theatre, film and television. He is also a well-known voice over artist and narrator. He is a proud Equity member since 1987.

*Theatre – The Kabuki Drop / Perth Festival 2021: Whalefall. Perth Theatre Company: Alienation, An Oak Tree, Speed-the-Plow, Amadeus, Face to Face, Milk and Honey. Black Swan State Theatre Company: Every Brilliant Thing, Oklahoma, Assassins, Clinton the Musical, Caucasian Chalk Circle, A Perfect Specimen, Boundary Street, Death of a Salesman, A Streetcar Named Desire, Glengarry Glen Ross, As You Like it, A Midsummer Night's Dream, 12th Night, Much Ado About Nothing, Cyrano de Bergerac, Red Dog, One Destiny. Deckchair Theatre Company: Taking Liberty, Krakouer!, Wonderlands, As you like it, A Comedy of Errors, Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet. Sydney Theatre Company: One Day in '67. Yirra Yaakin: Cracked, One Day in '67, King Hit. Belvoir / Griffin / Thinice: Love me Tender (Sydney /Perth) Kay and McLean: The Graduate (Perth / Melbourne).*



### Rachael Maza AM

Rachael Maza is Yidinji from North Queensland, Meriam from the Torres Strait Island of Mer (Murray), and Dutch on her mother's side. A Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) graduate, Rachael's outstanding performances have been acknowledged with a Green Room Award and a Sydney Theatre Critics Circle Award. Currently the Artistic Director of Ilbijerri Theatre Company, Rachael is widely known for her wealth of acting, directing, and dramaturgical experience across the Australian film, television, theatre industry and a passionate vision for Indigenous theatre.

Rachael's considerable contribution to the cultural landscape has been recognised through multiple awards, including the AFI (Australian Film Institute) award-winning *Radiance* and the stage production of *The Sapphires*, the Touring Legend Drover Award, 2017, the Inaugural Alumni Graduate Award, Edith Cowan University (2019), and the Australia Council of the Arts Award for Theatre (2019), as well as an Honorary Doctorate of Performing Arts from Edith Cowan University (2019). Recipient of an Order of Australia (2020).

## DIRECTORS



### Bruce Denny

Bruce Denny's heritage is Yamatji down his mother's side and native American down his father's. Bruce started his acting career in the late 1980s, firstly in Community Theatre and then progressing to professional work both as an actor and director.

Directing credits include *Dating Black* for Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, *Kangaroo Stew* for Desert Wirla, *Presence* for So Frenchy Productions, *Scheherazade* and selected monologues for the Lux bar. Bruce was Assistant Director for *FIFO – Fit In of F\*\*k Off!* with Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company.



### Isaac Drandic

Isaac Drandic is a Noongar man from the southwest of Western Australia. He is a director, dramaturg, actor and writer. As director / dramaturg, Isaac specialises in new First Nations work and has ushered many exciting first-time playwrights to the main stages including Meyne Wyatt (*City of Gold*) Nathan Maynard (*The Season*) and Jacob Boehme (*Blood on the Dance Floor*). His work has been seen at theatre companies such as ILBIJERRI, La Boite Theatre, JUTE, Belvoir and Queensland Theatre, as well as every major arts festival in Australia. His productions have toured nationally and internationally and received several prestigious theatre awards. Green Room Awards include an individual accolade for direction of a mainstage production for *The Season*, which also won best new Australian writing and the coveted award for best production.

His highly acclaimed production, *City of Gold* took out two Sydney Theatre Awards including a nomination for best new Australian work. Isaac has held the positions of Associate Director of ILBIJERRI Theatre Company, Resident Artist at Playwriting Australia and Resident Dramaturg at Queensland Theatre among others.



### Ian Wilkes

Ian (Moopa) Wilkes is a Noongar man with connection to the Wadjuk and Ballardong people. He is a multidisciplinary artist - theatre maker, director, performer, writer, dancer - and a graduate of Aboriginal Theatre at WAAPA. In 2021, Moopa won the Perth NAIDOC award for Artist of the Year.

He has directed several plays including *York*, Yirra Yaakin's *Boodjar Kaatijin*, *Hobo* and *Songbird* for The Blue Room Theatre, and has helped devise and create many others. He has performed numerous roles including Yirra Yaakin's *Hecate* which premiered in Perth Festival and *Honey Spot* at the Sydney Opera House. Ian is also a regular performer in the long running WA show *Bindjareb Pinjarra*.

Performances in dance include *Ochre's Kwongan* for Perth Festival and CO3's *The Line*. Ian's also teaches traditional and contemporary dance to the younger generation by combining his knowledge of culture, theatre and performance.

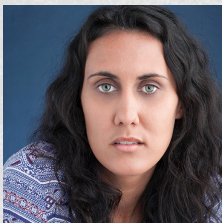
## PERFORMERS



### Sebastian Critti-Schnaars

Sebastian Critti-Schnaars is a Noongar and Greek artist born and raised in Perth, Western Australia. Starting with an interest in dance during childhood, he later changed trajectories and completed the CERT IV in Aboriginal Performance in 2021 and is currently in his exciting second year of the Bachelor of Performing Arts at WAAPA.

He was a part of two of WA Youth Theatre Company critically acclaimed seasons, the award-winning season of *REST* in 2019, and WAYTCO's first Perth Festival show, *Beside* (2021). He also took part in *Ngalaka Daa's Youth Ensemble* in 2021 during a beautiful collaboration between WAYTCO and Yirra Yirra Yaakin. As an emerging artist, Sebastian is greatly looking forward to devising and performing in new work, making an impact on others and the community at large.



### Simone Detourbet

Simone Detourbet is Perth-based actor, writer and director from Darwin. She is a Malak Malak (NT) and Gooniyandi (WA) woman and attended the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 2015-16, completing the Aboriginal Theatre Course and the Screen Performance Course.

Since then, she has worked as an actor in *City of Gold* with Sydney Theatre Company and Black Swan Theatre Company (2022), *Conversations with the Dead* with Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company (2017), *Less Light* (2018), *Grace* (2019) and *I Feel Fine* (2019) and assistant director *Let Me Finish* (2018/19) and various other productions/films. Simone has participated in several artist residencies including 2020 Perth Festival Lab and PLWA CALD residency.

Since 2016, Simone has been developing film and theatre projects with various artists and as part of a creative team with Nicholas Harle.



### Tyren Maclou

Tyren (Tre) Maclou is a proud Aboriginal/South African Australian, currently in his final year of the bachelor's degree in Acting at WAAPA. He completed cert. IV in Aboriginal Theatre and Performance in 2020 and has since done many various WAAPA projects/shows including *Even Hands* (Xylo), *Rockstars* (Nat King Cole), *Our Country's Good* (LT Faddy), *The Brink* (Ensemble), *King Lear* (King Lear), *Orestes* (Fury – Tisiphone), *Accent Monologues* (Persian/Iranian), *Samovilla* (Plague / God), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Conrade), *Fatherland* (Craig Mutch). Tyren also has voice acting experience.

Tyren worked with Black Swan Theatre on *Krakouer Brothers* and *Cloudstreet* at Yule Brook College in 2013. That year he also performed in the Footloose at Rose Bay High School. In 2018 he worked with Screen West on a short film *Brothers*. Tyren worked on a show *REST* for the Fringe Festival in 2020 and since that year he has worked on *Yirra Yaarnz* for Yirra Yaakin.



### Ebony McGuire

Ebony McGuire is a proud Noongar woman, an actor, writer, and producer. Theatre credits: *What Do They Call Me?* (The Blue Room), *Kep Kaatijin*, *Bilya Kaatijin* and *The Fever and The Fret* (Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company), *Coranderrk* (Ilbjerri Theatre Company), *A Scandal in Weimar* and *Outside In* (wit incorporated), *Caliban* (Western Edge Youth Arts) *Cloudstreet* (Malthouse Theatre / Black Swan State Theatre Company), *From Darkness* (La Boite Theatre), *FIRE* (Kalyakoorl Collective / Fringeworld / The Blue Room Theatre), *The Bleeding Tree* and *SIT (or I'll Make You Sit)* (The Blue Room Theatre), *Barracking for the Umpire* and *The Bleeding Tree* (Black Swan State Theatre Company). In 2021 Ebony was an Assistant Director for *Bite the Hand* (The last Great Hunt).

Awards: Best actress (short film) at Hawaii International Film Festival 2020 for her work on Wirun. *The Bleeding Tree* won four Performing Arts WA 2022 Awards including: 'Outstanding Ensemble' and the 'Best Independent Production'.





## Della Rae Morrison

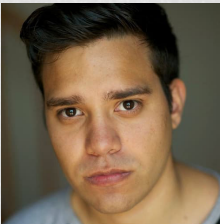
Della Rae Morrison is a Bibbulmun woman of the Nyoongar Nation of the South West of Western Australia. Della has been in the Arts professionally for 30 years, beginning her career in Jimmy Chi's musical *Bran Nue Dae* in 1989. She appeared in the Australian children's television series *Lockie Leonard* and has also performed in various theatre productions and film.

Della performed in Yirra Yaakin's award winning production of *Hecate* for Perth Festival in 2020, which was a highlight for her and her career.



## Rayma Morrison

Rayma Morrison was born in Yalgoo and raised by her maternal grandmother on Country. She speaks the Wongutha language and is a respected elder. Rayma made her professional acting debut in 2018, in Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company and Black Swan State Theatre Company's theatrical production of *Skylab*. Following this, Rayma performed in Yirra Yaakin's 2019 production of *Cracked* and 2021+23 production *Dating Black*.



## Calen Tassone

Calen Tassone is Yamatji Martu man from the Pilbara, Western Australia. He grew up in WA and he is a Perth based actor. A Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) graduate, Calen is known for appearing in various movies and tv series including *Irreverent* (Harry, 2022), *Bassendream* (Todd, 2022), *The Heights* (Mich, 2019-2020), *Aussie Rangers* (Francis, 2017), *Red Dog: True Blue* (Taylor Pete, 2016), *Black Comedy* (Guest Cast, 2016) and many more. In theatre, Calen has performed with Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company in their productions *Conversations with the Dead* and *Confessions of a Pyromaniac*, and ATYP's national tour of *Sugarland*. *Sapphires* (hit Production) and *Astroman* (Melbourne Theatre Company)



## Rubeun Yorkshire

Rubeun is a Noongar Man from the South West of Western Australia. He completed the Certificate IV in Aboriginal Theatre, Screen Diploma and the 3-year Acting Diploma at WAAPA (Western Australian Academy Performing Arts). Since 2010 he has been working as an actor, performing in various plays around Perth. Most recently, he performed in the award-winning *REST* by the West Australian Youth Theatre Company as part of the 2019 Fringe World.

## PRODUCTION



### Jenny Poh | Stage Manager

After graduating from the WA Academy of Performing Arts in 1987, Jennifer worked with The Hole in the Wall Theatre Company for four years, during which time she was involved with over 30 productions including regional and national tours. In 1992, she toured Australia with Amanda Muggleton's *Shirley Valentine*. During Jennifer's 8 years with Effie Crump Theatre, she toured to Brazil with their award-winning production of *Redemption*.

Jennifer has since worked with WA Opera, WA Ballet, Deckchair Theatre, Onward Productions, Buzz Dance Theatre, His Majesty's Theatre, Alternative Facts, Age Link and ACT Australia. Jenny has worked with Yirra Yaakin on their productions of *Dating Black*, *Yirra Yaakin Vignettes*, *Panawathi Girl*, *The Sum of Us*, *Hecate*, *Conversations with the Dead*, *Cracked*, *Boodjar Kaatijin*, *So Long Suckers* and *The Fever and the Fret*.



### Paul Rowe | Assistant Stage Manager

A recent addition to the Yirra Yaakin team, joining us for our recent regional tour of Narelle Thorne's, *Dating Black*, Paul has been active in the WA Arts scene for the best part of two decades, working both back of house and on stage. During this time, Paul has worked on various theatre productions with Barking Gecko, Black Swan Theatre Company, Co:3 Contemporary Dance Australia, The Moorditj Mob and Perth Festival, as a Duty Tech, Workshop Coordinator and Production Runner.

Paul is extremely excited to play a role in the Yirra Yaakin Playwriting Festival, as Assistant Stage Manager.



### Jack Wilson | Acting Production Manager

Jack graduated the Stage Management course at WAAPA. He has worked in Perth with companies like Yirra Yaakin, Co3, Barking Gecko and WA Opera.

Theatre Credits include: *The Great Un-Wondering of Wilbur Whittaker* (Barking Gecko), *Panawathi Girl* and *Bilya Kaatajin* (Yirra Yaakin) and *Women in Black* (Ensemble Theatre)

He has stepped into the role of Production Manager at Yirra Yaakin and worked on the productions of: *Hide the Dog*, *Lingo Lah Lah* and *Yirra Yaakin Playwriting Festival*.

*Local Stories,  
Inspiring the Globe.*



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## OUR SUPPORT

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to thank our current  
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Photo By Dana Weeks

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## ABOUT US

Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company was established in 1993. Since then, the company has evolved into a respected cultural leader and artistic hub for Aboriginal people from all over WA, Australia, and around the world. Yirra Yaakin produces award-winning, world-class theatre, sharing Aboriginal stories through exciting, entertaining, educational and authentic new works. The company has commissioned and premiered more than 50 new major presentations. We have worked with and nurtured prestigious Aboriginal writers including David Milroy, Sally Morgan, Derek Nannup, Mitch Torres and Dallas Winmar, among many others.

### Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company


Whadjuk Boodjar  
Subiaco Arts Centre  
180 Hamersley Road  
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yirra yaakin  
THEATRE COMPANY

30 years OF  
ABORIGINAL  
THEATRE

Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company would like to thank all of our partners and donors for their support in helping us to share Aboriginal stories through the art of theatre.

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



Yirra Yaakin Aboriginal Corporation is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its principal arts funding and advisory body.



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DEVELOPMENT PARTNER

KOONDARM KOOMBA (DREAM BIG) PARTNER



Wesfarmers Arts

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