

# PERTH FESTIVAL

11 February – 6 March

# PANAWATHI GIRL

BY DAVID MILROY



Presented by Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company

Image: Chris Huzzard

Founder



Principal Partner



# 2022

**Perth Festival acknowledges the Noongar people who continue to practise their values, language, beliefs and knowledge on their kwobidak boodjar.**

**They remain the spiritual and cultural birdiyangara of this place and we honour and respect their caretakers and custodians and the vital role Noongar people play for our community and our Festival to flourish.**

# STAYING COVID SAFE AT PERTH FESTIVAL

Perth Festival will be following all government requirements relating to the management of COVID-19.

Here's what you need to do at the theatre:



## STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK

Stay home if you are unwell or have a cough, fever, sore throat, fatigue or shortness of breath.



## REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE

Check in using the SafeWA or ServiceWA app.



## WEAR A MASK

Masks are required inside theatres unless you have a medical exemption.



## SHOW YOUR VACCINATION CERTIFICATE

People aged 16 years and over are required to show proof of their double vaccination status.



## MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCING

We encourage all patrons to maintain physical distancing wherever possible.

These requirements may change with very little notice. Visit [perthfestival.com.au/covidsafe/](https://perthfestival.com.au/covidsafe/) for the latest COVID-19 information.



## WASH YOUR HANDS REGULARLY

Practice good hand hygiene. Wash your hands frequently and use hand sanitiser where provided.

**MORE INFO**

# CONTENTS

**WELCOME**

**SHOW DETAILS**

**CREDITS**

**CAST**

**SYNOPSIS**

**SONG LIST**

**CREATIVE NOTES**

A Note from the Writer

A Note from the Director

A Note from the Musical Director

**BIOGRAPHIES**

Creative Team

Performers

**ABOUT YIRRA YAAKIN THEATRE COMPANY**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Click on the content you want to read to be taken to that page or tap the interactive tabs at the bottom to skip to a specific section



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



Image: Jess Wyld

What a joy it is to be able to welcome you to the Maj as we celebrate Yirra Yaakin's first appearance on Western Australia's largest stage.

From a creative mind that has previously brought us wonders such as *Waltzing the Willara* and *Windmill Baby*, *Panawathi Girl* thrives inside that space between politics, nostalgia and glorious music. It shares a lineage with the great musicals of the late great Jimmy Chi and Kuckles (*Bran Nue Dae*, *Corrugation Road*) – bringing sweeping north-west landscapes into conversation with buried histories. It is a privilege to celebrate not only David's work but also that of the extraordinary creative team and cast, generously led by Eva Grace Mullaly. Thankyou for joining us.

## IAIN GRANDAGE

PERTH FESTIVAL ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES

# PANAWATHI GIRL

BY DAVID MILROY

**KARBOORDUP / PERTH**

**HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE**

Preview **Tue 8 & Wed 9 Feb 7.30pm**

**Thu 10 Feb 7.30pm**

**Fri 11 Feb 11.30am & 7.30pm**

**Sat 12 Feb 2pm & 7.30pm**

**Sun 13 Feb 6pm**

**Duration 90mins**

**Post Show Q&A**

**After Sat 12 Feb 2pm performance**



Audio described performance **Fri 11 Feb 7.30pm**  
with tactile tour available before the show (starts 6.30pm)  
Auslan interpreted performance **Sat 12 Feb 2pm**

Suitable for ages 15+.

Contains coarse language, stylised violence, race and gender issues, sexual references, simulated drug use, smoking and haze effects.

This project made possible thanks to Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund – an Australian Government initiative.



Australian Government

RISE Fund



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



**‘Difference is better than immortality.’**

**ARIA MILROY**

Image: Chris Huzzard



**CONTENTS**



**CREATIVE NOTES**



**BIOGRAPHIES**

# CREDITS

**Playwright** David Milroy

**Director** Eva Grace Mullaley

**Assistant Director** Adam Edwards

**Dramaturg** Sally Richardson

**Musical Director** Wayne Freer

**Choreographer** Janine Oxenham

**Set Designer** Bruce McKinven

**Lighting Designer** Lucy Birkinshaw

**Costume Designer** Lynn Ferguson

**Sound Designer** Jeremy Turner

**Senior Stage Manager** Jennifer Poh

**Stage Manager** Jack Wilson

**Assistant Stage Managers**

Oliver Hughes & Iya Ware

**Dressers** Qi Cao, Tara Ellis & Kiera Gentle

**Producer** Elinor King

**Production Manager** Mike Nanning



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# CAST

**Beth** Grace Chow

**Chubb** Peter Docker

**Gough** Luke Hewitt

**Ron** Chris Isaacs

**Gorton** Geoff Kelso

**Pansy** Angelica Lockyer

**Ensemble** Nadia Martich

**Molly** Lila McGuire

**Knuckles** Gus Noakes

**Ada** Teresa Rose

**Buckley** Maitland Schnaars

**JoJo** Manuao TeAotonga

**Billy** Wimiya Woodley

**Musicians** Ric Eastman, Wayne Freer, Adam Gare,  
David Milroy, Lucky Oceans



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES

# SYNOPSIS

Two years have passed since Indigenous Australians have been granted citizenship and voting rights. Molly Chubb moves from the big smoke back to the small country town of her birth at a time of great political change.

The rodeo has come to town, along with a kombi van of hippies and a cavalcade of noisy politicians sweating in their suits on the 1969 Federal election trail, exposing old and new attitudes to the changing face of Australia.

*Panawathi Girl* ('Dream Girl' in Milroy's mother's Palyku language) marks the His Majesty's Theatre debut for Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, whose recent Perth Festival appearances have included the acclaimed productions *The Sum of Us* and the all-Noongar-language Shakespeare re-telling of *Macbeth, Hecate*.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES

# SONG LIST

**Dreams & Promises**

**Little Country Town**

**Moratorium**

**Let It Flow**

**Long White Sock**

**The Fire Is Burning**

**Rodeo Moon**

**Rodeo Time**

**Rainbow Colours**

**It's Time**

**Wandering Cowboy**

**Saddle Heart**

**Palomino Pony**

**Waiting for The Moon**

**Mother's Love**

**Black Is Black**

**Shadow in the Dark**

All songs by David Milroy except 'Shadow in The Dark' by Aria Milroy



**CONTENTS**



**CREATIVE NOTES**



**BIOGRAPHIES**



Image: Dana Weeks

# **WRITER** **CREATIVE** **NOTES**

I became interested in writing *Panawathi Girl* after reading an old newspaper advertisement for a Rodeo Ball. In the ad was the line “Coloured girls are welcome”, implying that certain people were not welcome.

I’ve set *Panawathi Girl* in 1969 when the safari suit and groovy jingles heralded a new era of Australian political campaigning. Optimism and a desire for change was rife in 1969 and 1972 as the ‘It’s Time’ jingle flooded across Australian televisions and radios.

Fifty years on it is difficult to maintain the same optimism with the dismal findings of the Closing the Gap reports and the lack of acknowledgement of the true colonial history of Australia and the ever-present issue of Aboriginal sovereignty.

I am honoured to have been able to realise this work with such a talented West Australian cast and crew. The support from Yirra Yaakin has been immense. I asked for a band that could play a variety of instruments and styles with the grit that comes from playing the smallest pub to the biggest stage. My wish was granted and we have an amazing band of musicians led by Wayne Freer.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES

I'd like to make special mention of my daughter Aria who sang when she was born and therefore the name. Aria's song 'Shadow in the Dark' was composed on her ukulele when she was ten-years-old and features in *Panawathi Girl*. I'd like to leave you with one of the most wonderful and thought provoking lines from her song:

*Difference is better than immortality.*

## DAVID MILROY



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



Image: Dana Weeks

# DIRECTOR CREATIVE NOTES

Welcome to Chubb Springs, Panawathi Girl  
The young woman that follows her dream  
Of a mother she has never known  
To a town she has long since been

Enter the rodeo to our northwest little town  
Then politicians arrive in the spinifex and  
desert scrub

Those that still haven't changed and won't but  
Challenged by our heroine, Molly Panawathi  
Chubb

The estranged and complex stockman father  
who thought he had no more love to give  
Greeted his daughter after 20 years  
And soon learns how her generation fight  
to live

Surrounded by free-loving hippies and  
stagnating townsfolk  
Both open minds and segregated communities  
A clash of ideals and those working to survive  
In an era of long political speeches and missed  
opportunities

This happened before I was born  
But I grew up hearing the stories of the era  
I wasn't around for Gough or Gorton  
Or the period of radical change that started  
in Canberra



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



I know that Australia could have been great  
We could have had equality and change  
But the revolutionary politician  
Soon gave way to the deranged

I resonate with our heroine  
Trying to find her place in the universe  
In a world that is so divisively black and white  
One side looking forward the other in reverse

I have worked with this wonderful team  
Playwright and magnificent musical director  
Many times on many a wonderful Milroy play  
They are my dream team, my theatre creation  
trifecta

The biggest work Yirra Yaakin has ever done  
Entirely Western Australian cast with so much  
talent

Continuing the awesome relationship with  
Perth Festival

To present a brand-new black musical for  
every palate

I am so humbled by this show, this company,  
this industry

An absolute A-list team of WA designers and  
creatives

Passionately and artfully telling this historical  
story

Acknowledging collectively what our future's  
fate is



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES

We are so happy you have come along to  
*Panawathi Girl*  
To share in this dream with us, laugh and tap  
your toes along  
To discover what our community has come  
through,  
And to recognise that this is where we ALL  
belong

## EVA GRACE MULLALEY

Image: Dana Weeks



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



Image: Dana Weeks

# MUSICAL DIRECTOR CREATIVE NOTES

*Panawathi Girl* had its genesis in 2014, commissioned by Rick Brayford for the WAAPA Aboriginal Theatre course as *Rodeo Moon*.

Originally a 14-song show, over the years we've juggled 25 songs around to arrive here. One of the last songs to complete the puzzle was written by David's youngest daughter, Aria.

Our onstage and backstage team are made up of talented, exuberant youth (many of whom are WAAPA alumni) and well-seasoned theatre veterans. A lovely thing to see.

Which brings me to the band, of which it's been said:

"The best band in the country! And fairly well regarded in the city."

We hope you enjoy our labour of love this summer!

## WAYNE FREER



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES

# BIOGRAPHERS

## CREATIVE TEAM

David Milroy  
Eva Grace Mullaley  
Adam Edwards  
Sally Richardson  
Wayne Freer  
Janine Oxenham  
Bruce Mckinven  
Lucy Birkinshaw  
Lynn Ferguson  
Jeremy Turner  
Jennifer Poh  
Jack Wilson  
Oliver Hughes  
Iya Ware  
Qi Cao  
Keira Gentle

## PERFORMERS

Grace Chow  
Peter Docker  
Luke Hewitt  
Chris Isaacs  
Geoff Kelso  
Angelica Lockyer  
Nadia Martich  
Lila McGuire  
Gus Noakes  
Teresa Rose  
Maitland Schnaars  
Manuao Teatonga  
Wimiya Woodley  
Ric Eastman  
Adam Gare  
Lucky Oceans



Image: Dana Weeks

# BIOGRAPHIES CREATIVE TEAM



Image: Dana Weeks

# DAVID MILROY

Writer

David is one of Australia's leading Aboriginal playwrights, dramaturgs and directors. A multi-award-winning artist, David's work has toured successfully across Australia and the world. Born in Perth in 1957, his family links are with the Yindjibarndi and Palku people of the Pilbara.

David was a founding member of AbMusic, formed in 1986 to support and nurture Aboriginal musicians in Western Australia and was the first Artistic Director of Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company from 1995 – 2003. David's writing and directing credits include *Waltzing the Wilarra*, *Windmill Baby*, *King Hit*, *Runumuk* and Sally Morgan's



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES

*Cruel Wild Woman*. His recent works *Rodeo Moon*, *Crowbones and Carnivores*, *Swine River* and *Killer Kane* have been presented at WAAPA.

David's music has featured in films *Blackfellas* and *Exile and the Kingdom*. In *Waltzing the Wilarra*, *Aliwa*, *Solid*, *Windmill Baby*, *King Hit*, *Alice*, Sally Morgan's *Cruel Wild Woman* for Yirra Yaakin, *Sistergirl* and *Dead Heart* for Black Swan Theatre Company and Perth Theatre Company's production of *Wild Cat Falling* he provided the musical direction.

David received two Equity Guild Awards in 2011 for his play *Waltzing the Wilarra*. His play *Windmill Baby* made history in 2005 by being the first ever single script to win the prestigious Patrick White Award. David received a Sidney Myer Award in 2002 for his contribution to the development of Indigenous theatre.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES





Image: Dana Weeks

# EVA GRACE MULLALEY

Director

Eva is a Widi woman from the Yamatji Nation in the Midwest region of Western Australia. She graduated from the Certificate IV in Aboriginal Theatre Course at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) in 2003 and began her directing career in 2005 as an assistant to David Milroy for the first creative development of *Windmill Baby*, produced by Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company.

In her more than 18-year career Eva has worn many hats in the theatre industry including director, arts administrator, stage manager, tour manager – internationally and nationally – producer, event manager, actor,



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES

dramaturg, lecturer in Character and Script Analysis, collaborating director, workshops coordinator and many more. She has worked as a director and dramaturg for Moogahlin Performing Arts, Yellamundie Indigenous Playwrights Festival, ILBIJERRI Theatre Company, Te Rēhia Theatre Company, WAAPA and YIRRAMBOI Festival. Eva was also working as the development producer for the Australian Blackfulla Performing Arts Alliance (BPAA), a national peak body for Indigenous theatre and performers.

She is currently artistic director of Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company in Perth, Western Australia.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# ADAM EDWARDS

Assistant Director

Adam studied and completed the Aboriginal Theatre Acting course acting at WAAPA, and went on to further his studies at the Sydney Actors School. He is currently studying at International Screen Academy doing a full time two and a half year acting for screen course in Sydney. Adam has been involved in numerous stage productions and one short film at WAAPA.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# SALLY RICHARDSON

Dramaturg

Sally is the Director of Steamworks Arts. An Australian director, writer, dramaturg, arts consultant and producer working across the performing arts, she is passionately committed to the creation of new Australian work and developing collaborations with other artists in the region with a focus on contemporary theatre, dance and performance. Sally has been commissioned and has created and directed for a range of companies and organisations from intimate boutique works, through to new circus, puppetry and film projects, in addition to facilitating large scale community events and programs.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# WAYNE FREER

Musical Director

Wayne is a multi-instrumentalist, MD and composer active in Australia since the early 1980s.

In theatre he has worked with Belvoir Company B, State Theatre Company of South Australia, Melbourne Theatre Company, Queensland Theatre Company, Sydney Theatre Company, Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, Perth Festival, Darwin Festival, Sydney Festival, Force Majeure, Etcetera Theatre Company, Magpie Theatre in Education, NIDA, WAAPA, Club Swizzle, Snuff Puppets, Back to Back Theatre and Circus Monoxide.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES

In music he has worked with John Rodgers, Jackie Orszaczky, David Milroy, Alan John, Lucky Oceans, Dave Hole, Dave Mason, Mia Dyson, Dave Brewer, Paul Kelly, Tim Finn, David Lane, Robyn Archer, Greg Sheehan, Matt Taylor, Ricky May and many others.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



Image: Dana Weeks

# JANINE OXENHAM

Choreographer

Janine is a Malgana Yamatji woman from the Shark Bay area in WA. She studied dance at both NAISDA college and WAAPA and has choreographed and performed as a freelance contemporary Indigenous dancer for numerous festivals. In 2020 she was Movement Director for Yirra Yaakin's production of *Hecate* and has worked on several other projects with the company since, including performing in *The Sum of Us* for Perth Festival 2021. She also performed in Joshua Pether's experimental movement work *The Reckoning* in 2021.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# BRUCE MCKINVEN

Set Designer

Bruce is the Senior Production Designer for Dark MoFo in Hobart and Site Designer for Adelaide Festival's Adelaide Writers' Week. He has a 30-year career designing for theatre, festivals, dance and events across Australia, working with some of the nation's leading practitioners. Most recently he has designed *Slow Burn, Together* for Emma Fishwick, Rachael Dease's *Hymns for End Times*, *Whalefall* for The Kabuki Drop, and was Design Associate for Co3's *Archives of Humanity*, all part of Perth Festival 2021.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES





# LUCY BIRKINSHAW

Lighting Designer

Lucy Birkinshaw is a lighting designer whose design work spans two decades in theatre, music theatre, concert lighting, opera, dance, film and television. Since graduating from WAAPA and Curtin University she has designed lighting for many companies including Yirra Yaakin, Black Swan State Theatre Company and Sydney Theatre Company and has collaborated with a diverse range of directors, choreographers and composers including Clare Watson, James Berlyn and Tony Bartuccio.

Lucy's distinctive approach to depth, contrast and beauty within her designs make her an identifiable theatre artist.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# LYNN FERGUSON

Costume Designer

Lynn is delighted to be designing costume for Yirra Yaakin for the first time. She has previously designed for Black Swan State Theatre Company (where she is also Wardrobe Manager) and has worked for theatre companies in Darwin and the UK, including Gary Lang NT Dance Co, Traverse Theatre and Bristol Old Vic. Lynn has also worked for Unique Events, Edinburgh; National Library of Scotland; Kilkenny Events; and Charles Darwin University as a Visual Arts Lecturer and has been involved in film and TV productions here and overseas.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# JEREMY TURNER

Sound Designer

Jeremy Turner is a sound designer and engineer, originally from Busselton and now based in Perth. He graduated from WAAPA in 2010 and has worked in a wide variety of theatre and live productions since then. Formerly the Head of Sound & Audio-Visual for Perth Theatre Trust, he is now a freelance designer and engineer. His recent design work includes the world premiere production of *Koolbardi wer Wardong* (West Australian Opera, 2021) and *Noongar Wonderland* (Perth Festival 2022). This is his first design for Yirra Yaakin.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# JENNIFER POH

Senior Stage Manager

After graduating from WAAPA in 1987, Jennifer worked with The Hole in the Wall Theatre Company for four years, and was involved with over 30 productions touring regionally and nationally. In 1992 she toured Australia for 15 months with Amanda Muggelton's *Shirley Valentine*. She worked with Effie Crump Theatre for eight years, touring nationally and internationally and was voted Best Stage Manager at the 2002 Equity Awards. This is the sixth time she has had the pleasure of working with Yirra Yaakin.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# JACK WILSON

Stage Manager

Jack is a recent graduate of the WAAPA Stage Management course and has been working professionally throughout 2021. He worked for Yirra Yaakin on *The Sum of Us* for last year's Perth Festival and was proud to have that as his first show post WAAPA. He then went on to work with WA Opera, Co3 and even Ensemble Theatre in Sydney. He is excited to be back for Perth Festival this year and was overjoyed to accept a larger role at Yirra Yaakin.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# OLIVER HUGHES

Assistant Stage Manager

Oliver is an 18-year-old Ballardong Noongar man living in Perth. He studied drama at John Curtin College of the Arts where he was awarded the Arts Honours award. He is about to begin his Bachelor of Performing Arts at WAAPA. Oliver has worked with Yirra Yaakin since 2018 in the Ngalaka Daa Ensemble and took part in WAYTCo's Perth Festival 2021 performance *BESIDE*. This is his first time working as an Assistant Stage Manager and he has enjoyed learning the backstage processes of professional works.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# IYA WARE

Assistant Stage Manager

Iya Ware is a Kala Lagaw Ya woman from Waiben and Mer Island of the Torres Straits. She was raised on Gadigal Land (Sydney) and started dancing traditional Island dances across NSW and QLD at the age of seven. Her first professional acting role was with Belvoir St Theatre in *Te Molimau* which skyrocketed her love for performing. She moved to Boorloo (Perth) to study at WAAPA and whilst there played Mum Casey in David Milroy's play, *Killer Kane*. *Panawathi Girl* is her Assistant Stage Manager debut.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# QI CAO

Dresser

Qi is a recent WAAPA graduate major in costume. She grew up in Shanghai, China and moved to Perth seven years ago.

Qi has worked on a number of productions while studying at WAAPA and she did her secondment with Black Swan State Theatre Company of WA. Qi enjoys the process of costume design and creation. Her passion is to produce timeless and sustainable costumes for theatre shows.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES





# KEIRA GENTLE

Dresser

Following an early introduction to design and clothing via a beloved Aunty, Keira pursued her passion for costume and fashion throughout her teenage years, assisting at numerous Perth Fashion Festivals and making her own clothes, culminating in an Advanced Diploma in Fashion & Textile Design & Merchandising at North Metro Tafe. A proud Whadjuk Noongar woman, Keira teaches Noongar language to school groups, performing regularly with Koorlong and Songroom as a vocalist and songwriter, styling their onstage shows and performing, and works on the Yirra Yaakin design team.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



Image: Dana Weeks

# BIOGRAPHIES PERFORMERS



# GRACE CHOW

Performer

Grace is an emerging Asian-Australian theatre-maker, playwright and actor who trained at WAAPA and has worked with various Australian theatre companies. Her recent writing, performance and performance-making highlights include *The Cherry Orchard* (Perth Festival 2021) and *The Noodle Shop on the Corner of Fifth Street* (her 2020 solo show). This year Grace looks forward to debuting in her first major Australian TV series, as well as touring in *The Great Un-Wondering of Wilbur Whittaker* with Barking Gecko Theatre Company and performing in *OIL* for Black Swan State Theatre Company.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# PETER DOCKER

Performer

Peter has enjoyed the privilege of making art with First Nations mob for three decades. For Yirra Yaakin he has appeared in *Conversations with The Dead*, *So Long Suckers* (co-writer) and *Honey Spot* (Sydney Opera House). He has appeared in numerous TV shows and films including *Mystery Road*, *The Circuit*, *The Missing* and *Harry's War* and he has published three novels *Someone Else's Country*, *The Waterboys* (currently being developed for screen) and *Sweet One*. Peter believes the problem with white Australia is that it's not black enough.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# LUKE HEWITT

## Performer

Luke has been acting professionally in Perth for more than 25 years in theatre, film and television. He performed in *Cracked*, *One Day in '67* and *King Hit* for Yirra Yaakin and has been part of productions for Perth Theatre Company, Black Swan State Theatre Company, Sydney Theatre Company and more. He was seen in last year's The Kabuki Drop performance *Whalefall* for Perth Festival. Luke is also a well-known voice over artist and narrator and has been a proud Equity member since 1987.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# CHRIS ISAACS

Performer

Chris is a writer, deviser, performer and founding core artist of The Last Great Hunt. As a playwright he has had his works performed nationally and internationally. His credits include *Bite the Hand, York* (co-written with Ian Michael for Black Swan State Theatre Company), the multiple award-winning *FAG/STAG* (co-written with Jeffrey Jay Fowler) and *The 1s, The 0s, And Everything In Between* (Riptide and ATYP). As a co-deviser/performer Chris' work includes *Whistleblower* (Perth Festival 2021) and *Lé Nør* (Perth Festival 2019) for The Last Great Hunt.



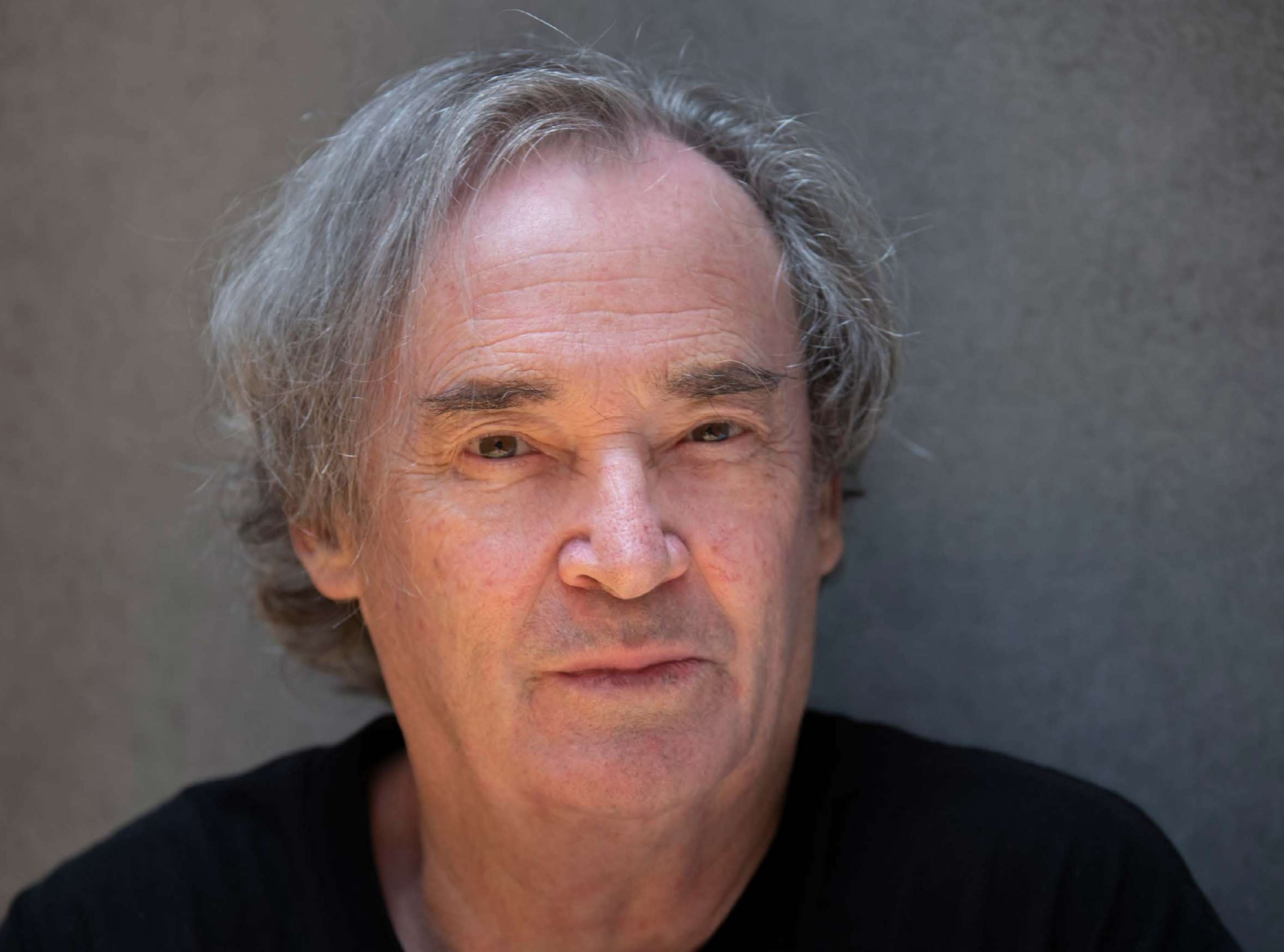
CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# GEOFF KELSO

Performer

Geoff graduated from NIDA in 1975 and is an actor, comedian and writer in theatre, radio, film and TV. *Panawathi Girl* is his first acting work for Yirra Yaakin but he's been a mentor and dramaturg for seven years with the Yirra Yaakin Writers' Group. In 1991 Geoff played Malvolio in Black Swan Theatre Company's first production *Twelfth Night*. In 1994 he co-created with Kelton Pell, Trevor Parfitt and Phil Thomson *Bindjareb Pinjarra* a play about the 1834 Pinjarra massacre, which remains powerful 30 years on.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# ANGELICA LOCKYER

Performer

Angelica is an Aboriginal actor from Port Hedland, who identifies as non-binary. Angelica is a recent graduate of the Bachelor of Arts (Acting) at WAAPA and make their industry debut in *Panawathi Girl*. Angelica has a deep love for theatre, particularly Shakespeare's plays, and a passion for voice acting. Recently awarded Best Performance in the Vice Chancellor's Shakespeare Awards, Angelica hopes to do their Master's in Writing and Literature and/or Directing in the upcoming years.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES





# NADIA MARTICH

Performer

Nadia Martich is a proud Gamilaroi and Bigambul woman from Northwestern NSW who also proudly acknowledges her English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh, Italian, Slovenian and Croatian ancestry. She began her professional dance training at NAISDA Dance College (National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association) and studied at WAAPA before participating in the Indigenous Dance residency in Banff, Canada in 2016 and touring Hawaii with Wagana Aboriginal Dancers in 2017. She has performed with Ochre Contemporary Dance Company, Karul Projects and in Yirra Yaakin's children's theatre show *Bilya Kaatijin*.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# LILA MCGUIRE

Performer

Lila is a Whadjuk and Wardarndi Noongar woman who from a young age has had a keen interest in acting and singing. In 2020 she began pursuing her dream of becoming a performer with the Aboriginal Performance course at WAAPA. In 2021 she performed at the NAIDOC Awards and she sang at the 2020 Kambarang Festival with Della Mob. She was assistant producer for Kalyakoorl Collective's show *Fire* and is in her second year of a Bachelor of Acting at WAAPA.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# GUS NOAKES

Performer

Originally from Sydney, Gus travelled to Perth in 2019 to attend WAAPA, graduating in 2021. An avid and self-taught musician, Gus frequently gigs at many of Perth's music venues, the most iconic being his residency at The Old Synagogue in Fremantle where he has been the 'Piano Man' since late 2019. Gus also released his debut single 'Better' in August 2021 under his stage name "Noakesy", followed by his second single 'Fashion' in November. Gus makes his professional theatrical debut with *Panawathi Girl*.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# TERESA ROSE

Performer

Teresa was raised along the Western Australian coastline, between Karratha and Bunbury. After graduating from WAAPA's Aboriginal Performance course, she undertook a Bachelor of Arts (Acting) at WAAPA, performing roles such as Tituba in *The Crucible*, Eunice in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and Condoleezza Rice in *Stuff Happens*. While still at WAAPA she was cast as Jaz in the 2018 Australian television drama series, *Mystery Road*, starring Judy Davis and Aaron Pedersen. Teresa made her professional musical debut in *Bran Nue Dae*.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# MAITLAND SCHNAARS

## Performer

Maitland is one of WA's premier Indigenous contemporary theatre artists. He co-founded the international theatre company Corazon de Vaca and has performed in and co-created a number of their productions, both in Spain and Australia. He has worked with many independent theatre companies in Perth, performing in productions for Yirra Yaakin (*Hecate, Conversations with the Dead, King Hit*), Black Swan State Theatre Company, Queensland Theatre Company and Griffin Theatre. Maitland works with artists from various backgrounds and is a member of Wadumbah Noongar Dance Group.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# MANUAO TEAOTONGA

Performer

Manuao has been performing for over 30 years around Australia, New Zealand and the UK in productions such as *Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Frank n Furter), *Sweeney Todd* (Pirelli), *The Addams Family* and many more. Five times nominated for a Finley award he won best male musical theatre performer in 2019 for his role as Simon/Lola in *Kinky Boots*. Also a makeup artist and lecturer, Manuao designed makeup for *The Addams Family*, *Cinderella* and *The Little Mermaid* in 2021 and *Wizard of Oz* in 2022.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# WIMIYA WOODLEY

Performer

Wimiya grew up in Roebourne, in Western Australia's Pilbara region. His name means 'emu' in the Indigenous language spoken by the Warralong community. Ever since he was young, Wimiya liked to be creative and had an interest in the arts. He moved to Perth to study at WAAPA where he co-created the self-devised work *Even Hands* and created and featured in a short film, *Nyinkara*. The full-length version of this six-minute film is currently in post-production. *Panawathi Girl* is his first production with Yirra Yaakin.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# RIC EASTMAN

Musician

Ric Eastman can be heard on recordings by artists such as Hank Marvin, Dave Hole, John Meyer, Guy Ghose and Gina Williams. He has toured nationally and internationally with artists such as Demis Roussos, The Supremes, Natalie Gillespie and The Zydecats and has recorded with artists such as Ian Moss, Tex Perkins and Tim Rogers, Ben Lee, Jack Jones and numerous soundtracks and jingles. Ric has performed with the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra, Perth Symphony Orchestra, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES





# ADAM GARE

Musician

Adam is a multi-instrumentalist musician based in Perth. Since the 1980s his renowned skills as a mandolinist, violinist and vocalist have led to his collaboration with numerous bands and he has won two West Australian Music Industry awards for song writing and Most Outstanding Male Vocals. He moved to Melbourne for 12 years performing and touring extensively with various artists including singer/songwriter Paul Kelly. Adam's theatre credits include *Romeo and Juliet* at the Melbourne Botanical gardens, Melbourne Theatre Company's *Grapes of Wrath* and, most recently, Black Swan's *Oklahoma*.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



# LUCKY OCEANS

Musician

Lucky is a Grammy Award-winning pedal steel guitarist who became a central figure in Australian cultural life as presenter of the Daily Planet on Radio National for 21 years. Lucky has played with Willie Nelson, Eric Clapton, Emmylou Harris, Merle Haggard and Jerry Lee Lewis. He writes music for theatre, film and TV and he presented the ABC TV Series *The Planet*. His 2019 album *Purple Sky*, featuring Paul Kelly and Kasey Chambers, was nominated for an ARIA award.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



Image: Chris Huzzard



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



Image: Dana Weeks

# ABOUT YIRRA YAAKIN THEATRE COMPANY

Yirra Yaakin (Yir-raarh Yaarh-kin] which means “Stand Tall” in Noongar language, creates, presents and celebrates First Nations’ theatre, performance and stories. Local stories inspiring the globe.

With a strong annual program of contemporary First Nations’ performance; collaborating, commissioning and developing new Aboriginal writing; and a dedication to educational inclusion, workshops and First Nations’ employment, Yirra Yaakin continues to mentor and develop the next generation of Aboriginal artists and arts workers. The company contributes to cultural leadership and directly adds to the diversity within the Australian performing arts sector.

Yirra Yaakin firmly believes that First Nations’ theatre plays a major role in promoting cultural resilience and the empowerment of Australia’s First Peoples. Through telling authentic First Nations’ stories, the company continues to be at the centre of artistic excellence and is held in the highest regard by the communities it works with and for.

As an Aboriginal-led organisation, Yirra Yaakin’s cultural leadership provides an authentic model within the performing arts sector and to the wider community.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

# WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT

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## Arts Industry Partners

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With thanks to His Majesty's Theatre staff, management and board



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES

# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS

Perth Festival gratefully acknowledges the support of individuals and philanthropic foundations who play a vital role in helping us bring world-class art to our Western Australian community.

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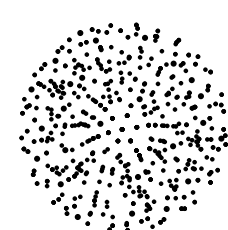


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CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES



## **CHAIR'S CIRCLE**

Our Chair's Circle is a committed network of Donors who, along with our Chair, support the Festival's long-term strategy of growing the WA arts sector for a minimum of three years with a donation of \$20,000 per annum.

## **FESTIVAL CIRCLE**

Festival Circle Donors provide annual support to artistic excellence across all we do – from our deeply embedded tradition of free large-scale opening events to world-class performances, Visual Arts experiences and our Festival Connect remit of creative learning, community engagement and the development of the WA arts sector.

## **MEDICI**

Our Medici Donors are a passionate, art-loving group who make an annual donation towards enabling a specific, ambitious Festival performance each year.

## **COMMISSIONING FUND**

Our Commissioning Fund supports the development of new Festival works over the tenure of our Artistic Director. Donations to this fund enable us to develop and present Festival works that give voice to the people, artists and stories of this place.

## **LEGACY CIRCLE**

Our Legacy Circle recognises those who have provided for Perth Festival with a gift in their Will. These meaningful gifts will support the future of Perth Festival and together we can celebrate a powerful legacy of artistic vibrancy here in Western Australia.

You can view the full list of donors online at

[perthfestival.com.au/support-us/philanthropy/our-donors/](http://perthfestival.com.au/support-us/philanthropy/our-donors/)



**CONTENTS**



**CREATIVE NOTES**



**BIOGRAPHIES**

# YIRRA YAAKIN THEATRE COMPANY

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CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES

## YIRRA YAAKIN PARTNERS



Department of  
Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries



Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company would like to acknowledge the support of their current donors and supporters along with the following partners: Perth Festival, 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 and Wesfarmers Arts.

We would like to thank all the staff at His Majesty's Theatre for their support, IconAV (Set electrics), Onstage Arts (Set construction), Manuao TeAotonga (Makeup Consultant) and Phillip Cox (Hairdressing Consultant).

Make up provided by Manuao TeAotonga.



CONTENTS



CREATIVE NOTES



BIOGRAPHIES

[PERTHFESTIVAL.COM.AU](http://PERTHFESTIVAL.COM.AU)