

MOOGAHLIN PERFORMING ARTS AND CARRIAGEWORKS PRESENT

YELLAMUNDIE

FESTIVAL

28—30 SEP 2023



Originating from the Darug word for “storyteller”, the Yellamundie Festival is a biennial celebration and a National and International platform for the discovery and presentation of new and distinct First Peoples stories.

Since its inception in 2013, the festival has risen as an International beacon for First Peoples talent. Out of the National call for submissions, six ground-breaking works are set to undergo two weeks of rigorous development before being presented in a three-day extravaganza of public showings, yaans, and events at Carriageworks in Sydney from September 28-30.

“Reaching our 10th year is not just a milestone, it’s a testament to the resilience, brilliance, and relevance of First Peoples stories and storytellers. From the very start, our mission has been to spotlight these incredible voices and to offer them a platform like no other. We’re proud of what we’ve achieved and even more excited for what the future holds.”

– Festival Director Lily Shearer

Yellamundie Festival is supported by Create NSW, APAM, The City of Sydney, The University of Sydney, The Wales Family Trust and The Annamila Foundation. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.

Images by Photographer Jamie James.



CREDITS

FESTIVAL COORDINATION

Artistic Director & Festival Director Lily Shearer (*Murrawarri, Ngemba*)

Senior Artistic Associate Liza-Mare Syron (*Biripai*)

Senior Producer Natano Fa'anana (*Samoa*)

Executive Producer Ali Murphy-Oates (*Ngiyampaa Wailwan*)

Digital Producer Stephen Wilson Barker (*Murrawarri, Ngyiaampaa, Wiradjuri*)

Business Manager Penny Johnson (*Guwamu, Murrawarri*)

Admin & Projects Assistant Aroha Pehi (*Taribelang, Kuku-Yalanji, Ngapuhi, Ngati Porou*)

Production Coordinator Felix May (*Gubbi Gubbi, Koori*)

Associate Producer Leroy Parsons (*Yuin, Dunghutti*)

YELLAMUNDIE (STORYTELLERS)

Warren Mason (*Yuwaalaraay*)

Peta Strachan (*Dharug Dalang*)

Michael Weir (*Wiradjuri*)

Kamarra Bell-Wykes (*Yagera, Butchulla*)

Carly Sheppard (*Wallangamma, Takalaka*)

Alexis West (*Birra Gubba, Wakka Wakka, Quandamooka*)

Shannon Jensen (*Gunggandji*)

Maurial Spearim (*Gamilaraay, Murrawarri*)

LEAD ARTISTS

Dramaturg Kirk Page (*Mulandjali*)

Dramaturg/Choreographer Jasmine Gulash (*Gubbi Gubbi*)

Dramaturg Jo Clancy (*Wiradjuri*)

Dramaturg Amy Sole (*Wiradjuri*)

Mentor Abbie-Lee Lewis (*Kalkadoon*)

Director Ian Michael (*Noongar*)



DAY ONE Thu 28 Sep 6.30pm | \$15 | Bay 17

Healing Scars | Warren Mason

Composition & Movement

A collaboration with Elder dancers to create a story of who we are and where we come from. Healing Scars crosses a number of generations of injustice of First Nations Peoples since colonization. Stories are told through dance, sound design and language telling the tough stories for this country to move forward.

Bush Medicine Magic | Peta Strachan

Movement

An abstract dance piece about the power of mother earth's medicines, all different elements that come together to make bush medicine magic and healing energy. Elemental Law. Healing and comforting energy that radiates beams of light out of our healing stones, native flowers, ochre, the power of mother earth's medicines come together removing darkness into light.

DAY TWO Fri 29 Sep 6.30pm | \$15 | Bay 17

WHAT IS WRONG WITH US? | Michael Weir

Writing for Stage & Composition

Influenced by urban hip hop culture and mixed mediums incorporating motion graphics, spoken word sharing the stories of pain and hardship experienced by the oppressed experiences of grief suffered over multiple generations of our First Nations people. This story paints a clear picture of how trauma and grief we continue to hold back and oppress with hopes to contribute to this awakening with an alternative narrative.

EULOGY | A Daylight Connection

Kamarra Bell-Wykes and Carly Sheppard with Alexis West

Writing for Stage

EULOGY is an exploration of corporate commodification, class, socialism, population crisis, land rights, retribution, redemption, crime and punishment in the realms of the afterlife. A satirical, slap-stick, black-comedy about life, death and funeral insurance. Exploiting pop/cult-culture tropes like the Goonies, BeetleJuice, and Scoobie Doo, creating a chaotic and magical world of unexpected and familiar characters that will equally shock and delight.

DAY THREE Sat 30 Sep 6.30pm | \$15 | Bay 17

Watersong | Shannon Jensen

Writing for Stage

With the return of Lynette after a 15 year absence. *Watersong* focuses on the relationship between three women in the Joinbee family. The women must come together for the grandmother's final days - unearthing the family secret that separated them and cut off their connection to the long line of water women connected to the water and spirits who once dwelled in the rivers of their country that came long before.

A Wake – A Woke Mob | Mauriel Spearim

Writing for Stage

A dark witty comedy of eras that strips away the facade of grief when the Patriarch passes away in a small country town. Families butt heads, old wounds are opened. Can family and community let their walls down to heal and rebuild after the dust settles. (Part one of a three part series of plays)

FREE EVENT

Dramaturgy in Dance! - A First Peoples Perspective

Sat 30 Sep 11am | Bay 17

Facilitated by Tammi Gissell BA, PTP (Hons), this panel enables critical dialogue around the role of dramaturgy in dance from a First Nation perspective. The dramaturgical rights, roles and responsibilities of working with First Nations dancers as well as the dramatic representation of First Nations stories are addressed. Panellists gather to discuss vital issues of cultural and professional authority – ultimately seeking what it means to hold responsibility for First People's dramatic representation in dance - in both practical and ethical terms, in Australia and on the International market.



ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



A Daylight Connection

Lead artists Kamarra Bell-Wykes (Yagera, Butchulla) and Carly Sheppard (Wallangamma, Takalaka), joined by Alexis West (Birra Gubba, Wakka Wakka Qaundamooka) and a dazzling lineup of guest artists, are visionary theatremakers smashing the binaries of form, narrative, genre and performance. Percolating for almost a decade, these independent artists, acclaimed in their own right, have spent years refining their practice and perspective.

First formed in 2020, their works include critically acclaimed

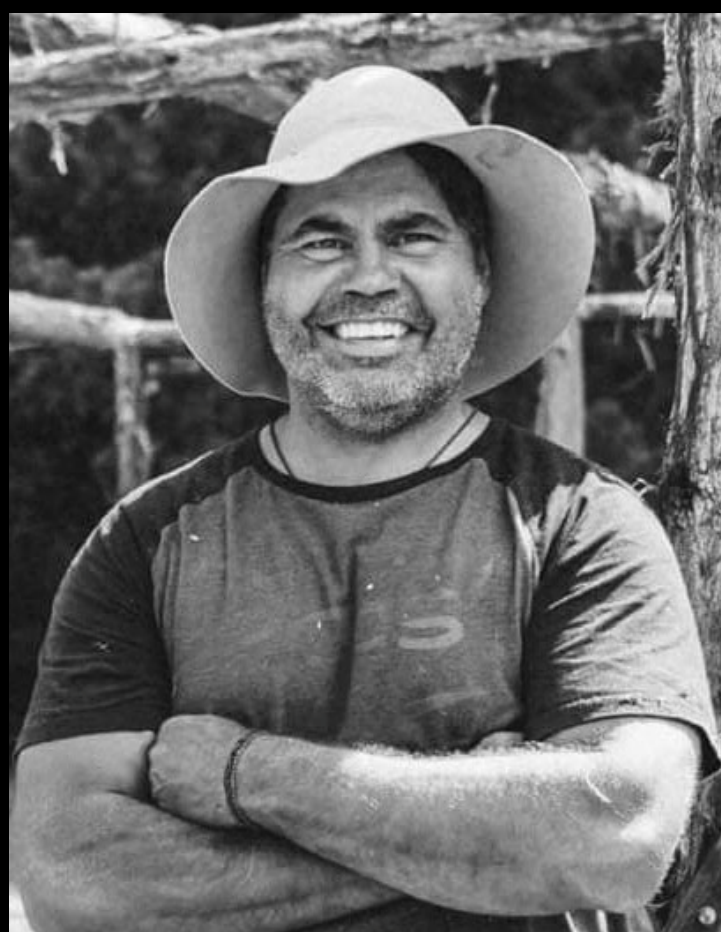
CHASE (Malthouse, Hot House), *Whose Gonna Love 'Em? I am that i AM* (FCAC, ILBIJERRI), *A NIGHTTIME TRAVESTY* (Yirramboi). A Daylight Connection is currently Company in Residence at Malthouse Theatre. The team masters all creative roles, bringing impeccable craft and mad-crack realness to a banging musical score as they crawl through the mouldy crevices of class, identity, existentialism, spirituality and the global zeitgeist.



Shannon Jensen (Gunggandji)

Shannon Jensen is an actor, playwright and currently an ensemble member for Theatreinq in Townsville. She is descended from the Gunggandji people of Yarrabah. Her training includes a bachelor's degree in Theatre from James Cook University (JCU). Shannon's acting credits include Eva in *Sunrise* (JCU), Helen of Troy in *Orestes* (JCU), Joan Beaufort in *Blood of Kings* (Theatreinq) and *The White Rose and the Red* (Theatreinq). Shannon is a current participant in the

Write Sparks playwriting program at JUTE Theatre in Cairns.



Warren Mason (Yuwaalaraay)

Warren Mason was born in Dirranbandi, Queensland in 1969 and grew up in Goodooga, a small Aboriginal community in north-west New South Wales. A self-taught artist, Warren's artistic experiments and innovative approach are a reflection of himself. In 2021, Warren founded Tin Camp Studios, a relocatable music, art and workshop space styled on 1940s-50s Aboriginal tin camps that can still be found today on the outskirts of townships across Australia. The Tin Camp is intended to be a

safe, welcoming space for people to gather and for stories to go on the record for the next generation to appreciate, enjoy and learn from.



Maurial Spearim (Gamilaraay, Murrawarri)

Maurial Spearim is a Gamilaraay, Murrawarri woman who draws strength from her connection to Country and People. As a writer, actor and singer, Maurial places First Nations voices and stories front and center. Her first play, *Blaqq Catt*, was performed at Next Wave Festival and Melbourne Fringe festival 2016. Maurial has written poetry for Melbourne Writers Festival, Blak & Bright Festival and Yirramboi Festival and was selected for Malthouse Theatre Company's Writers Program in 2017. Her other plays include *Inside*

Out (Melbourne Theatre Company's "Cybec Electrics") and *Totality* (Illbijerri Theatre Company's "10in10"). *Inside Out* was later commissioned by and premiered at Yirramboi Festival 2023 and presented at Malthouse Theatre. Maurial is currently co-writing a television series and working on her first series of children's books.



Peta Strachan (Darug)

Peta Strachan is a descendant of the Darug people, of the Boorooberongal clan of NSW. Peta is a professional dancer, choreographer, teacher and costume maker with 34 years' experience in the industry. Peta trained at the Castlereagh school of performing arts, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance college (NAISDA). In 1994, Peta was invited to join Aboriginal Islander Dance Theatre (AIDT) and Bangarra Dance Theatre in 2000, touring nationally and internationally with both

companies. In 2008, Peta founded Jannawi dance clan, an Indigenous dance company encompassing modern urban and traditional Aboriginal dance styles with traditional music by song man Matthew Doyle singing in the Sydney languages.



Michael Weir (Wiradjuri)

A proud Wiradjuri man, Michael Weir is passionate about using his creative practice to share the stories of his people. The Deadly Award-winning hip hop artist, songwriter and producer has penned songs about sovereignty, Aboriginal deaths in custody, black ANZACS, and the Stolen Generation. His talents for story telling were recognised in 2015 and 2016, when he was invited by the National Gallery of Australia to give his interpretation of their Colonial and First Nations exhibitions through a spoken word performance. In 2022, he

completed a Bachelor of Songwriting and Music Production and has since worked with NORPA on Bunjalung Nghari Indigenise for the Byron Writers Festival and with Mooghalin Performing Arts on *Cutter and Coota*. He is currently completing a Masters of Creative Industries.

ABOUT MOOGAHLIN PERFORMING ARTS

Moogahlin Performing Arts is a leading First Peoples performing arts company that is co-located on Gadigal country in Redfern and on Ngemba country in Brewarrina NSW. We play a vital role in the ecology of the National performing arts sector in First Peoples new work development and presentation, advocacy for First Peoples cultural arts, and employment and career pathways for our people. We are a resident company of Carriageworks on Gadigal Country, Redfern and a member of Yarruu Hub on Ngemba Country, Brewarrina NSW. Moogahlin (Muu-gah-lin) is a Yuin/Bundjalung word meaning to play, to fool about.

MOOGAHLIN PERFORMING ARTS BOARD

Chair Donna Ingram (*Wiradjuri*)

Treasurer Carol Vale (*Dhunghutti*)

Secretary Victoria Kennedy (*Wongaibon*)

Sue Pinckham (*Biripi*)

William Trewlynn (*Nucoorilma, Anaiwan, Dunghutti*)

Tiffany Winters (*Guwamu, Murrawarri, Ngemba*)

MOOGAHLIN PERFORMING ARTS STAFF

Co-Founder & Artistic Director Lily Shearer (*Murrawarri, Ngemba*)

Co-Founder & Senior Artistic Associate Liza-Mare Syron (*Biripai*)

Executive Producer Ali Murphy-Oates (*Ngiyampaa Wailwan*)

Business Manager Penny Johnson (*Guwamu, Murrawarri*)

Admin and Projects Assistant Aroha Pehi (*Taribelang, Kuku-Yalanji, Ngapuhi, Ngati Porou*)

Producer Natano Fa'anana (*Samoa*)

Digital Producer Stephen Wilson Barker (*Murrawarri, Ngyiaampaa, Wiradjuri*)

Finance Officer Rhanda M, CPA

www.moogahlin.org





CARRIAGEWORKS TEAM

BOARD

Cass O'Connor (Chair), Geoff Ainsworth AM, Michael Gonski, Andrew Maiden, Gitanjali Bhalla, Cameron Honey, Robi Stanton, Tony Nimac

STAFF

Jessica Abrahams, Ben Allison, Gillian Anderson, Jannah Anderson, Rodrigo Arriaza, Chantel Bann, Debra Beale, Stephanie Berlangieri, Neville Boney, Michelle Cao, Jayce Carrano, Emma Carson, Camilla Chapman, Miranda Cookman, Jacqueline De La Rosa, Andrew Demetriou, Aarna Fitzgerald Hanley, Electra Foley, Eddie Gock, Ruby Goldman, Georgina Grisold, Lucy Hallett, Dominic Hamra, James Harding, Claire Hicks, Debbie Higgison, Vicky Hopper, Tamar Kelly, Kri Leitner, Lena Li, Fergus Linehan, Cynthia Loh, Felix May, Eleanor McLeod, Spencer Morrow, Dean Odgers, Janine Peukert, Sunny Rajopa, Hannah Roberts, Blake Robinson, Georgina Ryke, Alexandra-Cateluta Sava, Hannah Spencer, Marie-Ingrid St Anne, Georgia Sullivan, Jared Wilson, Mike Worner

PUBLICITY

Kym Elphinstone, Jasmine Hersee

FRONT OF HOUSE

Marissa Bagley, Sandra Bardwell, Daisy Barrow Piper, Kate Bobis, Bea Buckland-Willis, Katie Cassidy, Jackie Chaiyakarn, Frances Colin, Eliza Cooper, Simon Croker, Laura Soerja Djanegara, Sabrina Evangeline Benes-Feher, Nix Francia, Hugo Fraser, Alexander Fry, Chloe Geary, Eddie Gock, Ruby Goldman, Maddi Goyen, Dana Guarnaschelli, Amy Hack, Emma Harbridge, Cait Harris, Lucy Heffernan, Ella Hemsley, Teale Howie, Ava Lagoon-Robinson, Alina Liu, Alexandra Malcolm, Pierre Marcos, Celine Marshall, Benedicte McGowen, Spencer Morrow, Nolan Murphy, Sarah Muttalak, Sarah Napier, Amy Nelson, Isabella Niven, Yue (Tanaporn) Norsrida, Ezara Norton, Jake Parker, Francesca Paula Simon, Noah Rayner, Hannah Roberts, Katie Rosewood, Jordan Sharp, Evalyn Sharpham, Saskia Shearer, Lilian Shepherd, Greeshma Shetty, Sarah Smith, Kate Smytheman, Victoria Soo, Nell Trotter, Madeleine Urquhart, Gita Vasaityte, Eleni Vergotis, Tanya Veselcic, Uma Volkmer, Jess Wang, Bianca Watkin, Ella Watson-Heath, Emma White, Emma Whitehead, Ramonne Wilson-Lemme, Strickland Young

BACK OF HOUSE

Skylah Akbar, Helen Baker, Abraham Box, Oliver Brownbill, Seb Dickens, Perry Edgington, Maddi Goyen, Ella Hemsley, Thomas Jones-Ceissman, Josh March, Spencer Morrow, Greg Nicholl, Casper Nolan Evans, Milos Popvic, Grant Richards, Hannah Roberts, Louie Roberts, Clare Rosen, Victoria Soo, Mady Thieme, Aaron Van Dyck, Joshua Vellis, Jade Walker, Sophia Wallace, Stella Ward

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

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