

2008 National Indigenous Storyteller's Program

*program details correct at 22/1/2008

Please note: The world premiere of the Western Australian documentary *Spirit Stones*, directed by Allan Collins and written by Ken Hayward, is on Tuesday 19 February at 6:30pm at the Millennium Cinema, Fremantle. To reserve your seat email rsvp@screenwest.com.au with

SPIRIT STONES in the subject line or phone (08) 9224 7424.

Monday 18 February

Master of Ceremonies - Ms Narelda Jacobs (Noongar)

Narelda is widely recognised as a Journalist for Network 10, where she has worked for the past eight years. She is currently a court reporter and weather presenter.

Two years ago Narelda was selected to represent Network 10 at a professional development program held at CNN headquarters in Atlanta Georgia (USA). Narelda was also a judge for the Indigenous section of the 2006 Walkey Awards for excellence in Journalism, Australia's most prestigious media accolade.

Narelda has hosted a wide range of events, including the National NAIDOC Week Awards and Gala Ball, but her heart is closest to encouraging young Noongar people to realise their dreams and seize opportunities in employment and education by regularly speaking in schools.

Registration

8.30am – 9.30am

Welcome to Country

9.30am – 10.00am

Mr Neville Collard (Noongar)

Neville Collard is a Baladong Nyoongar Man, who has been a long term resident of the Walyalup (Fremantle) area. He was a Detective with the WA Police Service, and continues to be a strong community member and advocate. Neville runs cross-cultural training called 'Nyoongar knowhow', as well as cultural tours in the Fremantle area and a cultural centre at Lake Herdsman.

Ms Janet Hayden (Noongar)

Janet is a Djenabura Noongar from the Baladong Women's tribe, originally from the Brookton/Wagin area. She is a respected storyteller.

Dr Richard Walley, OAM (Noongar)

An Indigenous leader of the Arts in Australia, Dr Richard Walley has been awarded an OBE for his services to the promotion of Noongar culture. As past Chair of the Australia Council's Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Board for nine years, Richard has played an integral role in focusing the direction of Indigenous Arts in Australia.

Department of Culture and Arts response

10.00am – 10.15am

Ms Allanah Lucas

Acting Director General, Department of Culture and the Arts

Morning Tea: 10.15am—10.30am

Keynote Address

10.30am – 11.00am

Mr David Milroy (Palyku)

David Milroy is an award winning playwright, accomplished musician and renown theatre director. David was Artistic Director of Yirra Yaakin Noongar Theatre for seven years and in 2000 was guest Director at the American Playwrights Conference in Connecticut. David received a Myer Award in 2002 for his contribution to the development of Indigenous theatre, the prestigious Patrick White Award in 2004 for his play, *Windmill Baby* and the Kate Challis RAKA Award in 2007. Other production highlights include *King Hit*, *Runumuk*, *Whaloo Is That You?* and *Muttacar Sorry Business*. David lives in Perth and is actively involved in Native Title with the Palyku people of the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

Segue

11.00am – 11.15am

Mr Alf Taylor (Noongar)

Alf Taylor is a leading Australian writer and reads his work at Writers' Festivals and other public events. Book titles include *Singer Songwriter*; *Winds* and *Long Time Now*. A member of the Stolen Generation, he was raised at the New Norcia Mission following the removal from his parents. His latest memoir, which draws on this history, is titled *God, the Devil and Me*, and has been translated into Spanish.

Plenary Session 1 – “I’ve got a story”

11.15am – 12.45pm

This session finds out how to get a story recorded, appropriate protocols and permissions in recording a story, who can help you record a story, the role of editors, taking on constructive criticism and maintaining the integrity of what you want to say.

Panelists:

Kim Scott (Noongar)

Kim has written two novels and a children's book, and has had poetry and short stories published in a range of anthologies. Kim's second novel, *Benang*, won the Western Australian Premier's Literary

Award 1999, the Miles Franklin Literary Award 2000, and the RAKA Kate Challis Award, one of Australia's most valuable and prestigious national awards for Indigenous creative artists, in 2001. He was the first Indigenous writer to win the Miles Franklin Award. *Benang* has since been published in translation in France, China and the Netherlands.

His most recent book is *Kayang and Me*, a collaboration with Noongar elder, Hazel Brown. The work is a monumental oral-based history of the author's Noongar family on the south coast of Western Australia.

He has been a guest at many writers' and Indigenous arts festivals in Australia and a Visiting Scholar at the University of Melbourne.

Debbie Carmody (Wongi)

Debbie is a descendant of the Spinifex People from the Great Victorian Desert, where the Maralinga atomic testing took place in the 1950's. On her mother's side of the family Debbie has Noongar (Hayward) connections.

Debbie's career in media began with the ABC in radio and television, with current affairs and documentary production, such as the award winning 'Rosie'. Debbie has been a journalist for GWN's award winning 'Milpindi' program, which won a Special Award on Reporting on Equal Opportunity Issues, a Citation from the United Nations Media Peace Awards, and was a Finalist for the Australian Logies in 1994.

More recently Debbie's short film *Done Dirt Cheap* screened at the 2007 ImagineNative International Film Festival in Toronto, 2007 Message Stick, Sydney Opera House, 2008 Perth International Arts Festival and on SBS.

Dalisa Pigram, Marrugeku Theatre (Yawuru)

Dalisa Pigram is a founding member of Marrugeku and has been working as a core creative member of the company. Marrugeku creates large scale cross-cultural works blending contemporary Indigenous dance with physical theatre, screen based media, circus art and live music. Dalisa has travelled and performed with Marrugeku on *Mimi*, *Crying Baby* and *Burning Daylight*, throughout Australia, Europe and South America.

In 2007, Dalisa received her first nomination for a Deadly Award, in the category of Dancer of the Year. Dalisa is also a qualified language teacher in her home town Broome. She helps keep language alive by working alongside elders in a language program delivered through by local primary schools.

Lunch: 12.45pm – 2.00pm

Segue

2.00pm – 2.15pm

Ms Lorrae Coffin (Yinjibarndi/Niapali)

Lorrae Coffin is a respected singer-songwriter. She has performed her work to Australian and international audiences, toured with the Mary G Band and released her debut CD in 2007 *All I Am*. Lorrae is also a key creative member of Marrugeku Theatre Company which toured *Burning Daylight* internationally in 2007. She is currently working at Goolarri Media Enterprises in Broome, in music development for Aboriginal musicians.

Plenary Session 2 – “Who’s story is it?”

2.15pm – 3.45pm

This session tackles partnerships, ownership of a story, collaborations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous practitioners, knowing your rights and not being afraid to ask the hard questions.

Panelists:

Allan Collins (Wulli-Wulli and Luritja)

Allan Collins graduated in cinematography from the prestigious Australian Film Television and Radio School in 1997. He has worked for the ABC, CAAMA/Imparja and National Indigenous Television. Highlights of his production credits include *Sunset to Sunrise*, various *Message Stick* productions, and *Paris Dreaming – Songlines to the Seine*.

An Australian Film Institute and IF award winner for his cinematography on the feature film *Beneath Clouds*, directed by Ivan Sven, and the first Indigenous person to receive the honour of accreditation to the Australian Cinematographers Society. Allan and Co Director/Writer, Tom Murray were selected in the 2005 SUNDANCE Film Festival for the film “*Dhakiyarr vs the King*”. The film featured in competition ‘World Cinema Documentary’ as one of only 12 films internationally.

Allan is Director and Director of Photography for *Spirit Stones*, which will be launched at the end of the National Indigenous Storytellers’ Forum.

June Oscar (Bunuba)

June Oscar is a prominent community leader in the Kimberley. She graduated with a Business degree from Notre Dame University, she is a director of Bunuba Films, the CEO of Marninwarntikura Women’s Resource Centre in Fitzroy Crossing, and the Chairperson of the Kimberley Language Resource Centre, amongst other positions.

June is also a leader in a long term social reconstruction plan for the people of the Fitzroy Valley that involves restrictions on alcohol sales in Fitzroy. June has been involved in the *Jandamarra* project since the 1980s, and despite her hectic schedule, has never wavered in her commitment and input. *Jandamarra*, the story of a Bunuba resistance fighter in the Kimberley, is presented by the 2008 Perth International Arts Festival by Black Swan Theatre.

Patsy Bedford (Bunuba)

Patsy Bedford was born and bred in Fitzroy Crossing, where she grew up speaking Bunuba as her first language. After a long career in the state public service, Patsy moved across to run the Fitzroy Crossing annexe of the Kimberley Language Resource Centre, where she has worked on a wide range of projects across a number of languages. But her major project, nearing completion, has been to compile a comprehensive Bunuba dictionary.

Steve Hawke

Steve Hawke is from Melbourne and has lived in the Northern Territory and Kimberley for many years. He has had a long association with the Bunuba people through diverse projects, most recently the *Jandamarra* project.

Jandamarra is Steve’s first work for the theatre, and he has published three books: *Noonkanbah* (1989), a history of the conflict over oil drilling on sacred land in the Kimberley; *Polly Farmer* (1993), a biography of the great footballer; and *Barefoot Kids* (2007), a children’s novel set in Broome. He has

also published short fiction, worked in film and television, and done occasional freelance journalism.

End of day 1

Registrants are invited to attend a networking sundowner at FTI from 6pm – 9pm.

The evening includes an open mic session with Jim Morrison and launch of films from Screenwest's Deadly Yarns 3.

Tuesday 19 February

Opening of Day 2

9.30am – 9.45am

MC – Ms Narelda Jacobs

Segue

9.45am – 10.00am

Stephen Baamba Albert (Bardi/Yawuru)

Born and bred in Broome, Baamba has been a shining star on the acting landscape here in Australia and overseas, performing in the smash hit musicals *Bran Nue Dae* and *Corrugation Road* as well as *Bullies House*, in London at Border Crossings.

Plenary Session 3 “How far can my story go?”

10.00am – 11.30am

This session looks at the benefits (and burdens) of international exposure, winning awards, crossing genres and gaining success at a local, national and international level.

Panelists:

Trevor Jamieson, (Pitjantjara/Noongar)

Trevor Jamieson, Spinifex man and professional actor, is the key performer in *Ngapartji Ngapartji (I give you something, you give me something)*. He is also an arts mentor to the young people and other artists working on the project. It is Trevor's family story that is at the heart of the theatre production, which was created with Big hART's Artistic Director Scott Rankin, and has toured nationally.

Trevor has performed on stages across the world. Theatre, film and television highlights include *Long Black Lab – To Hell & Bourke*, *Bran Nu Dae*, *Burning Daylight*, *Anangu Backyard*, *Yandy*, *Crying Baby*, *Career Highlights of the Mamu*, *Plain Song*, *King for this Place*, *Corrugation Road*, *Merry-go-round in the Sea*, *Your Not Playing That*, *Done Dirt Cheap*, *Weewar* and *Rabbit Proof Fence*.

Dr Anita Heiss (Wiradjuri)

Anita Heiss' published works include the historical novel *Who Am I? The Diary of Mary Talence, Sydney 1937*, *Token Koori*, *Sacred Cows*, *Dhuuluu-Yala (To Talk Straight) – Publishing Aboriginal*

Literature, and a children's book entitled *Me and My Mum*. Anita has also edited editions of *Southerly*, *Five Bells* and the anthology *Life in Gadigal Country*.

In 2007, Anita released three titles: *Not Meeting Mr Right* for which she won the Deadly Award for Outstanding Contribution to Literature. Her poetry collection also released this year *I'm not racist, but...* won the Scanlon Prize for Indigenous Poetry and the kids novel *Yirra and her deadly dog Demon*, was launched at the 2007 Sydney Writers Festival by Her Excellency Marie Bashir, Governor of NSW. Anita has performed her works nationally at numerous writers' festivals. In 2004, Anita wrote and directed her first short-film "Checkerboard Love" as part of the Lester Bostock mentorship program through Metro Screen, Sydney.

Anita has held leadership roles with the Australia Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board, Australian Society of Authors, Warawara Department of Indigenous Studies at Macquarie University, AustLit - Black Words and Gadigal Information Services / Koori Radio.

Wayne Blair (Butchala)

Wayne is a Butchala man from Hervey Bay, Fraser Island in Queensland. He has an extensive career as a performer, director and writer for film, theatre and television, working on many productions with Sydney Theatre Company, Melbourne Theatre Company, Company B, Opera Queensland, Kooemba Jdarra Theatre, Bell Shakespeare and Bangarra Dance Theatre.

His TV credits include *Lockie Leonard*, *Double Trouble*, *Backberner*, *Wildside*, *Fireflies*, *All Saints*, *Water Rats*, *Small Claims*, and the feature film *Mullet*. He has directed the short films, *Fade 2 Black*, *Jubulj*, *Kathy*, *Black Talk* and the *Djarn Djarns*, with the latter winning the Crystal Bear at Berlin Film Festival 2005. He is a currently Associate Artist at Company B, Belvoir St Theatre.

Morning Tea: 11.30 - 11.45am

Segue

11.45am – 12.00pm

Film Clip (TBC)

Plenary Session 4 – “The Story Catchers”

12.00pm – 1.30pm

What makes a good story? Do I have a good story? Could I write a book, or a movie? Or both? This session finds out what commissioning editors, theatre producers and publishing houses look for in a story.

Panelists:

Susan Moylan-Coombs (Gurindji)

Susan Moylan-Coombs is the Executive Producer of ABC Television's Indigenous Programs Unit. She has been a reporter/director for *Blackout*, Series Producer for *Kam Yan*, a multi-camera director for the first *StompEm Ground*, and a producer/director for mainstream titles such as *Qantum*, *Review*, and *Play School*.

Susan is also involved with numerous committees, community organisations and events

Susan is a proud Aboriginal woman born of Gurindji heritage on her father's side and an Aboriginal mother whose ancestry is unknown due to the policy of removal of children today known as the Stolen Generation.

Kelrick Martin

Kelrick Martin is from Broome, having commenced his media career as a cadet Broadcaster for Goolarri Media in Western Australia. He was the inaugural presenter of ABC TV's Message Stick program, graduated from the Australian Film, Television and Radio School with a Masters in Documentary Writing and Directing, and has been a freelance documentary filmmaker for the last 7 years. Currently he is based in Perth as a Commissioning Editor for NITV, the new National Indigenous Television service broadcasting on Foxtel and Austar.

Dot West (Noongar)

Dot West is Head of Productions with Goolarri Media Enterprises in Broome and has been a Board Member of Screenwest, National Indigenous Television Ltd, National Indigenous Radio Service and Indigenous Screen Australia. She is currently on the board of the Australian International Documentary Conference and a Director of Goolarri. Dot has a long media history within the Kimberley and has played a major role in the training and development of broadcasting in this region. Dot has also been instrumental in the development and growth of Indigenous media nationally.

In 2005, Dot was awarded the Tudawali Award in recognition of her contribution to Indigenous Media. Her film credits include Co-writer, *Peeping Thru The Louvres* (SBS), Script editor, Assistant Director, Co-Producer, *Mary Geddardyu Show* series 1 (SBS), Producer, *Me and You* (SBS), Scriptwriter and Co-Producer of *The Circuit* episode 2 (SBS), Producer *Bollywood Dreaming* (ABC).

Sam Cook (Nyikina)

Listed in the 2007 edition of the Who's Who of Australian Women, Sam Cook is the Executive Producer of Western Australia's Leading Aboriginal Theatre Company - Yirra Yaakin.

A Nyikina sista from the Kimberley region of Western Australia, Sam has been working in publishing for 15 years and theatre for 7. She is a member of the Yirra Yaakin Dream-Team, the artistic hub of the weird and wonderful and has recently written for the *Chooteam Comedy Troupe* and co-wrote In the *Nyitting Time*. *Jilas Bush Meeting* is Sam's latest creative endeavour, but her EP passion lay in further defining the Aboriginal theatre industry within the context of the international Indigenous theatre industry.

She is also the moderator of the Worlds Indigenous Peoples Network and an Arts Hub columnist, with her monthly edition titled KISSmyBLAKarts™. As a provocateur, Sam explores authentic Indigenous Australian expression through a self determined model of living cultural practice as a catalyst of social change.

Tony Lee (Yawuru)

Tony Lee is the immediate past Chairperson and current board member of Magabala Books in Broome. Tony runs a consultancy and has previously worked across many areas of Indigenous Affairs including community and economic development, strategic planning and in the areas of training and education. He was the first Indigenous person nominated as a member of the National Native Title Tribunal, and was the key mediator. Tony is currently performing on the remake of *Ship of Dream* by Mary Durack, and is the only original cast member in the contemporary production by the

Kimberley Theatre Company.

Lunch: 1.30pm – 2.15pm

Workshop – “Pitching the story”

2.15pm – 3.45pm

The highlight of the Storyteller’s Forum, the pitching session will see some of the best story ideas from Indigenous Australia teased out in an event where the winner takes all! A one-off development grant of \$5000 is up for grabs for the successful pitch, to be decided on the day by the panel of industry experts representing film, television, theatre and publishing.

Panelists:

Susan Moylan-Coombs, ABCTV

Kelrick Martin, NITV

Dot West, Goolarri Media Enterprises

Sam Cook, Executive Producer, Yirra Yaakin Noongar Theatre

Tony Lee, Magabala Books

End of day 2

End of Forum

Registrants are invited to attend the premier screening of Allan Collin’s film Spirit Stones that evening in Fremantle. Details at the top of the program.