

MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Phone 61 2 8248 6500 Fax 61 2 8248 6599
sydneyfestival.org.au



The Season

WORLD PREMIERE
Tasmania Performs, Australia



“Before I laid my eyes on Big Dog Island, I had already seen it a thousand times in my head. I knew what it looked like and felt like from all the yarns I had been told from my father, grandparents, uncles, aunts and the cousins.”

Nathan Maynard

Photo: Simon Pynt

The Season is Aboriginal playwright **Nathan Maynard**'s hilarious portrait of the Duncans, a family bursting with love and always up for a laugh. They're back on Dog Island, a speck of land in Bass Strait, for the annual mutton-bird harvest: hatchets are buried, secrets told, pranks pulled and birds plucked. With no TV reception and basic living conditions there are lots of shenanigans.

Plenty of tears, truths and laughs are to be had during birding season but this year, things are different. One generation is giving way to the next, the youngsters have their own way of doing things, and government regulation is making its presence felt, even on this remote patch of earth.

The Season features the exciting (but all too rare) combination of an Aboriginal writer, Director **Isaac Drandic** (Coranderrk, *Blak Cabaret*, *Peter Pan*), and seven member cast including **Trevor Jamieson** (*The Secret River*) and **Tammy Anderson** (*I Don't Want to Play House*).

Nathan Maynard is a descendant of the chief of the Trawlwoolway Clan and of the whole of the North East Tasmanian Indigenous peoples. Since the 1830's, Nathan's family have been known as the Maynards. He has a background in dance as well as playwriting, having written NAME, a play for young performers and a young audience that was performed by the Aboriginal Children's Centre at Risdon Cove. He was the recipient of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Artist of the Year Award in 2006 and 2013.

“When I'm birding, I know that's exactly where I'm meant to be, amongst my people and the Birds: Birds that we are eternally grateful for and hold in our hearts so dearly. The Mutton Bird takes the longest migration of any animal in the world ... past New Zealand, Japan and up to Alaska and back home to our islands to breed in the same burrow every year ... a migration of 30,000 kilometres. They are simply amazing and resilient as hell. Just like the people they are forever connected to... The parallels between the birds and us mob don't stop there. Many of us migrate back to the same shed year after. Many find our life long partners on the island... for many we are conceived or conceive on the island... or at least get some practice in. We grow up on the island and lose our baby feathers... and like the birds, our yearly journey starts and finishes on the island.” says Nathan Maynard.

MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Phone 61 2 8248 6500 Fax 61 2 8248 6599
sydneyfestival.org.au



The Season, developed with Dramaturge **Peter Matheson** and produced by Tasmania Performs, is Nathan Maynard's debut play and was featured in the 2015 **Yellamundie Festival** produced by **Mooghlin**. *The Season* is co-presented with Sydney Opera House.

BEN DUNCAN

Kelton Pell

STELLA DUNCAN

Tammy Anderson

AUNTY MARLENE

Lisa Maza

LOU DUNCAN

Nazaree Dickerson

CLAY DUNCAN

James Slee

RITCHIE DUNCAN

Luke Carroll

NEIL WATSON & SENIOR RANGER RICHARD HADGEMEN *Trevor Jamieson*

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Major Festivals Initiative in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals Inc., Ten Days on the Island, Melbourne Festival and Sydney Festival.

Director Isaac Drandic
Cast Kelton Pell, Tammy Anderson, Lisa Maza, Nazaree Dickerson, James Slee, Luke Carroll, Trevor Jamieson

Where Sydney Opera House, Drama Theatre

When Preview: 10 January at 7.30pm
11–15 January
Wed, Thur, Fri & Sun at 7.30pm
Sat at 2.00pm & 7.30pm

Duration 90 mins

Tickets Premium \$70
A Reserve \$60/\$54
+ booking fee

Bookings sydneyfestival.org.au/theseason

Multipacks are available for Sydney Festival events. Book 3 or more events and save up to 15%. Discounts apply to full price A Reserve or General Admission tickets.

For interviews and further information contact:

Jessica Keirle, Publicity Manager jessica.keirle@sydneyfestival.org.au

MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Phone 61 2 8248 6500 Fax 61 2 8248 6599
sydneyfestival.org.au



Julia Barnes, Publicist julia.barnes@sydneyfestival.org.au
Georgia McKay, Publicist georgia.mckay@sydneyfestival.org.au



This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Major Festivals Initiative in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals Inc., Ten Days on the Island, Melbourne Festival and Sydney Festival.