

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



Which Way Home

ILBIJERRI Theatre Company, Australia



Photo: Brett Boardman

“Perfectly pitched between humour and pathos... Beckett’s last lines have a plangency and simplicity that will leave you holding your breath.”

The Age

“Which Way Home mixes broad comedy with the most touching emotions.”

Stage Whispers

From writer-performer **Katie Beckett**, and Australia’s longest running Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander theatre company, **ILBIJERRI Theatre Company**, comes the story of a father and a daughter reconnecting with each other and their shared past.

Tash and her Dad head out on the highway on a road trip from Yuggerah country Ipswich, to his birthplace, Muriwarri Country Goodooga. The road is long and the car is cramped – and there’ll be no shortage of dredged-up memories and misadventure along the way.

After her mother died, Tash was raised by her Dad, away from country and in a mostly white suburb, where they forged a tight bond. *Which Way Home* is a work of fiction, but Beckett was also raised by her much-loved father after the death of her mother.

Katie Beckett is a talented actor and a compelling new voice in Australian playwriting. Best known for her roles in *Redfern Now* (ABCTV), *Black Comedy* (ABCTV), *Kill the Messenger* (Belvoir), *Coranderrk* (ILBIJERRI), *My Memory* (Moogahlin Performing Arts), *Wrong Skin* (Next Wave Festival), and *To Soothe a Dying Pillow* (Andrea James), *Which Way Home* is her first play to be produced. Beckett was the recipient of the 2015 Balnaves Foundation Playwright’s Award and a participant in the 2009 Kickstart/Next Wave program. She won the Ian Bowie Memorial Award and was shortlisted for the Yvonne Cohen Award for her solo work-in-progress, *Coloured Diggers*.

Directed by ILBIJERRI’s Artistic Director, **Rachael Maza**, Beckett is joined on stage by acclaimed actor and theatremaker **Tony Briggs** (*Cleverman*, ABC1) whose play *The Sapphires* – directed by Wesley Enoch - played at 2005’s Sydney Festival.

Infused with humour, heart and Beckett’s own memories of growing up with a much-loved single Indigenous father, *Which Way Home* is a moving story of a parent and child and a return to country. Embark on a road trip comedy more than 40,000 years in the making at Sydney’s Belvoir St Theatre.

Writer
Director

Katie Beckett
Rachael Maza

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Set & Costume Designer Emily Barrie
Sound Designer Mark Coles Smith
Lighting Designer Nik Pajanti
Dramaturg Jane Bodie

Where Belvoir St Theatre, Downstairs

When 11–29 January
Tue–Wed at 7pm
Thu–Fri at 8.15pm
Sat at 2.15pm
Sun at 5.15pm

Duration 65mins (no interval)

Tickets General admission \$48(M)/ \$42
+ booking fee

Bookings Sydney Festival on 1300 856 876
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