

WUDJANI

NOT THE PAST



CREDITS

DIRECTOR Stephen Page
CHOREOGRAPHY Stephen Page,
Bangarra Dancers
WRITERS Stephen Page, Alana Valentine
COMPOSER Steve Francis
SET DESIGNER Jacob Nash
COSTUME DESIGNER Jennifer Irwin
LIGHTING DESIGNER Nick Schlieper
DRAMATURG Alana Valentine
LANGUAGE CONSULTANT Donna Page
MUSIC DIRECTOR Alan John
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Kate Dunn
REHEARSAL DIRECTOR Daniel Roberts
ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTOR Véronique Serret
ACTORS Elaine Crombie, Jess Hitchcock,
Elma Kris, Kirk Page, Justin Smith
MUSICIANS Brendon Boney, Amaru Derwent,
Tessa Nuku, Véronique Serret

BANGARRA DANCERS

Beau Dean Riley Smith, Rikki Mason,
Rika Hamaguchi, Glory Tuohy-Daniell,
Baden Hitchcock, Ryan Pearson, Lillian Banks,
Bradley Smith, Courtney Radford, Kallum
Goolagong, Gusta Mara, Kiarn Doyle, Emily
Flannery, Maddison Paluch, Daniel Mateo,
Janaya Lamb, Jesse Murray

KEY CHARACTERS

WUDJANG Elma Kris
GURAI Lillian Banks
BILIN Kirk Page
MAREN/YUGAMBEH SHEARER
Elaine Crombie
DUGGAI/WHEELER Justin Smith
NANAHNG Jess Hitchcock
MIBUNN/MUSICIAN Brendon Boney
YARGA/MUSICIAN Tessa Nuku
MUSICIAN/ASSOCIATE MUSICAL
DIRECTOR Véronique Serret
MUSICIAN Amaru Derwent
BLACK SHEEP/GUJARONG
Beau Dean Riley Smith
YILGAHN Glory Tuohy-Daniell
JAHDJAM (CHILD) Baden Hitchcock

PRODUCTION CREW

PRODUCTION MANAGER Cat Studley
STAGE MANAGER Stephanie Storr
HEAD ELECTRICIAN Marshall Bull
HEAD OF WARDROBE Jessica Hodgkinson
FRONT OF HOUSE SOUND OPERATOR
David Trumpmanis
FOLDBACK/ RADIO MICROPHONE TECHNICIAN
Corey Wiles
RIGGER & HEAD MECHANIST Katie McDonagh
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS Rose Jenkins,
Vanessa Martin

WUDJANG

NOT THE PAST

THE STORY

In the deep darkness just before dawn, workmen find bones while excavating for a dam. Among them is a Yugambeh man, Bilin, who convinces his colleagues to let him keep the ancestral bones.

This ancestor is Wudjang, who longs to be reburied the proper way. With her young companion spirit, Gurai, she dances and teaches and sings with Bilin. She teaches Bilin and his niece, Nanahng, of the past, of the earth, of his songlines.

Wudjang: Not the Past follows the journey to honour Wudjang with a traditional resting place on Country, a place that she has revealed to be of significance and power.

Traditional stories are more than tragic recollections about the past – they teach how the current generation moves forward with resilience.

WHERE DOES IT TAKE PLACE?

Wudjang: Not the Past is set in the Yugambeh Language region in South East Queensland. Yugambeh is the Country of Artistic Director Stephen Page's ancestry and birth.

The region includes traditional lands that lie within and between the Danggan Balun (Five Rivers). Christmas Creek (Migunberri Tribe), Beaudesert (Mununjali Tribe), Logan (Guginin Tribe), Coomera (Bullongin Tribe), Mt Tamborine (Wanagerriburra Tribe), Nerang (Kombumerri Tribe), Birinburra Tribe and Tweed River Valley (Minjungbal Tribe).

Wudjang uses the language of the Mununjali clan of Yugambeh Country.

SOME FUN FACTS

- Wudjang means mother in Mununjali language, or the spirit of Mother Earth.
- There are over 350 rubble rocks on stage, each of them hand carved.
- *Wudjang: Not the Past* is a Page family affair for Artistic Director Stephen Page. The Mununjali Language was passed on to him by his father Roy and brother David Page. Stephen's sister Donna is Language Consultant on the production. Kirk Page, Stephen's cousin, plays the role of Bilin.
- Elma Kris plays the title character of Wudjang. Originally from Thursday Island in the Torres Strait, Elma has been a dancer and cultural consultant with Bangarra Dance Theatre for more than 20 years.

Bangarra Dance Theatre pays respect and acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which our Company calls home, where much of *Wudjang: Not The Past* was created – the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation.