



Sydney
Festival
2024

BIG NAME,

NO BLANKETS



Artwork by Oumoula Mckenzie

BIG NAME, NO BLANKETS

ILBIJERRI Theatre Company
WORLD PREMIERE

Roslyn Packer Theatre
10 - 14 January
1 hr 45 mins (no interval)

CAST AND CREDITS

ILBIJERRI Theatre Company's *BIG NAME, NO BLANKETS*
by Andrea James
with Anyupa Butcher and Sammy Butcher

Writer Andrea James

Story and Cultural Consultant Sammy Butcher
(founding member of Warumpi Band)

Co-Directors Dr Rachael Maza AM and
Anyupa Butcher

Music Director Gary Watling

Cinematographer & Sound Designer James Henry

Sound Arrangements and Composition Crystal Butcher

**Sound Arrangements and
Composition Mentor** David Bridie

Set Designer Emily Barrie

Lighting Designer Jenny Hector

Costume Designer Heidi Brooks

Video Content Designer Sean Bacon

Animation Patricia McKean and Guck

Core Band Gary Watling, Jason Butcher,
Jeremiah Butcher, Malcom Beveridge

Performers

Baykali Ganambarr (Sammy)

Googoorewon Knox (George)

Teangi Knox (Gordon & drums)

Aaron McGrath (Brian & Ensemble)

Jackson Peele (Neil)

Cassandra Williams (Suzina, Mum & Ensemble)

Tibian Wyles (Ian, Ensemble & Understudy)

Producers Nina Bonacci & Alexandra Paige

Theatre Consultant Sarah Goodes

Creative Consultant Lisa Watts

Dramaturg Amy Sole

Production Manager Nathan Evers

Stage Manager Celina Mack

Assistant Stage Managers PJ Rosas & Kira Feeney

Audio Engineer Daniel Lade

Warumpi Family Consulting Suzina McDonald &
Marion Burarrwanga

Pikilyi painting entitled Yuparli Dreaming
by Eunice Napangardi

Yuparli Tjukurrpa (Pikilyi) song sung
by Reenie Robertson

ABOUT THE SHOW

ILBIJERRI, in collaboration with the Butcher family, shares the untold story of Australian music icons Warumpi Band, from the perspective of founding band members the Butcher brothers, hailing from Papunya in the Northern Territory.

This show is a true embodiment of ILBIJERRI's practice of putting Community and social justice at the heart of everything we do, while still being artistically ambitious and a great night out.

BIG NAME, NO BLANKETS has been developed over five and a half years, with three creative developments on-country in Papunya, and two in Melbourne, with the legendary Sammy Butcher guiding us the entire way as our Story and Cultural Consultant.

We are thrilled that our show also features Sammy's extraordinarily talented children, Anyupa, Crystal, Jason and Jeremiah Butcher, and Sammy's niece Cassandra Williams.

Black, bold, and brilliant, this is a show you'll be talking about for years to come.

BIG NAME, NO BLANKETS represents hope and First People's strength in the face of the negative impacts of colonisation.

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Like the Warumpi band, this timely show is about bringing everyone together, Black and White Australia celebrating the First Peoples of this land and our collective stories.

WARUMPI BAND LIVES ON

By Crystal Butcher -

A member of the Warumpi Band family

Warumpi Band left an enduring legacy on Australia's music scene across three decades, three albums, and three national ARIA awards. Their profound impact on the national consciousness, especially in the central desert where their journey began, resonated deeply. The electrifying rock anthems reverberated through Pintupi Luritja communities - Papunya, Mt Leibig, Haast Bluff, and Kintore - forming the sonic backdrop to desert childhoods.

Growing up amidst the rise and peak of Warumpi Band's success set the stage for the next generation. Their radical, politically charged calls to action instilled hope and provided a voice for audiences that echoed the realities of their lives. The three critically acclaimed albums - *Big Name, No Blankets* (1985), *Go Bush!* (1987), and *Too Much Humbug* (1996) - not only defined an era but birthed a new sub-genre, Desert Reggae music. Desert Reggae, primarily sung in language, emerged as a potent storytelling tool, echoing Warumpi Band's ancient storytelling traditions.

At the core of this musical evolution stood Warumpi Band's lead guitarist, Sammy Butcher. His influence

and Warumpi Band's legacy provided a lifeline for youth grappling with profound challenges in the face of colonisation. Sammy's commitment to music as a positive outlet and a tool for empowerment is a beacon in the community and materialised in the setting up of a recording studio in Papunya in 2004. Warumpi Band's journey, encapsulated in their radical anthems, paved the way for a musical era that not only rocked stages but also resonated as a powerful force for societal change and empowerment.

To read more,

visit: ilbijerri.com.au/event/big-name-no-blankets/#lives-on

ILBIJERRI THEATRE COMPANY

ILBIJERRI is the longest established First Peoples led theatre company in Australia, creating, presenting and touring powerful and engaging theatre by First Peoples artists that gives voice to our Cultures.

First Peoples voices are powerful in determining the future of Australia. We create impact by and for First Peoples through sharing our stories, our way.

ILBIJERRI Theatre Company exists to:

- Create impactful theatre by First Peoples that tells our stories our way, embedding creative sovereignty in all our work and continuing our Songlines.
- Meet our responsibilities to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, including aspirations of voice and truth-telling, uplift, healing, opportunity, and access.
- Inform and encourage accomplices in the fight to eradicate racism.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ILBIJERRI deeply thanks:

Joy Butcher, Suzina McDonald, Marion Burarrwanga, Layi Layi Burarrwanga, Samara Fernandez, Neil Murray, Thom Crawford, Pauline Clague, Ursula Yovich, Patricia Cornelius, EmmyLou King, Elaine Crombie, Nick Glen, Brock Brocklesby, William Lawson, John Phillips, Tom Skinner, Matthew Harrod, Sarah Plaits, Deiter Barry, Iona Howard, Ashley McNeil; David Batty at Rebel Films; Kati Elizabeth at Guck; Buddy Knox & Fiona Peters; Nick Beech, Olivia Ansell, Clark Corby & the entire Sydney Festival team; Ally Harvey, Gideon Obarzanek & Hannah Fox at Rising; Rychelle Vines at NT Airport Development Group; Mark Smith at Music NT; Leah Flanagan and Jacob Ridgeway at APRA; Mike Finch, Alonso Pineda and Stephen Burton at Circus Oz; Rod at Theatre Star; Jo Scott and Dom Bartolo at 21-19; Hannah Cadogan at Universal.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Major Festivals Initiative, managed by the Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body, in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals Inc., commissioned by RISING, Sydney Festival, Darwin Festival, Brisbane Festival and Adelaide Festival.

ILBIJERRI would also like to thank the following supporters:

Creative Australia, Creative Victoria, Indigenous Languages and the Arts Program, The Balnaves Foundation, John T Reid Foundation, Dennis Osborne Clarke Charitable Trust, Australian Plays Transform and Sage Foundation.

Sydney Festival sincerely thanks Larissa Behrendt AO and Michael Lavarch AO, Canny Quine Foundation, Scully Fund and all our private donors whose generosity and support make projects like this possible.

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