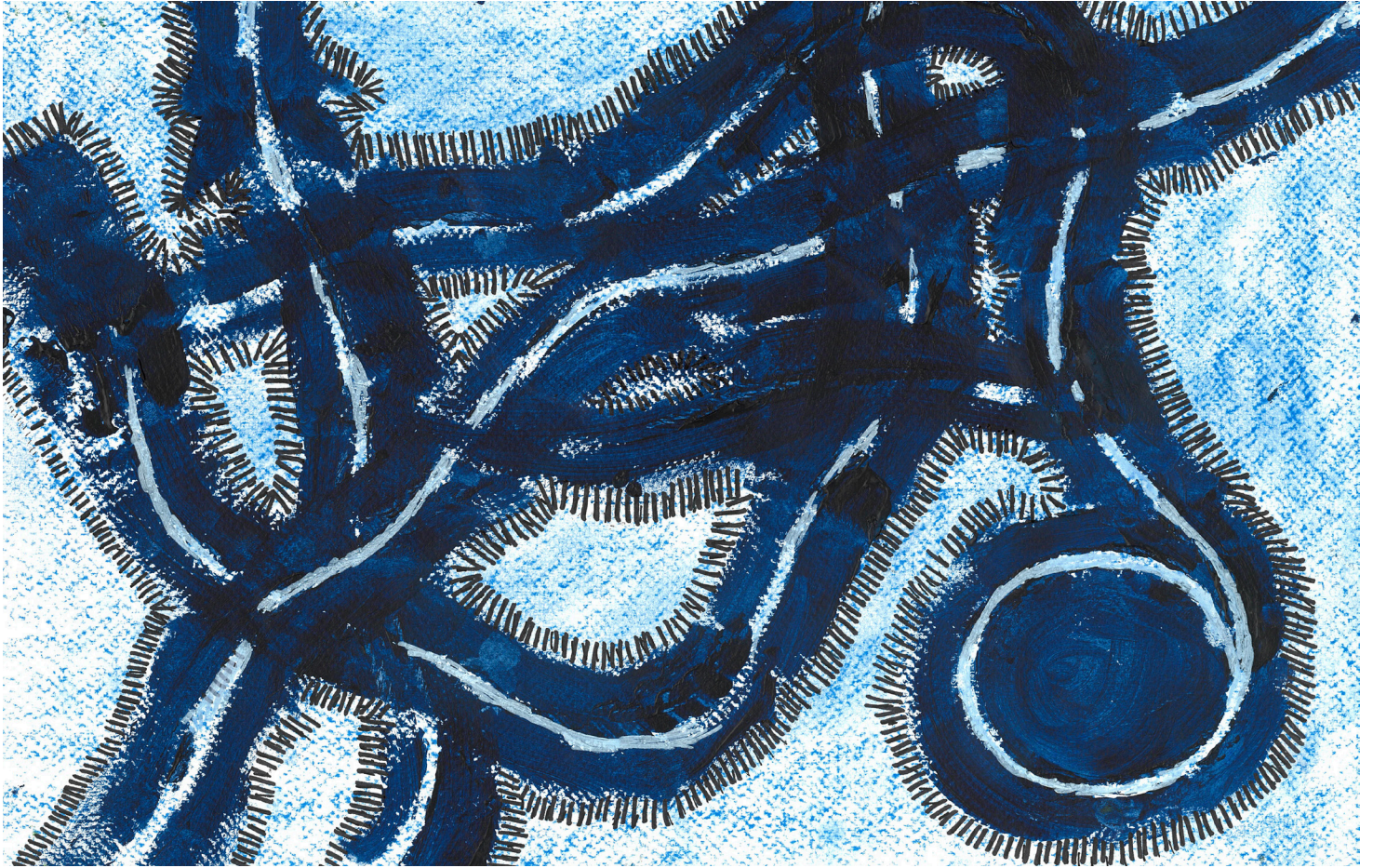


Garabari

Presented by Arts House, Chunky Move and Joel Bray Dance



Garabari means Corroboree in Wiradjuri. This Garabari is a love letter, I guess, to my family; to my Koori community and to all of us who don't feel 'cultural' enough. A fist shaken at a system that committed genocide and now, perversely, tells us we aren't Black enough.

This Garabari asks: how is culture made and who gets to make it? To begin, Dad and I went out on Country to meet people and to yarn. Our footprints ended up in Wagga-Wagga: the Place Where People Come to Dance and Celebrate; where the mighty Murrumbidgee floods, filling the lagoons with cod and lobster. 'Supermarkets', Uncle James calls them, feeding Mob whilst they gather and dance.

Solemn or playful, this Garabari speaks to the virtuosity of Wiradjuri ceremony – one shared ritual that can be read in multiple ways depending on where you stand in the knowledge system. The concealing is just as important as the revealing and, sometimes, you have to go for a wander to find what you're looking for.

Like all corroborees, this Garabari has been authored by a community of Elders, dancers, artists, musicians, crew and Wiradjuri speakers, both Koori and non-Indigenous. I honour and thank them all. Most importantly this Garabari is led by Elders: my father Uncle Christopher and, in Wagga-Wagga, I found the joy of being embraced by a newfound family. Aunty Cheryl, Aunty Mary, Aunty Jackie and Uncle James have kindly and generously shared with us the story of the Making of the Murrumbidgee. This Story of the power of the Wiradjuri matriarchy forms the narrative spine of this Garabari, just as the River itself forms the spine of the space.

As I write this, our precious Wiradjuri Country is under water; flooding caused by unbridled greed. The Rivers, as Aunty Cheryl says, are speaking to us. This Garabari is an invitation to listen, to gather, to move together and to act; the time for standing back and watching is over.

– Joel Bray

Creative Team

Choreographer/Director	Joel Bray
Performers	Chandler Connell, Luke Currie-Richardson, Tra Mi Dinh, Mason Kelly, Amelia Jean O'Leary
Understudy	Karlia Cook
Project Elder	Uncle Christopher Kirkbright
Sound & Music	Byron Scullin
Lighting and Projection Designer	Katie Sfetkidis
Screen Video Production	NON Studio
Costume Designer	Denni Francisco
Song written, translated and performed by	Uncle Christopher Kirkbright and Letetia Harris
Additional voices and voice textures	Carolyn Connors
Dramaturg	Luke George
Collaborating Elder	Uncle James Ingram
Community Engagement Coordinator	Visual Dreaming
Production Manager	Ashley Buchanan
Stage Manager	Lucie Sutherland
Assistant Stage Manager	Erin O'Shea
Rehearsal Director	Rachel Coulson
Costume Fabricator	Fiona Holley
AV Programmer/Operator	Alex Nguyen
Lighting Programmer/Operator	Adelaide Harney
Community art-making day participants	Juanita McLauchlan (Facilitator), Jordan Ingram (Facilitator), Uncle James Ingram, Aunty Jackie Ingram, Aunty Mary Atkinson, Aunty Cheryl Penrith, Oliver Rolls, Taniesha Wilson, Tylor Wilson, Maree Atkinson, Wesley Williams-Boney, Darren Honeysett, Richard Penrith

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the Wagga-Wagga elders for the gift of the story of the Making of the Murrumbidgee, and to Uncle James as the custodian of that story.

Garabari is supported through the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund – an Australian Government initiative, the Australian Government through the Indigenous Languages and Arts program and through the Australia Council for the Arts, the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, BlakDance through BlakForm, the Besen Family Foundation, Creative Partnerships Australia through MATCH Lab, and Eastern Riverina Arts. Joel Bray is supported by Chunky Move and the Tanja Liedtke Foundation through the Chunky Move Choreographer In Residence program. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body and the City of Melbourne through Arts House.

Thank you

Thank you to the cast and creative team of Garabari; Bernadette Lewis, Jasmin Sheppard, Carly Sheppard, Theodore Cassady, Jeremy Beck, N'arweet Carolyn Briggs, Josh Wright, Alison Halit, Bundanon, Aunty Cheryl Penrith, Aunty Mary Atkinson, Aunty Jackie Ingram, Leanne Sanders, Uncle James Ingram, Uncle Stan Grant, Uncle Michael Lyons, Uncle Bruce Crowe, Tim Kurylowicz, Carissa Campbell, Robert Lewis, Vickie Burkinshaw, Steve Moore, Leanne Dyer, Kim Walker, Deon Hastie; Antony Hamilton, Kristy Ayre, Kristina Arnott and the Chunky Move staff and Board; Veronica Bolzon, Lucie Sutherland and Elyse Cox at Joel Bray Dance; Merindah Donnelly and the BlakDance team; Nithya Nagarajan, Emily Sexton, Olivia Anderson, Sarah Rowbottam, Tony MacDonald and the Arts House team; Blair Hart, Kurt and Gerlinde Liedtke, Jonathan Cebon and Chris Cobbett, Ann Cebon, and the generous donors of Joel Bray Dance and Chunky Move, Michaela Purske, Christopher Cheers, Darren Conway, Harrison Hall, Marcel Feillafe and Jay Tettamanti.



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