

Arts Centre Melbourne and Terrapin present

A Not So Traditional Story by Nathan Maynard



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, 19 JUNE 2019 – Making its Melbourne debut at Arts Centre Melbourne comes a story with a little bit of truth and a little bit of make believe, one might even say it's [*A Not So Traditional Story*](#). Showing at the Fairfax Theatre from 7 – 8 September, Terrapin will find its place within the [Families Winter/Spring program](#).

A Not So Traditional Story is a rare and memorable performance that combines Terrapin's renowned skill in entertaining and engaging children with the voice of a new generation of Tasmanian Aboriginal performing artists.

Two young'uns, Wurangkili a keen adventurer and Timita a somewhat timid traveller, meet a mysterious alien named River when he gets lost in their country on his flying canoe. With River's pet Wombat "Wombie" in tow, they all go on an expedition across the island of lutruwita to find the meaning of a mysterious object, getting clues along the way from an Eagle, a Lizard and a Kangaroo who has some rather elaborate conspiracy theories.

Writer and performer **Nathan Maynard** is a descendant of the chief of the Trawlwoolway Clan and the whole of the North East Tasmanian Indigenous peoples. He says this work was a long time in the making and something he knew would impact children in a very significant way.

"There has never been a theatre piece like this about a black Tasmanian fella. I don't expect every kid when they're watching it to immediately understand what it's about; it might take them two days, two weeks or 10 years to fully realise it. But if they can connect with these characters, then they can develop empathy for them and therefore develop empathy for the Tasmanian Aboriginal people's stories and our struggles," Maynard said.

This beautiful and funny production uses masks, shadow puppetry and physical theatre to tell an important story of culture, identity, bravery and friendship.

Arts Centre Melbourne's year-round Families Program was launched in August 2009 and has grown in reputation to become a highly respected program nationally and internationally. Featuring intimate and large-scale theatre from some

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100 St Kilda Road,
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Media Release

of the world's most respected companies and a diverse range of interactive workshops, the program is robust and growing in size, scale and scope.

Images can be found [here](#).

About Terrapin

Inspired by a deep connection to the most imaginative and fantastic of art forms, an experience with Terrapin reminds us all that our ability to create something extraordinary is always with us, wherever we are. From their island home in Tasmania, they create worlds of creative adventure. Their in-theatre productions transport children and families to incredible places with narratives of adventure, humour and beauty. Their interactive installations use simple technologies in dazzling ways to make audiences of all ages essential creators in transforming public space. They engage the best people from a wide range of artistic backgrounds and practices in performance, design, construction, music composition and systems design. The energy and dynamic processes used to craft their work are clearly reflected in the work itself; its providence and inventiveness woven throughout. As unique as the remote place in which it is made, their creations are universally resonant in the themes, sense of humour and popularity. They present to diverse audiences far and wide and are committed to supporting local and national artists; welcoming resident, associate, and trainee artists to join in exploring their art form and the world.

Creative Team

Director: Sam Routledge

Writer: Nathan Maynard

Composer: Matthew Fargher

Set & Costume Design: Michelle Boyde

Lighting Designer: Nick Higgins

Puppet Design & Construction: Bryony Anderson and Sabrina Evans

Basket & Water Carrier Construction: Lillian Wheatley

Creation Story Character Design: Lillian Wheatley

Backdrop Design & Construction: Michelle Maynard

Performers: Craig Irons, Nathan Maynard, Denni Proctor and Jordy Gregg

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A Not So Traditional Story

Fairfax Studio

7 – 8 September

7 September | 11am, 2pm* & 4pm

8 September | 11am & 2pm

***Auslan interpreted**

Duration: 1 hour (no interval)

Age: 5+

Accessibility: wheelchair, Auslan, assistive hearing, companion card

Bookings at artscentremelbourne.com.au

For more information about Arts Centre Melbourne, please visit www.artscentremelbourne.com.au or phone 1300 182 183. Become a fan of [Arts Centre Melbourne on Facebook](#) or follow [@artscentremelb](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

For further media information and interviews, please contact Media Advisor Kara Bertoncini on (03) 8699 9553, 0438 423 308 or kara.bertoncini@artscentremelbourne.com.au.

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