

GAPU NUPAN (CHASING THE RAINBOW)

PRESENTED BY ASIA TOPA, ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE
IN ASSOCIATION WITH LUCY GUERIN INC



ASIA
TOPA

***Wominjeka yearmann koondée
biik Wurundjeri balluk.***

Welcome to the land of the Wurundjeri people.

Arts Centre Melbourne and the Melbourne Arts Precinct sit on a site that has been a gathering place for song, storytelling, community and culture for First Nations people for millennia.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we gather, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung.

We also acknowledge the neighbouring Kulin Nation groups, the Boonwurrung and Bunurong people, and pay our respects to elders, past and present.

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Important Information

Throughout the year Arts Centre Melbourne presents a captivating program of inclusive experiences – accessible for everyone – by some of the best Australian and international companies.

Arts Centre Melbourne presents programs and performances that are accessible, including Relaxed Performances and events that are Auslan Interpreted, Audio Described, Tactile Tours, Highly Visual and Wheelchair accessible.

An Assistive Listening system is available in our venues and Companion Card holders are eligible for a complimentary companion ticket.

Check our website for more details about **Relaxed Performances** and **accessibility** at Arts Centre Melbourne.

Relaxed Performance

Arts Centre Melbourne is committed to providing events where everyone can feel welcome to participate in their own way. Relaxed Performances (RP) are for anyone who would benefit from a more relaxed environment.

The atmosphere is 'relaxed', we embrace noisy enthusiasm and it's okay to move during the show. During a Relaxed Performance, the doors stay open, some lights stay on at a dim level and a quiet space will be available in the foyer if you need a break. Seating is General Admission, which means you can choose your seat when you enter the theatre. We may make minor changes such as reducing bright light and loud sound.

Visual Story

Visual Stories are designed to help prepare you for your visit. They include information about our venues and what will happen during the performance.

This visual story has been developed in collaboration between Beau Windon and the Arts Centre Melbourne Access & Inclusion team.

The visual story contains photography and images by: Aris Media, Rangarang Curimudju, Kate Disher Quill, Andy Drewitt, Mark Gambino, Samuel James, Jason Lau, and Gregory Lorenzutti.

Contact

If you would like any additional information in the lead up to your visit, please contact Arts Centre Melbourne on 1300 182 183 during business hours or email tickets@artscentremelbourne.com.au.

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Venue

This production of *Gapu Nupan* will be performed at the Playhouse, which is inside Arts Centre Melbourne.

Length

The performance is 65 minutes with no interval.

Age Recommendation

Suitable for ages 10+

Audiences are encouraged to review warnings and talk to staff in order to assess appropriateness of content. More details are included in the visual story.

Content and Sensory Warnings

- The house lights will be dim above you during the *Gapu Nupan* Relaxed Performance.
- *Gapu Nupan* contains music and sound effects. Sometimes the sound can be loud. Some songs include sudden yelling.
- The performers wear traditional clothing and there is some partial nudity.
- Allusions to hunting are presented through dance.
- Some dance segments include loud stomping.

Theatre Guidelines

- Photography and mobile devices are not permitted during the performance, however if you need to use a device (such as an iPad) for accessibility purposes or to assist with communication, please inform the ushers. It's always fine to use a device in the foyer or quiet spaces.
- During the Relaxed Performance, a relaxed attitude is taken to movement, noise and eating/drinking in the auditorium (this is okay).
- If you need to take a break during the show, you are welcome to come out into the foyer area. A quiet space will be available, with low lighting and comfortable seating. You can return to the theatre when you are ready – trained staff are available to assist as required.
- To ensure COVID safety, sensory items will only be available upon request. We encourage audiences to bring your own items that will help you feel comfortable in the theatre, such as headphones and fidget toys.
- Face masks are recommended indoors.

About the Venue

Gapu Nupan is being performed at Arts Centre Melbourne. The building is across from the city centre on the other side of the Birrarung (Yarra River) and has a tall spire on top of it.



The Building

You might go into the building through the car park, and the traffic could be busy. Or you will enter through the doors to the building on St Kilda Road.

When you get to the building you will see other people who are also going to see shows. Some of them might be seeing *Gapu Njupan* like you.



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You will also see people wearing black uniforms. They are called **ushers**. They can help you with directions or answer any questions you may have about the performance.

The place might be quite busy when you arrive, so you may wish to allow yourself extra time or wear headphones if it's noisy.

There are places inside the building to buy food and drink, if you want to.



Find Your Way

There are three theatres inside Arts Centre Melbourne. Today you are going to the **Playhouse** on Level 5.

You might need to walk down some stairs or use the elevator to get to the Playhouse Theatre. The friendly ushers will help you find your way.

Before going inside the Playhouse, you may like to use the bathroom. Accessible toilets are available on all levels, so please feel free to ask for directions.



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Seating

The doors to the theatre will open about **30 minutes** before the start of the show. You can go into the theatre and find a seat early if you want to.

Before you go into the theatre, you will need to show your ticket to the usher.

Your ticket will let you know that seating is **General Admission**.

This means that you can choose which seat you would like to watch the show from. If you prefer, an usher can recommend seats and take you to them.



During the Show

The show will go for about **65 minutes**. There is no interval but if you need to take a break during the show you can leave your seat and come out to the foyer area. You can do this whenever you need to.

There will be a **Quiet Space** in the foyer that has comfortable beanbags and soft lighting where you can relax if you want to.

You can return to the theatre and watch the rest of the show whenever you feel ready.



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After the Show

When the show ends, people will clap their hands to thank the performers. Some might even cheer or stand up while clapping! If it's too loud you can cover your ears.

Some people may participate with a Deaf clap, by waving their hands in the air. You can join in too if you like.



About the Show

Gapu Ngupan (Chasing the Rainbow) is a powerful new First Nations collaboration between artists from North East Arnhem Land, Australia (Yolŋu people of the coast), and the Paiwan (people of the mountain) and Amis (Pacific Coast) tribes of Taiwan.

Experience an empowering celebration of the friendship and unity between the Yolŋu people, the Paiwan and Amis tribes. Engage with their traditional rituals and cultures – and take new knowledge of a very different way of life to share with others around you.

Witness a self-determined project that blends traditional and contemporary music, dance, song, video projection, and sound design to tell ancient ancestral stories of connections between Yolŋu and Paiwan peoples.

You are invited to interpret the show in your own way and enjoy a glimpse into a different world.

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The Team Behind the Performance

Rachael Wallis is the Artistic Director of Miku Performing Arts, a new company employing First Nations artists who share and preserve ancient knowledge through performance. Rachael has Yolŋu family in Nhulunbuy and Yirrkala, North East Arnhem Land, where she lived and worked for 20 years.

Suming Rupi is an Amis singer-songwriter, actor, artist, dancer and music festival founder. His creative works reflect the development of his own indigenous culture in the context of contemporary society.

Banula Marika–Rirratjingu is a Yolŋu man from Yirrkala, North East Arnhem Land who has performed across Australia and much of the world. Banula was a Dhimurru ranger for over 20 years and has welcomed many tourists to Yolŋu country. Teaching and sharing the song lines and knowledge of Yolŋu culture is not only an honour but also his passion. He is a highly respected leader of the Rirratjingu clan of North East Arnhem Land, mentoring and guiding many young men through ceremony and song.

And the Featured Performers

Piya Talaliman, Ljaucu Talimaraw, Ngalkanbuy Mungungurr, Ineke Wallis, Loretta Yunupingu, Temu Masin and Seredau Tariyaljan as the Paiwan song woman.



Photo

Back row L to R: Daniel Bowman Banula Marika; Jeff Khan; Ngalkanbuy Munungurr; Barbara Berryman; Seredau Tariyaljan; Dremedreman Curimudjuq; Ljaucu Talimaraw; Kagaw Yana; Suming Rup; Evan Saunders. Front row L to R: Arian Ganambarr Pearson, Milika Marika; Kath Papas, Ljius Kulivu; Piya Talaliman.

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What You'll See

Spanning the ocean and imagining a stronger, First Nations-led future, *Gapu Nupan* exemplifies pride of culture and a deep nourishment in spirit and connection.

On the stage there will be a beautiful large screen shaped like a gentle wave and displaying video. You'll see hand drawings, symbols, and video of the Countries of the Yolŋu and Paiwan peoples. Sometimes you'll see people behind the screen, but most of the performance takes place in front of the screen. The screen delivers an immersive sense of the landscape and Country of the artists, flowing in harmony with the performance and the story.

The costumes in *Gapu Nupan* are a blend of traditional and contemporary clothing. The Paiwan artists' traditional costumes feature a lot of embroidery, beads and decorative metal drops. The Yolŋu performers sometimes wear traditional dress and sometimes wear contemporary costumes. They also have ochre on their faces and bodies.

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What You'll Hear

Gapu Nupan features many traditional instruments such as the yidaki ('didjeridu'), bilma ('clapsticks'), and the Paiwan double-barrel nose flute. There is singing and chanting in Yolŋu-matha (Yolŋu language) and in Paiwan language. There is also a lot of stomping and clapping during these harmonious moments, this could be loud.

The music is comprised of pre recorded and live sounds. You'll also hear natural elements such as water or rain at times, connecting with the performance.



The Show

If you don't want to know what happens during the show, feel free to stop reading now. If you want to know more and don't mind spoilers, keep reading!

As first light takes the stage, we open with two Yolŋu women joining in traditional dance while Yolŋu language is shared over the loudspeakers.

A Yolŋu man plays the bilma (or what you would call clapsticks), and sings manikay (song) from his homeland of North East Arnhem Land. He's followed by a younger Yolŋu man, playing the yidaki ('didgeridu').



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The other Indigenous peoples, from the Paiwan tribe, enter the stage. Two younger men – bells attached to them and rattling tunes – dance rhythmically. Seredau Tariyaljan commands your attention as they sincerely

sing a Paiwan harmony. Next to them, a man in traditional Paiwan clothing sits to play the Paiwan double-barrel nose flute. This is the Paiwan people and their culture.



A presentation of travel is told through contemporary dance. There will be stomping during this and some sudden loud noises. This is dance that

is probably unlike anything you've ever seen before. It is a gift for you to enjoy an underrepresented culture of the world.

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Two young travellers meet two Yolŋu women. With music that is soft, slow and specific – the cultures approach each other with caution and curiosity. Song blooms with a vibration that will stir you in your seat.

The gentle dancing of one culture contrasts with the stomping dance of the other. The cultures come together.



A young Yolŋu man bounds onto the stage, using traditional dance to perform the kangaroo. A wise and compassionate older man hunts the marsupial.

While the atmosphere might feel tense during this part of the performance, you can rest assured that both performers know what they're doing and are getting a lot of joy from enacting this story for the audience.

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Two Yolngu women dance, their movements inspired by how women move through the mangroves to gather and cook shellfish.

Take some time to focus on the dance – what do you see taking place here? How might you interpret their performance?



All the performers take the stage, their song and dance intertwining. A twisting fusion of cultures, like multiple leaves dancing on the same wind breeze. Voices, instruments

and movement combine to form a powerful new connection. This might get loud as the music, vocals and dance reach their peak.

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As the friendship between cultures is cemented, the final dance reaches a rousing climax. Some in the audience may start clapping in tune with the performers – feel free to join in.

Once the song concludes, the audience are encouraged to give a round of applause. This might include clapping, whistling and some shouting. Feel free to join in, but if it gets too loud you're always welcome to cover your ears or leave the theatre.

Artistic Team

Created and produced by Miku
Performing Arts, Hui Jia Creatives,
Kath Papas Productions & Artback
NT Inc.

Co-artistic director, choreographer:
Rachael Wallis

**Rirratjingu cultural director,
songman:**
Banula Marika

Co-artistic director, composer:
Suming Rupl

Paiwan songwoman:
Seredau Tariyaljan

Choreographer, performer:
Piya Talaliman

Performers:
Ljaucu Talimaraw,
Ngalkanbuy Mununggurr,
Gandhurrminy (Loretta) Yunupingu,
Ineke Wallis, Temu Masin,
Barraral Mununggurr

Sound designer, cultural consultant:
Arian Ganambarr Pearson

**Video artist, screen design
& realisation:**
Samuel James

Lighting designer:
Karen Norris

Contemporary costume designer:
Peta Strachan

Sound engineer:
Cudjui Tjapalji

**Production manager,
screen realisation:**
Alejandro Rolandi

Stage manager:
Jess Keepence

Co-producers Australia:
Kath Papas, Kath Papas Productions
& Evan Saunders, Artback NT Inc

**Co-producer Taiwan &
Paiwan cultural consultant:**
Dremedreman Curimudjuq

Translators:
Nunung Puhay, Yageh Yaraw,
Ljius Kulivu

Vocal recordings shared by
Kathy Marika and Wendy Marika

Artist communities:
Dulan, Tjuvecekadan, Yirrkala /
Nhulunbuy, Cavak, Kaway,
Takamimura

Video featuring
Yolgnu, Paiwan and Amis Country

Photographer:
Sakinu Kazangiljan



Supporters

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