

CORANDERRK

The forgotten fight for land against the Aboriginal Protection Board

In Melbourne for National Sorry Day (26/5)
Footscray, Kyneton and Geelong for National Reconciliation Week (27/5 - 3/6)
then touring to NSW, ACT, QLD and NT

16 May – Cardinia Cultural Centre, **Pakenham** | **18 May** – **Altona** Theatre
20 May – **Frankston** Arts Centre
23 May – Drama Theatre, Monash University Academy of Performing Arts, **Clayton**
24 May – Clocktower Centre, **Moonee Ponds**
26 to 27 May – **Footscray** Community Arts Centre | **30 May** – **Kyneton** Town Hall
1 to 3 June – **Geelong** Performing Arts Centre

Written by Andrea James & Giordano Nanni, Directed by Eva Grace Mullaley
Starring Trevor Jamieson, Mathew Cooper, Ebony McGuire & Jesse Butler

"The story of CORANDERRK and the incredible capacity of that community to lobby and be politically strategic is an inspiration to all of us today", says ILBIJERRI Artistic Director **Rachael Maza**,

Coranderrk returns re-written and remounted for a national tour presented by ILBIJERRI Theatre Company and Belvoir with Regional Arts Victoria. Since April 2017, the production has played to capacity houses across Victoria and returns to Melbourne and Geelong before touring to NSW, Canberra, Toowoomba and Darwin.

This incarnation of *Coranderrk* stars one of Australia's most recognisable faces of theatre, film and TV, **Trevor Jamieson** in the lead role alongside **Matthew Cooper, Ebony McGuire** and **Jesse Butler**.

"One of the decisions we made for this production of **Coranderrk** was to have an all Indigenous cast. This is absolutely critical to the concept that this is our story and we're going to tell it from our perspective", concluded Maza.

In the neglected storehouse of Australian history sits this definitive story. At a Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry in 1881, the men and women of the Coranderrk Aboriginal Reserve went head-to-head with the Aboriginal Protection Board. Their goal was both simple and revolutionary - to be allowed to continue the brilliant, self-sustaining farming community they had established on the scrap of country left to them.

The production, which is inspired by transcripts of the 1881 Inquiry, revives the voices of all those, black and white, who fought for a better compact between the country's oldest and newest inhabitants – three dozen of them from 136 years ago, speaking for themselves, directly to us, as though the question at hand remains unanswered today.

The Coranderrk station was established 154 years ago in 1863 by surviving members of Kulin clans who had been displaced from their lands by the advancement of European colonisation. They settled outside of present-day Healesville, Victoria and established a thriving farming community. As white farmers began to settle in the area they lobbied to have the people of Coranderrk removed from the valuable farming land they were cultivating.

Faced with the prospect of being dispossessed of their land again, the men and women of Coranderrk mounted an unprecedented campaign. They wrote letters to Melbourne's newspapers, petitions to Ministers, and formed deputations to the Chief Minister by walking into Melbourne, appropriating the power of the written word and white political discourse to demand justice, dignity and self-determination. A Parliamentary Inquiry was appointed in 1881 to investigate the management of Coranderrk and decide upon the future of the station and its inhabitants.

This special production pays tribute to the resilience and adaptability of a people who rose to the challenge despite the odds, appropriating the power of the written word to make their own voices ring loud and clear.

A collaboration between leading artists, researchers, education experts and community members, *Coranderrk* aims to encourage a shared understanding of the past between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. researchers, education experts and community members, *Coranderrk* aims to encourage a shared understanding of the past between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

Running Time: 70-minutes no interval

Warnings: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander audiences are warned that this production contains images of deceased persons

[FULL TOUR DATES SEE BELOW OR CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE WEBSITE](#)

About ILBIJERRI Theatre Company

ILBIJERRI is Australia's leading and longest running Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Theatre Company. We create challenging and inspiring theatre creatively controlled by Indigenous artists. Each year we travel to national, regional and remote locations across Australia, and the world. Our collaborative relationships with communities and artists are at the heart of our creative process and all our work empowers and enlightens our audiences.

ILBIJERRI would like to thank Aunty Joy Murphy and the descendants of William Barak and Coranderrk for allowing us to tell their story.

Production Credits:

Sound Designer: James Henry

Audio Visual Designer: Keith Deverell

Original AV Design: Peter Worland

Set Designers: Brynna Lowen & Tegan Evans

Original Set Design: Ruby Langton-Batty & Ralph Myers

Lighting Designer: Tegan Evans

Costume Designer: Brynna Lowen

Production Manager: Sarah Wong

Stage Manager: Brock Brocklesby

REMAINING TOUR DATES:

Victoria

13 May 2017 – Plenty Ranges Arts & Convention Centre, **South Morang**

16 May 2017 – Cardinia Cultural Centre, **Pakenham**

18 May 2017 – Altona Theatre

20 May 2017 – Frankston Arts Centre

23 May 2017 – Drama Theatre, Monash University Academy of Performing Arts, Clayton

24 May 2017 – Clocktower Centre, Moonee Ponds

26 to 27 May 2017 – Footscray Community Arts Centre

30 May 2017 – **Kyneton** Town Hall

1 to 3 June 2017 – **Geelong** Performing Arts Centre

Australian Capital Territory

14 to 15 June 2017 – Canberra Theatre Centre

New South Wales

17 June 2017 – **Orange** Civic Theatre

20 June 2017 – **Bathurst** Memorial Entertainment Centre

21 June 2017 – **Cessnock** Performing Arts Centre

24 to 26 June 2017 – The Art House, **Wyong**

28 June 2017 – Riverside, **Parramatta**

30 June to 1 July 2017 – Northern River Performing Arts, **Lismore**

Queensland

5 July 2017 – Empire Theatre, **Toowoomba**

Northern Territory

7 July 2017 – **Darwin** Entertainment Centre

MEDIA INQUIRIES: