WALTZING THE — WILARRA

Written and Composed by David Milroy
Directed by Brittanie Shipway











PRODUCER

Christine Harris

CREATIVES

Writer & Composer
Director
Musical Director
Choreographer/Movement Director
Set, Costume & Props Designer
Lighting Designer

David Milroy Brittanie Shipway Cameron McConville Freya List Harry Gill Mitchell Blaser

CAST (In aphabetical order)

Fay Griver
Charlie Runaway
Jack
Mrs Cray
Elsa
Old Toss
Mr Mack
Athena/Young Harry

Juliette Coates
Shaka Cook
Clancy Enchelmaier
Lisa Maza
Lorinda May Merrypor
Leonard Mickelo
Jalen Sutcliffe
Hannah Underwood

BAND

MD, Keys, Guitar, Accordion, Backing Vocals Drums

Cameron McConville Matthew Morgan

CREW

Production Manager Stage Manager Sound Technician/Production Manager Lighting Technician Harley Honeyman (Sbrotn) Pip Haupt Lukas Battey Samuel Victoria

PRODUCTION TEAM

Finance Manager
Payroll Officer
Business Administration Officer
Marketing Manager
Marketing Support
Travel/Logistics

Andrea Condon
Sarah Robertson
Janine Gracias
Bruce Paroissien
Liz Zito

Gary Freeman (Stage and Screen)

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS



It's always a rare treat to work on an Australian piece, and even rarer to find a blak-led story with humour, drama and a cracker original score. *Waltzing the Wilarra* is a part of the rare First Nations musical canon, joining the likes of *Bran Nue Dae*, *The Sapphires* and *The Sunshine Club*. It's so important these works get to breathe again after an initial production, so I'm excited to see *HIT Productions* take *Waltzing the Wilarra* on the road!

David Milroy has written a beautiful piece that not only champions the movement of blak rights, but also the power of music and dance in an otherwise fractured world. Loosely based on a real dance hall called the 'Coolbaroo Club', the story of Waltzing the Wilarra takes place on one of the few community spaces that was safe for mob to dance unsegregated, in spite of atrocious racial politics prevalent in 1949 Australia.

Although our club is fictitious, it's impossible to ignore the heart and humanity of each of these characters and the strong, yet complex dynamics they have with each other. We've got mob from all over to tell this story based on Whadjuk Country, and I couldn't have dreamed up a more talented, dedicated and good-humoured cast to bring these characters from page to stage. Every actor has poured their energy into creating rich and nuanced interpretations that make this show truly sing.

So much work goes into building a theatrical world, let alone making it tourable across regional Australia!

Our Stage Manager Jasmine magically makes everything just... happen. I'd be lost without them. Our technical wizards Harley, Mitch and Lukas carry the load of this mammoth project (all 5 tonnes of it on the road). I'm incredibly grateful for our Set, Costume and Props Designer Harry, for his ingenuity and willingness to think outside the box. He's created a whimsically resourceful playground and imaginative costumes that have been so fun to play with. Our brilliant Musical Director Cameron has crafted and sculpted Milroy's wonderful score, bringing an unbelievable amount of texture from a 2-man band! Cameron is such a talented musician and arranger, and I'm so lucky to have him on this show.

It would be remiss of me not to give a standing ovation to our wickedly-talented-award-winning-choreographer, Freya. Not only has she seamlessly blended swivels and swing dancing with theatrical storytelling, her whole process is underpinned by a curiosity and dramaturgical rigour that is a director's dream! I wouldn't have hit the finishing line (or starting line for that matter!) without her.

I'm so appreciative to everyone and Chrissy at *HIT Productions* for placing their faith and trust in a first-time director. I cannot wait to share with regional Australia what we've been cooking up.

THE CREATIVES



CHRISTINE HARRIS & HIT PRODUCTIONS - Producer

Christine Harris, Managing Director of HIT Productions, has been a significant Australian producer for 30+ years. Recognised as Australia's Premier Theatre Touring Company, HIT has completed 135+ tours and is committed to touring outstanding mainstream productions including First Nations works to metro, regional and remote venues Australia wide. Since HIT's first tour of Hannie Rayson's *Hotel Sorrento* in 1999, Christine has delivered some of the most extensive tours ever staged in Australia including David Williamson's *The Club*, Louis Nowra's *Cosi*, Joanna Murray-Smith's *Love Child*, Alan Seymour's *The One Day of the Year*, Jonathan Biggins' Australia Day, 2019-2020/2022 national tours of Tony Briggs' *The Sapphires* & Ray Lawler's *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* and the nationwide tour (2023-2024) of *The Sunshine Club*, written and directed by Wesley Enoch and music by John Rodgers. The company has more recently been coordinating major tours for some of Australia's most profile music artists/bands such as *Eskimo Joe*, *Black Sorrows* and many more. An award winning actor, Christine has also been recognised as a Business Women's Hall of Fame Inductee, and won the Telstra Victorian Entrepreneur of the Year and Women's Network Australia Executive Woman of the Year.



DAVID MILROY - Playwright, Composer & Director's Consultant

David Milroy was born in Perth, Western Australia in 1957. David is a Palyku man whose country is in the East Pilbara. Formerly Artistic Director of Yirra Yaakin Theatre, David has been involved in Theatre in Western Australia for a number of years as a musician, director and writer. His writing/directing credits include *Windmill Baby, King Hit, Panawathi Girl* and *Swine River*. He provided musical direction for *Sister girl* and *Dead Heart* (Black Swan Theatre Company) and Perth Theatre Company's production of *Wild Cat Falling*. He co-wrote and directed Sally Morgan's hit play *Cruel Wild Woman* and Barking Gecko's production of *Own Worst Enemy* for the Festival of Perth. In 2022 David premiered his new play, *Panawathi Girl* at the Perth International Arts Festival. David received a Sidney Myer Award in 2002 for his contribution to the development of Indigenous theatre. His play *Windmill Baby* made history in 2005 by being the first ever single script to win the prestigious Patrick White Award. Most significantly, it was the first Indigenous script to win this award. It subsequently won the 2006 WA Equity Award for best new play, the 2006 Deadly Award for best sound score and the 2007 Kate Challis RAKA Award. David was honoured with an Australia Council Fellowship, which enabled him to continue to forge new pathways for Indigenous theatre.



BRITTANIE SHIPWAY - Director

Brittanie Shipway is a Gumbaynggirr and Turkish playwright, dramaturg, director and performer. She wrote and starred in her debut play *A Letter for Molly* at the Ensemble Theatre (semi-finalist for Rodney Seaborn Award, nominated for Best Play Broadway World 2022). Her next play *Senser*, premiered at Theatre Works in 2022 and featured original music by composer Jess Newman and Brittanie Shipway. Her original musical *Yellow Rock* won her the prestigious Dreaming Award and APRA AMCOS Award. Beyond theatre, she has written for ABC Radio and SBS Voices. As a performer, Brittanie has made her mark as Hermia in Bell Shakespeare's premiere of *The Lovers*. She has also performed as the Arbiter in *Chess*, Kay in *The Sapphires*, and most recently starred in The Hayes' smash hit *Pirates of Penzance*, with her performance getting rave reviews. Later this year Brittanie will be returning to The Hayes to direct the Tony-Award-winning musical *Once On This Island* (Curveball Creatives) and *Witches of Eastwick* (Neglected Musicals).



CAMERON McCONVILLE - Musical Director

Cameron McConville (he/him) is a musician, arranger and singer-songwriter currently living on Gadigal land. As a jazz pianist, Cam's minimalist, lyrical touch has garnered work across Australia in various, often eclectic contexts, including solo-piano tours along the east-coast, residencies at The Brisbane Jazz Club and contracted performances with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra. He's worked extensively in community and professional theatre, most recently touring with HIT Productions 2023-2024 iteration of *The Sunshine Club*. As a singer/songwriter Cam has opened for acts like Adam Newling and Jo Davie, touring both solo and with his band throughout QLD and NSW. Musically "caught in the cracks of folk, rock and jazz", he draws on figures like Joni Mitchell, Paul Simon and Madison Cunningham. Cam studied Jazz Piano at the *Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University and* is ecstatic to be making his music directing debut in *Waltzing the Wilarra*.



FREYA LIST - Choreographer/Movement Director

Freya List is a versatile Choreographer and Movement Director whose work spans Theatre, Film, Television, Company Works, and the Music Industry. Freya has received Green Room Awards for her Choreographic work on Cruel Intentions: The 90s Musical (DVE), Next To Normal (James Terry Collective), The Grinning Man (Salty Theatre), and nominated for Candide (OA at the Opera House) and Bright Star (Pursued by Bear). She has choreographed National tours of Chess in Concert and Tick, Tick... Boom! (StoreyBoard Entertainment), alongside Movement Direction for The Children (MTC/STC), A View From the Bridge (MTC), Elegies: The Song Cycle (Clovelly Fox), Parade (Soundworks), RENT (James Terry Collective) and multiple Musicals for VCA and WAAPA. Her creative Screen credits include: TVC's for Ecosa and AIA, Utopia (ABC), Good Morning America, The Antidote (Short Film) and Up Here (Feature Film). Freya is the director of the International outreach program Dancing Through India and runs the live music and dance event series Playing Field. She has also worked extensively with music artists on music videos, live performances & tours. Freya loved getting to work on Waltzing the Wilarra with this cast and creative team.

HARRY GILL - Set & Costume Designer

Harry Gill is a graduate of the VCA and an award nominated Set and Costume Designer based in Naarm. Harry has a keen eye for design and aesthetics and through his designs seeks to make theatre relevant and meaningful to contemporary audiences. Harry's recent design credits include Set & Costume Design for: *The Boys In The Band*, (James Terry Collective, 2025), *Bunyi Bunyi Bumi* (AsiaTopa, 2025), *Ilarun* (Forty-Five Downstairs, 2024), *Werewolf* (Arts Centre Melbourne, 2024), *Parade* (Seymour Centre, 2024). Set Design for: *Footloose* (Athenaeum Theatre, 2025), *Love and Information* (Theatreworks, 2025), *Addams Family* (Stars and the Moon, 2024), *The Whale* (Melbourne Shakespeare Company, 2024), *Every Lovely Terrible Thing* (Lab Kelpie, 2024), *Songs for a New World* (Soundworks Productions, 2023). Harry was recently nominated for a Greenroom award for his work on *Parade* and *Songs for a New World*. In 2021, Harry was recognised for his efforts, being awarded the Orloff Family Charitable Trust Scholarship for excellence. You can see Harry's work at harrygilldesigns.com.

MITCHELL BLASER - Lighting Designer

Mitchell Blaser is a highly skilled lighting designer with extensive experience across multiple disciplines. He has toured throughout Australia, working on a diverse range of shows including live music performances such as The Wolfe Brothers and Amber Lawrence, high-end corporate events with Puma, Commonwealth Bank and Hype DC, and theatre productions such as the musical Footloose and HIT's The Sunshine Club. Mitch collaborates directly with clients in various design and operational roles, consistently contributing as an expert member of the production team.

THE CAST (In alphabetical order)



JULIETTE COATES - Fay Griver

Juliette Coates is a non-binary, First Nations performer originally from Newcastle. After graduating in 2024 from QAEMT (Griffith Uni, BFA Musical Theatre), they made their main-stage debut in Queensland Theatre's recent production of *Calamity Jane*, playing Susan Miller and Adelaide Adams. A 2016 Talent Development Project graduate, in 2018 Juliette obtained a Diploma of Musical Theatre (Brent Street), before heading north to study at QAEMT. Juliette's other credits include Paulette in *Legally Blonde* (QAEMT), *Carols in the Domain* (Harmonia), Martha in *Spring Awakening* (Brent Street), *Wakefield* (ABC iView).



SHAKA COOK - Charlie Runaway

Shaka Cook is a proud Innawonga and Yindjibarndi man from the Pilbara region of Western Australia. Shaka is also a graduate from the National Institute of Dramatic Art. Since graduation, Shaka has performed around Australia for numerous main stage theatre companies and joined a successful Sydney Theatre Company tour of *The Secret River* to the Edinburgh Festival and the National Theatre in London. His most highly acclaimed theatre role is as Hercules Mulligan/James Maddison in both the Australian and international touring productions of *Hamilton*, which took him from Sydney and Melbourne to Manila, Abu Dhabi and Singapore. Shaka has also appeared in numerous television productions, including *Cleverman* (ABC) *Black Comedy* (ABC) *Operation Buffalo* (ABC) and *While The Men Are Away* (SBS). His feature film credits include *Top End Wedding*, directed by Wayne Blair, a lead role in the critically acclaimed *The Flood*, directed by Victoria Wharfe McIntyre and *Kid Snow*, directed by Paul Goldman, playing the character of Armless opposite Tom Bateman and Phoebe Tonkin. Shaka was a recipient of the Casting Guild of Australia Rising Star Award in 2022.



CLANCY ENCHELMAIER - Jack

Clancy Enchelmaier (he/they) is Meanjin/Brisbane born and raised and is so proud to present this revitalised production to audiences across the country. Clancy was most recently featured in JRP Australia's production of *The Producers* at Hayes Theatre Company. Previous theatrical roles include Swing in Mamma Mia (Prod Co), Paul Hamlyn in *Margaret Fulton the Musical* (Jally Entertainment) and Javert in Les *Miserables* (QAEMT). Clancy is a graduate of The Queensland Conservatorium of Music's Musical Theatre course and would like to thank their family for their constant support.



LISA MAZA - Mrs Cray

Lisa Maza is a Meriam/Yidinji/Dutch woman and acclaimed singer and actor whose love of acting began when as a child her father, Bob, cast her in a play he was directing for the National Black Theatre. She has appeared on stage in *A Wake - A Wake Mob* (Melbourne Theatre Company/ILBIJERRI), *Hide the Dog* (Performing Lines Tasmania), Emilia (Essential Theatre), *A Letter for Molly* (Ensemble Theatre), *From Darkness* (La Boite), *The Season* (Tasmania Performs), *The Rabbits* (Opera Australia/Barking Gecko), *Things That Fall Over* (TTFO) and *The Sapphires* (Belvoir/Black Swan) to name a few as well as working with Ilbijerri Theatre, QTC, La Mama & STC and appearing on screen in *Windcatcher, New Gold Mountain, House Husbands, City Homicide, Kath & Kim, Blue Heelers* and *Stingers*. Along with her sister, Rachael, she was nominated for a Deadly Award for their autobiographically inspired show, *Sisters of Gelam* (Ilbijerri/Playbox).



LORINDA MAY MERRYPOR - Elsa

Lorinda May Merrypor is an accomplished Actor, Singer, and Dancer from Rockhampton, proudly descending from the Kuungkari tribe in Queensland. She earned her Bachelor of Musical Theatre from Griffith University Queensland Conservatorium in 2016. Shortly after graduating, Lorinda made her professional debut in the Australian premiere of *American Idiot*. She then joined the cast of *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, produced by The Michael Cassel Group. Lorinda starred in La Boite's production of *Once On This Island* as Ti Moune and played Maddie in Emily Wells' *Face to Face*, for which she was nominated for a Matilda Award. She also played Julie in HIT Productions' touring version of *The Sapphires*. Most recently, she wrapped Sydney Theatre Company's *Picnic at Hanging Rock* at the Sydney Opera House and starred as Juliet in Michael Cassel's production of & *Juliet*, touring Australia and Asia.



LEONARD MICKELO - Old Toss

Leonard Mickelo (they/them) is a Kulalli, Bidjara and Jarowair descendant from Central Queensland. Their foster mum embraced their passion to dance at the age of 10. They trained under the direction of Fiona McIvor and Sandra Breen. In 2006, Leonard joined Bangarra Dance Theatre. They danced with the company for 12 years, touring internationally to America, Canada, most of Europe and Asia. They believe it's important to share and learn the traditional culture of this country. In 2018 Leonard played the role of Jimmy in the musical *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, and again in 2022. In 2019 Leonard was nominated for Best Choreography in a musical at the Sydney Theatre Award for their work on the musical *FANGIRLS*, which went onto win as Best musical the same year. Leonard also was the choreographer for *The Sapphires* (2019-2021/2022). Leonard is a cultural ambassador in today's modern society. They love to engage the next generation with their culture through dance. Leonard's hero is their foster mum, who opened their heart to dance.



JALEN SUTCLIFFE - Mr Mack

Jalen Sutcliffe, originally from North Queensland with Darumbul, Kalkadoon, and Papua New Guinean heritage, is a unique blend of actor, comedian & musician. He completed his Bachelor of Music at University of Tasmania in 2023. In 2016, Jalen clinched victory in the Melbourne International Comedy Festival's *Deadly Funny* competition. His humour often revolves around his rare condition, BBL - big, brown, and lovely. Notable roles include acting in *Black Comedy, Bay of Fires*, and showcased his talents in TV series such as *Rosehaven, Paper Dolls* and various stage productions. As a national performer Jalen has no problem with creating amazing moments on stage or camera through his artistry. Also, with his upbringing of Motown/Soul music infused with RnB and Gospel combined, he is a charismatic, soulful and comical performer who knows how to work a crowd of any capacity.



HANNAH UNDERWOOD - Athena/Young Harry

Hannah Underwood is absolutely thrilled to be making her professional debut in *Waltzing the Wilarra*! She is a Naarm/Melbourne based performer who recently graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Music Theatre) at the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) in 2024. Prior to this, she completed a Foundation Musical Theatre course at Associated Studios Australia in 2021. Throughout her time at VCA, Hannah played Martha in *Spring Awakening* and was Dance Captain in *Curtains the Musical*. Hannah also performed in *Morning Melodies* at Hamer Hall (2023 and 2024) as well as various projects at the Australian Musical Theatre Festival in Launceston (2023 and 2024).

THE BAND

CAMERON McCONVILLE - Musical Director, Keys, Guitar, Accordion, Backing Vocals

MATTHEW MORGAN - Drums

Matthew Morgan is an aspiring and upcoming drummer with a remarkable musical journey. He most recently toured with HIT Productions for their 2023-2024 production of *The Sunshine Club*. His drumming expertise spans an impressive 12 years, commencing at the tender age of 8, allowing him to cultivate exceptional skills and technique that distinguish him as a true drummer extraordinaire. His remarkable achievements include back-to-back wins in the 2020-2021 National Drum-Off Global Competition. His versatility shines through as he transitions from rock and punk roots to the intricate world of Jazz, demonstrating a remarkable adaptability & unwavering commitment to exploring diverse musical styles. Moreover, Matthew is proudly endorsed by *Red Cymbals*, an esteemed Australian cymbal company, and a testament to his exceptional drumming skills. Matthew's musical journey, sparked by the video game "*Rock Band*," has evolved into a narrative of passion, unwavering dedication, and undeniable musical mastery. With his stellar talent and promising trajectory, he stands as a rising star in the world of drums, poised to make an indelible mark on the global music scene.

THE CREW

HARLEY HONEYMAN (Sbrotn) - Production Manager

SBROTN is a family-run production company delivering professional audio, lighting, staging, and vision services for events of all sizes. With roots in the live events industry and a passion for creating unforgettable experiences, we specialise in festivals, live bands, touring theatre shows, and corporate events. From high-energy outdoor stages to intimate theatrical settings, our expert team brings technical precision, creativity, and a personal touch to every project. We pride ourselves on building lasting relationships with clients, ensuring every event looks, sounds, and feels just right. Backed by years of experience and the flexibility only a close-knit team can offer, Sbrotn combines top-tier equipment with hands-on support — making your vision our mission.

PIP HAUPT - Stage Manager

Pip is a Stage Manager currently living and working on Gadigal land. Born and raised in North Queensland on the lands of the Bindal and Wulgurukaba people, she has worked across a variety of mainstage and professional plays, musicals, and operas along the East coast of the country for more than seven years. Her recent company credits include: Assistant Stage Manager for Ensemble Theatre's tour of *The Queen's Nanny* (2025); Assistant Stage Manager for Opera Australia and Sydney Chamber Opera's *Gilgamesh* (2024); Production Manager for Griffin Theatre Company's regional tour of *Swim* (2024); Stage Manager for JUTE Theatre Company's Queensland tour of *From Campfire to Stage Light* (2024) and more. When she's not in the theatre, Pip can be found chipping away at her Master of Arts (Theatre and Performance) at the University of New England. An accomplished Touring Stage Manager, Pip is honoured to tour *Waltzing the Wilarra* nationally with its cast, band and crew.

LUKAS BATTEY - Sound Technician/Production Manager

Lukas Battey has a background as a vocalist, theatre performer, and a multi-instrumentalist and is no stranger to being behind the desk as well. Having spent the last seven years as an audio engineer for gigs of all sorts, touring on music festivals alongside the likes of *The Living End* and *Jimmy Barnes*; Lukas is incredibly proud to bring you his first original sound design with *Waltzing The Willara*. You can find Lukas on Instagram @lukasbattey or at lukasbattey.com

SAMUEL VICTORIA - Lighting Technician

Samuel Victoria is a Guild winner and Broadway World nominated Lighting Designer and qualified technician based in Melbourne. He has been involved in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (GWB), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Fort Salem Theatre, USA), *Wicked* (Crossroads Live) and *A Christmas Carol* (GWB) to name a few. Sam's love of the theatre developed having seen dozens of musicals and theatre pieces in his younger years. And now believes he has the perfect job. When Sam isn't working on a show, you'll always find him still in the theatre watching a performance.



L - R -Lorinda May Merrypor & Clancy Enchelmaier Photography by Matthew Chen

DURATION: 2 hours plus a 20 minute interval.

WARNINGS: This show contains theatrical haze.

The use of photographic or recording equipment is not permitted in the theatre.



Photography by Matthew Chen

Special thanks to Kindred Studios for a very special rehearsal period.

Also many thanks to Heidi Irvine and the entire wonderful team at

Frankston Arts Centre for their incredible support during our production week.

Special thanks also to Ashley Reid - Design Assistant, Rachel Nankin - Scenic Art, Jessamine Moffett - Costume Assistant, Dylan Lumsden - Costume Assistant and David Wotherspoon - VCA Design Intern.

Thanks also to Tom Vulcan and Brendan Gill



THEATRE TOURING COMPANY



