

BOND CREATIVES PRESENTS

DJUKI PATOLA

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



“ENERGETIC, HILARIOUS, GROUND-BREAKING”

BEAT MAGAZINE

Direct from North East Arnhem Land, Indigenous dance and YouTube sensations Djuki Mala tell their story in a high-energy, full hour show. Unique, infectious, always exuberant, Djuki Mala fuse traditional Yolngu and contemporary pop culture, dance and storytelling to create work that is a marvel of timing, comedy and clowning.

Their appearances have electrified audiences at major festivals and events worldwide with multiple award nominations and wins alongside huge media interest. Djuki Mala’s performances offer a rare and insightful view into Indigenous Australia.



INFECTIOUS, HIGH-ENERGY, AND UNIQUE FUSION OF
TRADITIONAL YOLNGU AND CONTEMPORARY
POP CULTURE, DANCE AND STORYTELLING





Photo: Sean Young

CONTACTS





Djuki Mala Management

info@djukimala.com

Executive Producer / Director:
Joshua Bond

Associate Producer:
Monique Harvey

KEY LINKS

-  djukimala.com
-  facebook.com/djukimala
-  instagram.com/djuki_mala
-  twitter.com/djukimala
-  vimeo.com/djukimala

SHOW INFORMATION

Title: Djuki Mala

Year of Production: 2013

Genre: Dance

Duration: 60 minutes (no interval)

Age: 5+. This is a family show but suitable for all ages.

Touring Party: 8 people (5 dancers, 3 crew)

Load In + Tech: 4 hours

Bump Out: 1 hour



Photo: Sean Young

PROMOTIONAL COPY

Join a joyous celebration 40,000 years in the making.

Direct from Elcho Island, Djuki Mala (Djuki meaning 'Chooky' with a Yolngu accent and Mala meaning 'mob') perform a high-energy and stunning fusion of traditional Indigenous culture, contemporary dance and storytelling.

Since their 2007 clip of 'Zorba the Greek' went viral, they've been consistently thrilling audiences with reinterpretations of popular culture and traditional dances in a way that juxtaposes contemporary Yolngu culture.

The show tells the genesis of Djuki Mala, formerly known as The Chooky Dancers, interspersed with multimedia and gives audiences the opportunity to experience some of the more intimate moments and turning points that have shaped them, in a show that is a marvel of timing, comedy and clowning, with a hefty dose of heart and soul.



Photo: Courtesy of Blue King Brown + Gurrumul

HISTORY

The Chooky Dancers achieved overnight success when Frank Djirrimbilwuy uploaded a video clip of the group dancing to "Zorba the Greek" on YouTube in October 2007. Within twelve weeks it had peaked at over 500,000 hits worldwide and to date it stands at over 2.5 million views.

The dance was initially developed by Lionel Dulmanawuy, Frank's youngest son. It was created as a thank you to a very good Greek friend name Liliane who was the main carer of his sister, Priscilla.

The funny dancing and comedic element of their performance also has its origins in their community, explains Lionel. "It's a tradition in a young boy's initiation ceremony. You make up funny dances and do them at the ceremony to make it more of a fun day for the young boy. Zorba the Greek is an extension of that."

Since 2007 they have created a number of shows combining their re-interpretations of popular culture and dance with narrative and drama. The work reflects the juxtapositions they see in contemporary Yolngu culture, and offers a rare and insightful view into Aboriginal Australia. The Chooky Dancers were invited to perform their hit in Greece by the descendants and creator of the movie, Zorba the Greek.

With a busy touring schedule, they have performed to ecstatic crowds in China, the Solomon Islands, Canada, Sydney Festival, Sydney Opera House, Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Perth and Adelaide Fringe Festivals, Ten Days on the Island and in 2016 toured through Europe and the Middle East as part of a DFAT (Department of Foreign Affairs &

& Trade) Cultural Diplomacy program - highlights of the tour included performances in Tel Aviv, at the Cairo Opera House, El Madina Theatre in Lebanon and performing to a Greek speaking audience in Cyprus.

In 2013, The Chooky Dancers announced that the group would be going by their Indigenous name: Djuki Mala. Djuki is the adopted word for 'chook' and 'Mala' means a group or set of people who share a common feature. Following the name change preparations for an eponymous tour began.

After months of preparation, much of the self-titled 2nd major production was built on Elcho Island in early 2014, in a cramped training centre with low-slung fans and a fridge door that doubled as a change room. The show opened to standing ovations at the Darwin Entertainment Centre in late February that year before heading off down the track on a tour of the eastern and southern states.

Always exuberant and blending their contemporary experience as a young people with their traditional culture, their identity as Yolngu people is always in the foreground.

Dressed in traditional costumes and ochre, with Gara (spears) & Galpu (spear thrower) they create work that is a marvel of timing, comedy and clowning, warming both the heart and soul. Behind the humour is startling movement, skill and discipline, drawn from traditional culture and dance.

The style of dancing and comedic element of their performance has its origins in Yolngu culture as much as the traditional dance. Clowning within Yolngu Culture has been around longer than many of the traditional dances themselves. It is from this that Djuki Mala's natural flare for comedy has emerged.



Photo: Courtesy of Blue King Brown + Gurrumul

THE DANCERS

Baykali Ganambarr



Baykali Ganambarr's first 6 years were spent growing up on a small community outside of Alice Springs near Ti Tree called Six Miles. He then spent two years in Darwin and to this day resides on Elcho Island, North East Arnhem Land. He also spent three years attending school in Sydney in 2008, 2009 and 2010. He travels extensively throughout Australia performing with Djuki Mala dance group appearing at Festivals, corporate functions and high profile events. Baykali is a passionate dancer, athlete (football, basketball) and an accomplished actor. In the future he would like to pursue his dancing both with Djuki Mala and as a backup dancer with high profile musicians. He also plans to pursue his acting career and also become an AFL footballer. Baykali has just finished performing a lead role in Australian Feature Film 'The Nightingale' due for release in June 2018.

Yalyalwuy Gondarra



Yalyalwuy Gondarra spent his childhood years growing up on Elcho Island, North East Arnhem Land. He also spent three years attending school in Sydney in 2008, 2009 and 2010. He travels extensively throughout Australia performing with Djuki Mala dance group appearing at Festivals, corporate functions and high profile events. Yalyalwuy is a passionate dancer, and an accomplished actor. In the future he would like to pursue his dancing with Djuki Mala and also further his acting career with lead roles in both Australian films and Hollywood blockbusters.

Didiwarr Yunupingu



Didiwarr Yunupingu spent his childhood years growing up on Elcho Island, North East Arnhem Land. He travels extensively throughout Australia performing with Djuki Mala dance group appearing at Festivals, corporate functions and high profile events. Didiwarr is a passionate dancer and musician playing Yidaki at cultural ceremonies in his home community. In the future he would like to be a cultural leader in his community and to become a professional dancer with Djuki Mala and other leading dance companies.

THE DANCERS

Tibian Wyles



Tibian Christopher Wyles is a descendant from the Girramay & Kalkadoon tribes from North Queensland. In 2013 he completed his Advance Diploma at the Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts (ACPA) in Brisbane, before going on to perform with Queensland Theatre Company's sold out production of 'Black Diggers' directed by Wesley Enoch. Other productions Tibian has appeared in are 'Country Song' that toured nationally throughout Australia, also directed by Wesley Enoch. The Circus Oz Production 'Corked Up' Directed by Joshua Bond & Derek Ives, AFC Final Draw at the Opera House, Opening of the Brisbane Festival, Clancestry, Byron Bay Blues Festival, Queensland Poetry Festival. ACPA productions: Oedipus the King, Romeo & Juliet, Spirit Of the Lore, CYRANO de Bergerac and The Robbers. Tibian is co founder of Excelsior Dance Company along with being a long time ambassador of DigiYouth Arts.

Watjarr Garmu



Watjarr Garmu spent his childhood years growing up on the remote Homeland of Rorrowuy, North East Arnhem Land. He travels extensively throughout Australia and the world performing with Djuki Mala appearing at Festivals, corporate functions and high profile events. Watjarr is a passionate dancer and musician in high demand playing Yidaki at cultural ceremonies across communities in Australia's North. He hopes to continue to work with Djuki Mala.

MANAGEMENT

Joshua Bond

Executive Producer / Director

Joshua Bond has been involved in the arts for over the 15 years, as a performer, director, producer & technician, with experience across circus, theatre, dance, film & television. 2014 Helpmann Nominee Joshua Bond is the Artistic Director, Executive Producer & founding member of Award Winning and renowned Indigenous dance/theatre ensemble "DJUKI MALA" (formally known as The Chooky Dancers) Joshua directed and produced the critically acclaimed production Djuki Mala throughout 2014 and was a director of Ngurrumilmarr'miryu "Wrong Skin" alongside Nigel Jamieson & Gavin Robins that toured nationally through 2010 '11. Joshua also held the position of Artistic Associate & Indigenous Programs Coordinator at Circus Oz from 2011-14. Other directing credits include, 'Corked Up' - Circus Oz, The Ngarluma Festival (WA), It's A Long Way from the North Pole (The Wiggles), Step Up (Pact Theatre, Sydney), NAISDA eoy's (Sydney). As a circus performer, singer, actor & dancer Josh has worked with Lunar Circus 1999-2011, Circus Monoxide, Bizircus 1998, Circ Cric (Spain) EARTH Visual and Theatre Inc.,(Kuala Lumpur) VIPAS (The Famous Spiegeltent), Deadly Awards (Sydney Opera House), Blackrobats (Kuranda), Legs on the Wall (Sydney), Emma Donovan (Adelaide Festival), Gurrumul Yunupingu (Darwin Festival & Sydney Opera House), John Butler (Yindjibarndi Ngarluma Festival) Blue King Brown (Blues & Roots, Byron Bay) Rockwiz Tribute to the Bowl (Sydney Myer Music Bowl) and Wirad Journey (Vikki Van-Hout Contemporary Dance Company).

Passionate about teaching and developing emerging indigenous performers, Josh has taught at NAISDA Dance College, Fruit Fly Circus, NICA, National Institute of Circus Arts, Flipside Circus and numerous other schools, community workshops and festival's across Australia. Joshua is currently working on an exciting new production he is directing with Legs on the Wall 'Man with the Iron Neck', with hope of premiering in 2017.

Monique Harvey

Associate Producer

Monique Harvey has over 20 years experience in all areas of the arts and entertainment industry. Monique was involved in music management for over six years. She has worked for a wide range of Festivals including Melbourne International Festival, Edinburgh & Brighton Festivals (UK), Melbourne Film Festival, St Kilda Festival, National Circus Festival, the Art Of Difference Festival, the White Night Festival, Brighton (UK) and most recently Lorne Festival of Performing Arts. Monique has worked as an event producer, publicist, artist liaison representative and programmer. Monique was employed as Associate Producer of Spiegelent International from 2001 – 2007. Monique now runs her own business producing Australian and international artists as well as contract work in various capacities to venues and Festivals both in Australia and in the UK.



TOURING HISTORY

2017

Perth Fringe World Festival, WA

Adelaide Fringe Festival, SA

Spiegeltent Hobart, TAS

Sydney Opera House, NSW

Garrmalang Festival, NT

Munro Martin Parklands, QLD

Map57 St Kilda, VIC

Edinburgh Festival Fringe, UK

2016

Darwin Entertainment Centre, NT

NIMAS, NT

Latsia Municipal Theatre, Cyprus CYP

Hangar 11, Tel Aviv ISR

Cairo Opera House, Cairo EGY

El Sawy Culture Wheel, Cairo EGY

Al Madina Theatre, Beirut LEB

Tanzsommer Festival, Innsbruck AUT

4th Fort Pienc Performance Arts Fair,
Barcelona ESP

Nuevo Teatro Alcalá, Madrid ESP

2016 [CONT]

Sydney Festival, NSW

WOMADelaide, SA

Brunswick Music Festival, VIC

2015

Adelaide Fringe Festival, SA

Desert Fringe Festival, SA

Spirit Festival, SA

Adelaide Fringe Awards Night, SA

Melbourne International Comedy Festival, VIC

Garmalang Festival, NT

Territory Day, NT

NAIDOC Week, NT

Araluen Arts Centre, NT

Desert Harmony Festival, NT

Lorne Festival of Performing Arts, VIC

WAA Conference, Vancouver CAN

Outback Festival, QLD

Mullumbimby Circus Festival, NSW

Indigenous Economic Forum, NT

30th Anniversary Handback Celebrations, Uluru, Mutitjulu NT

2014

Geelong Performing Arts Centre, VIC

Eastbank Riverlinks, VIC

Latrobe Performing Arts Centre, VIC

Her Majesty's Theatre, VIC

Hamilton Performing Arts Centre, VIC

The Lighthouse Theatre, VIC

Colac Otway Performing Arts & Cultural Centre, VIC

Williamstown Town Hall, VIC

Drum Theatre, VIC

Darwin Entertainment Centre, NT

Orange Civic Centre, NSW

The Joan, NSW

Newcastle Civic Centre, NSW

Seymour Centre, NSW

Capitol Theatre, NSW

Cessnock Community Performing Arts Centre, NSW

Illawarra Performing Arts Centre, NSW

Nautilus Theatre, SA

Hopgood Theatre, SA

Chaffey Theatre, SA

Mildura Arts Centre, VIC

Sir Robert Helpman Theatre, SA

2014 [CONT]

Barossa Arts & Convention Centre, SA

Marion Cultural Centre, SA

Northern Festival Centre, SA

2012

Darwin Festival, NT

Festival of Pacific Arts, Solomon Islands

2011

Roebourne Healthy Lifestyle Festival, WA

Barunga Festival, NT

Martu Trust Western Desert Tour, WA

Glastonbury Festival, UK

European Tour

2010

Adelaide International Festival, SA

Malthouse Theatre, VIC

Merripan Festival, NT

China & Taiwan Tour

2009

Bran Nue Dae, WA

Melbourne Museum, VIC

Sydney Festival First Night, NSW

Darling Harbour Festival, NSW

The Famous Spiegeltent, VIC

Australasian World Music Expo, VIC

Deadly Award Nomination [Outstanding Achievement in Entertainment]

2008

Dreaming Festival, QLD

Out of the Box Festival, QLD

Alice Springs Convention Centre, NT

Greek Glenti Festival, NT

Raminggining Festival, NT

Milingimbi Festival, NT

Melbourne International Comedy Festival Gala, VIC

2007

Raminggining Festival, NT

Milingimbi Festival, NT

Australia's Got Talent

Art Gallery NSW

Sydney Opera House, NSW

Message Sticks Film Festival, NSW



Photo: Sean Young

MEDIA QUOTES



"Their sheer joy is as infectious as it is delightful."

The Advertiser



"There is no better offering at this year's Perth Fringe World... an infectious celebration of different styles and cultures."

The West Australian



"... A feel good show if ever there was one."

Perth Now



"Sensational!"

Out in Perth



"Djuki Mala is an absolute must-see..."

The Australia Times

MEDIA QUOTES [CONT.]



"Cheeky, fun and feel-good..."

Sydney Morning Herald

"The Djuki Mala style blends traditional dance with modern influences, in what seems like a reflection of life in Galiwin'ku Community. Just as mobile phones co-exist with Yolgnu languages, the joyful pop references in Djuki Mala are an embodiment of a living culture. Playful and warm, charming and informative, Djuki Mala is like a family-friendly diplomatic envoy, sharing hope and knowledge from north-east Arnhem Land."

Sydney Morning Herald

"Djuki Mala present more to the audience than one could imagine possible..."

Herald Sun

"A vibrant celebration of ingenuity and energy..."

The Age

"Energetic, hilarious, ground-breaking!"

Beat Magazine

"The Chooky Dancers threatened to upstage everything in sight..."

Real Time

"They had a tale to tell about a journey that began way back before time. The story of when their culture, which more recently has seen the edges of extinction, existed whole and unharmed. In bare feet, loin cloth and ceremonial white paint, their language is movement. At times fierce and at times menacing, they float through space and time. They clearly respect their ancestors' spirits and are moved by the stories that created them."

Aussie Theatre

"...a marvel of timing, comedy and clowning, warming both the heart and soul..."

Arts Review

"...their enthusiasm is infectious..."

Sydney Morning Herald

"Djuki Mala's work is a magnificent cross-cultural marvel of fusion, incorporating traditional Indigenous dance mixed with pop culture and comedy."

Blue Curtains Brisbane

THANK YOU & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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