

THEATRE ROYAL

THEATRE ROYAL PRESENTS

BLACK COCKATOO

AN ENSEMBLE THEATRE PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY
WESLEY ENOCH

Funny and incredibly moving, *Black Cockatoo* is a new artistic collaboration between iconic Australian writer Geoffrey Atherden (*Mother and Son*, *Babakueria*) and recent Sydney Festival Artistic Director Wesley Enoch (*Black Diggers*, *The 7 Stages of Grieving*).

More than 150 years ago, 13 brave Aboriginal men in Western Victoria picked up their cricket bats and embarked on a treacherous voyage to England and into the unknown – all in the name of sport. Risking illness and persecution, Australia's first international cricket team – including Australia's first Indigenous sporting hero, Johnny Mullagh – amazed the English crowds with astonishing talent, personality and grit. They should have returned to Australia as celebrated heroes. Instead, they came back to find the world they once knew was no longer there.

This is not just a story about cricket – this is a story of strength, resistance, hope and possibility. When a group of young present-day activists sneak into the Wimmera Discovery Centre to expose the truth of what happened to Johnny and his teammates, a hidden legend of triumph and tragedy unfolds.

Playwright: Geoffrey Atherden

Director: Wesley Enoch (Noonuccal Nuugi)

Associate Director: Yolande Brown (Bidjara Clan of Kunja Nation)

Cultural Consultant: Uncle Richard Kennedy (Wotjobaluk Traditional Owner and Descendant of First XI Team Member Dick - a - Dick)

Set and Costume Designer: Richard Roberts

Lighting Designer: Trent Suidgeet

Composer and Sound Designer: Steve Francis

Dramaturg: Jane Fitzgerald

Assistant Stage Manager: Vanessa Martin



Thu 10 Mar 2022 07:30 pm

Fri 11 Mar 2022 07:30 pm



Theatre Royal

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29 Campbell Street, Hobart, TAS 7000

Costume Supervisor: Sara Kolijn
Associate Lighting Designer: Shiloh Jarrett
(Gumbyngirr/Anmatjere)

Sound Design Intern: Tim Gray

Image credit: Christian Trinder

Cast: Joseph Althouse (Wunujaka), Phoebe Grainer (Djungan),
Mark Nannup (Yamaji/Noongar), Colin Smith (Jagera), Kyle
Shilling, Mema Munro (Marriamu)

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"Visiting the community of Harrow and talking to descendants of the First XI was a huge honour. These men of the First XI, who travelled across the globe to be the first ever international touring sporting group in the world, opened a path not just for themselves and their families but established a story of sport and Aboriginal advancement that would continue for the next 150 years. Black Cockatoo tells a story that should be part of the national storytelling. Everyone should know this story. It's about our great national obsession and our great national neglect." – Director Wesley Enoch

***"A sincere and tender proclamation,
paying tribute to Indigenous identities
past and present"***

Suzy Goes See

***"Ripe with emotion, wit, and
reflection"***

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TICKETS

Stalls & Dress Circle

Premium \$85 | A Reserve \$80

B Reserve \$68 | C Reserve \$48

B Reserve Concession/Child \$60

Gallery

Premium \$80 | A Reserve \$70

B Reserve \$60 | C Reserve \$40

A Reserve Concession \$65

B Reserve Concession \$55

A/B/C Reserve Child \$50

**all bookings will incur a \$5 Transaction Fee*

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Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund - an Australian Government initiative.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, and its arts funding and advisory body.



DURATION

1 hour 50 minutes, no interval.



PATRONS' ADVICE

Recommended for ages 12+

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander audiences are advised that this show contains depictions of people who have died.



STUDENT SUBSCRIPTION

This show is included in the Student Subscription. For more details about Student Subscriptions visit theatreroyal.com.au/student-subscriptions



OPENING NIGHT EVENT

Opening Night event, details announced soon. For more details about Subscriptions and Memberships please visit <https://www.theatreroyal.com.au/season-packages>

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