

Press Release  
For Immediate Release



**BANGARRA TO TOUR TORRES STRAIT CHILDREN'S PRODUCTION  
*WARU - JOURNEY OF THE SMALL TURTLE***



★★★★

**The Sydney Morning Herald**

*"Perfect for the littlest culture connoisseurs"*

**Time Out Sydney**

*"A stunning way of introducing the importance of how we can make a difference to the environment..."*

**What's On Sydney**

*"This was my favourite show. I liked the naughty lizard. Can we please see it again?"*

**Sonny (aged 5)**

**12<sup>th</sup> July, 2023:** Australia's leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performing arts company, Bangarra Dance Theatre will tour their stunning work for children, *Waru – journey of the small turtle*. Fresh from it's critically acclaimed (and kid approved!) Sydney premiere season in 2022, *Waru* is a must-see new Australian work for children aged 3 and up and their families.

A journey of survival and discovery with our heroine Migi the turtle, the contemporary saltwater Lagaw Kazil (Island Children) story is inspired by the totemic system of the green turtle, in an interactive and immersive introduction to Torres Strait Islander culture and dance for three to seven year-olds.

Under the star-illuminated skies of the Torres Strait, a green turtle navigates her way back to the beach where she was born. The season has started, the turtles are returning to nest, and soon the island will welcome a new generation of hatchlings – amongst them, our small turtle friend, Migi.

*Waru* is created by Bangarra’s former artistic director and multi award-winning choreographer Stephen Page, together with Hunter Page-Lochard (ABC TV’s *Playschool*, *Spear*, ABC TV’s *Cleverman*), and Bangarra alumni Dancers and Choreographers Sani Townson and Elma Kris.

*Waru* provides teachers, parents and care-givers with a unique opportunity to open up conversations about climate change, caring for the environment and the traditional cultural values of respect and reciprocity.

Director Stephen Page said: “*Waru is about celebrating the connection of Torres Strait Islander people to sea, land and sky. Even though it’s a children’s show, it carries very old stories of the green turtle’s life cycle that will connect to all people today. We’re excited to give young people a glimpse into the lives of the Torres Strait people and their stories.*”

*Waru* writer Hunter Page-Lochard said: “*I’m thrilled to be able to work with my father on a children’s show, especially now that I have a two-year-old daughter. Being a part of Playschool has given me an even greater appreciation of the importance of sharing culture with young people in Australia today, and I’m excited to be able to share the culture and stories of fellow creatives Sani and Elma with the youth community.*”

## WARU – JOURNEY OF THE SMALL TURTLE 2023 TOUR

WURUNDJERI COUNTRY	Arts Centre Melbourne	12 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> September	<a href="https://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au/whats-on/2023/kids-and-families/waru">https://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au/whats-on/2023/kids-and-families/waru</a>
DARKINJUNG COUNTRY	The Art House (Wyong)	22 <sup>nd</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	<a href="https://www.theartousewyong.com.au/whats-on/waru-journey-of-the-small-turtle">https://www.theartousewyong.com.au/whats-on/waru-journey-of-the-small-turtle</a>
GADIGAL COUNTRY	Bangarra Studio Theatre (Sydney)	27 <sup>th</sup> September to 14 <sup>th</sup> October	<a href="https://my.bangarra.com.au/events?k=waru">https://my.bangarra.com.au/events?k=waru</a>
WADAWURRUNG COUNTRY	Geelong Arts Centre	19 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Booking details available soon
GUNDUNGURRA COUNTRY	Goulburn Performing Arts Centre	24 <sup>th</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup> October	<a href="https://www.goulburnpac.com.au/Events-directory/Waru">https://www.goulburnpac.com.au/Events-directory/Waru</a>

YUIN COUNTRY	Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre (Nowra)	27 <sup>th</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup> October	<a href="https://shoalhavenentertainment.com.au/whats-on/event-details/waru">https://shoalhavenentertainment.com.au/whats-on/event-details/waru</a>
GIMUY WALUBARA YIDINJI	Cairns Performing Arts Centre	3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Booking details available soon
GARRAMILLA	Darwin Entertainment Centre	9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> November	<a href="https://www.yourcentre.com.au/#!/events/-NXsrIHtJz4eysm5WvBK/">https://www.yourcentre.com.au/#!/events/-NXsrIHtJz4eysm5WvBK/</a>

**Tickets and more information:** <https://www.bangarra.com.au/productions/waru-journey-of-the-small-turtle/> or (02) 9251 5333

- ENDS –

Images are available for download [here](#).

**For further information and interview requests:**

**KABUKU PUBLIC RELATIONS**

PH: (02) 9690 2115

Belinda Dyer: 0415 686 014 | [Belinda@kabukupr.com.au](mailto:Belinda@kabukupr.com.au)

Lizzie Agar: 0450 381 812 | [Lizzie@kabukupr.com.au](mailto:Lizzie@kabukupr.com.au)

*The development of Waru – journey of the small turtle was generously supported by the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund – an Australian Government initiative and the Girgensohn Foundation.*

