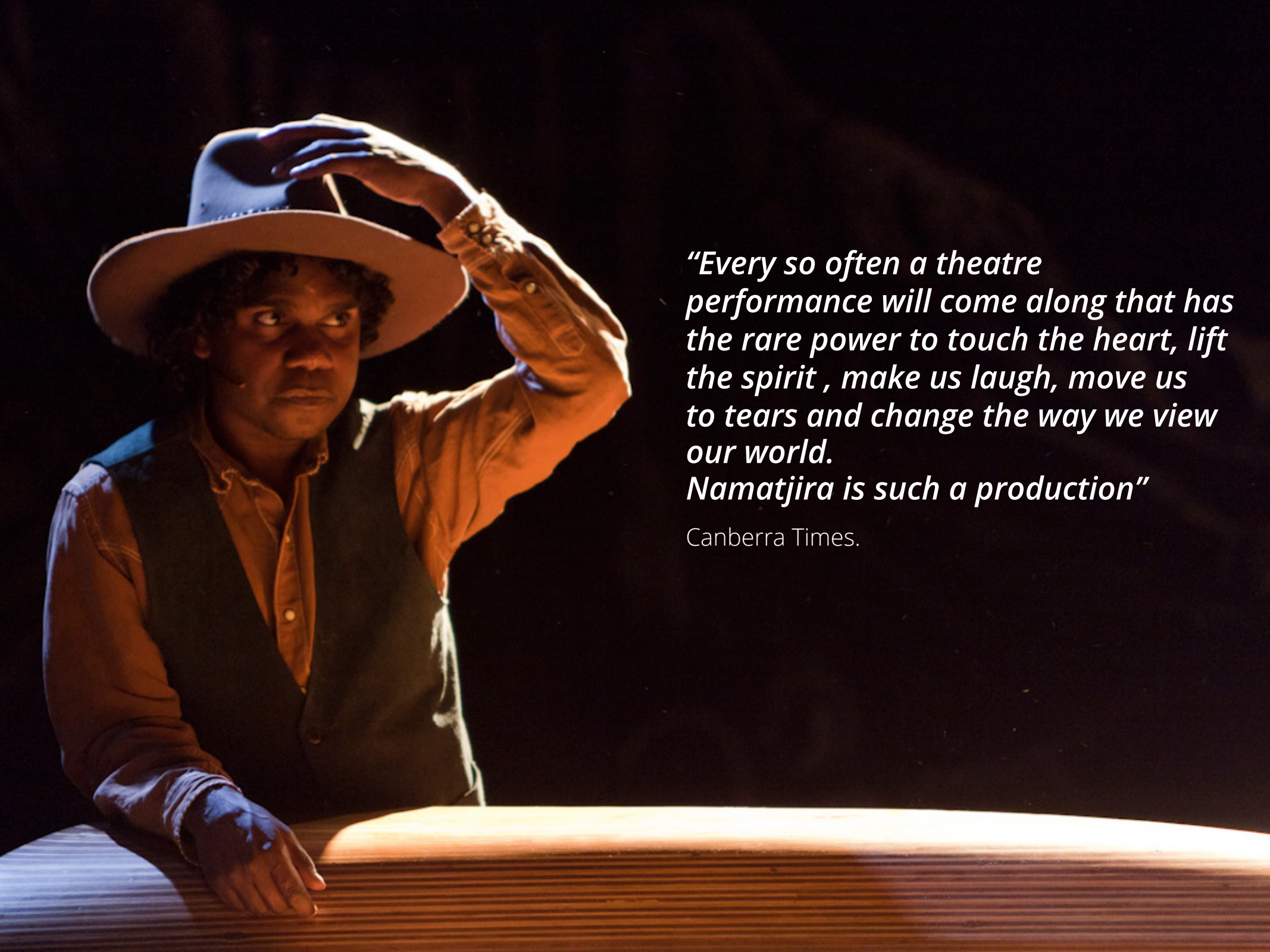


BIG *h*ART



NAMATJIRA

PROJECT SHOWCASE



“Every so often a theatre performance will come along that has the rare power to touch the heart, lift the spirit , make us laugh, move us to tears and change the way we view our world.

Namatjira is such a production”

Canberra Times.

NAMATJIRA

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The Namatjira Project pays respect to Western Aranda people of the Central Australian Desert and their stunning country on which the project has been based.



Trevor Jamieson as Albert Namatjira.

NAMATJIRA

**A BIG hART PRODUCTION
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SCOTT RANKIN
CREATED WITH THE NAMATJIRA FAMILY**

There is no more potent story in the history of Australian art than that of Albert Namatjira.

Namatjira brought Australian desert landscapes to the world for the first time with his unique watercolour style. At the height of his fame, his shows sold out within minutes. He painted for the Queen, and was the first Australian Aboriginal to be made a legal citizen of his own country.

He supported over 600 members of his community, lost two of his ten children to malnutrition, was forbidden to own land, imprisoned for something he didn't do – and died a broken man.

Half a century after his death, charismatic performer Trevor Jamieson along with Albert's descendants, brought the story of Namatjira's extraordinary life to the stage. Night after night they created huge chalk drawings of Namatjira's desert country, while retelling his remarkable story.

PRODUCTION ACHIEVEMENTS

- 50000+ audience members
- 144 live performances
- 31 Australian locations
- 2 international locations
- 9068kms driven
- 2 Sydney Theatre awards
- 1 Helpmann award
- 1 Arts Hub award
- 22 contemporary watercolour exhibitions
- 300+ media segments
- 1 Published script, curriculum listed



THE NAMATJIRA PROJECT

The Namatjira production is part of a broader, multilayered, long-term arts project.

The Namatjira Project has produced a number of other outcomes, all anchored in a creative community development project based in Alice Springs and Hermannsburg (Ntaria), in Central Australia.

A celebration of the acclaimed watercolour artist Albert Namatjira's life and legacy, the project has worked closely with the Namatjira family strives to achieve real and lasting opportunities for the family and Western Aranda communities.

Along with the theatre production, the Namatjira Project has also created:

- iPad painting App - Watercolours of Namatjira
- Namatjira Soundtrack CD
- A feature documentary
- 20 oil painting portraits of Trevor Jamieson as Albert Namatjira
- 29 short film resources



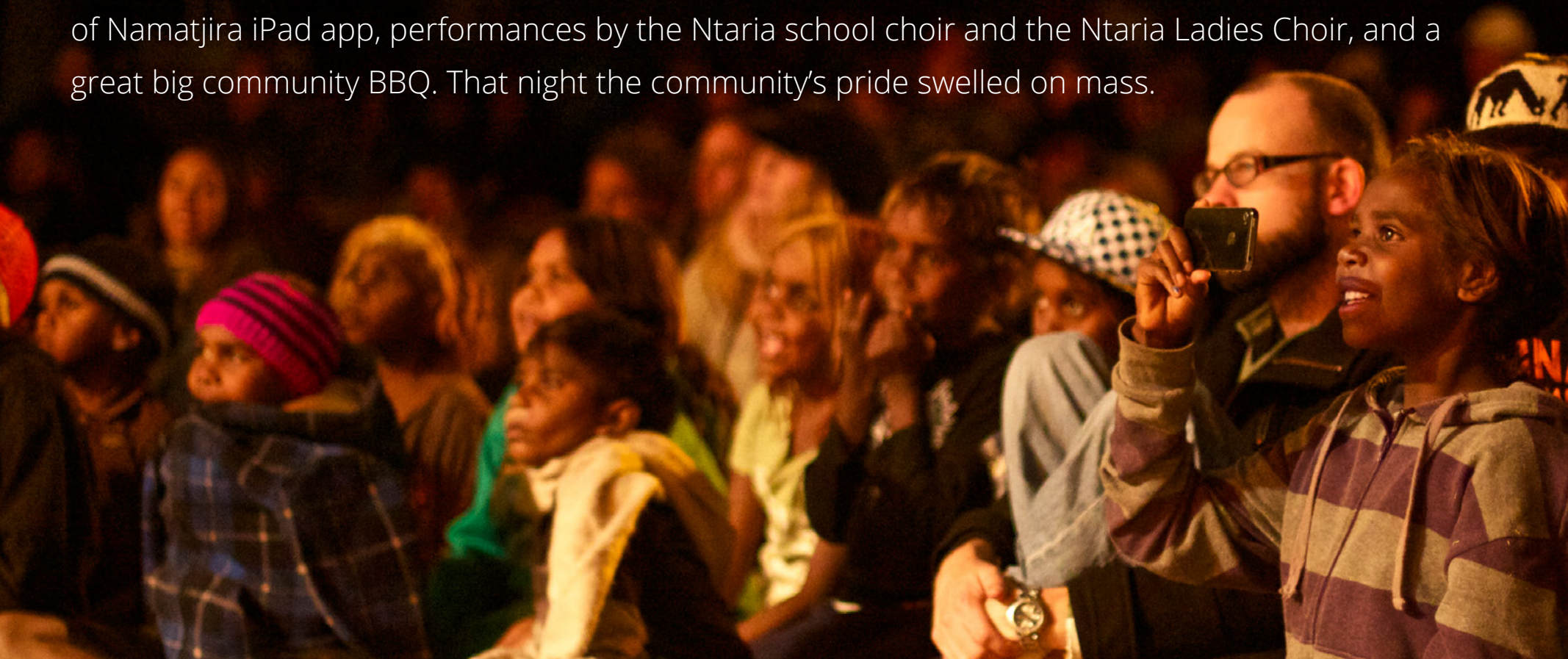
Aretha Namatjira at *Namatjira to Now* exhibition, 2014.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

- A private audience with the Queen at Buckingham Palace
- A meeting with Prince Charles
- 108 short film screenings
- 4 live webcasts from remote communities, received nationally and internationally
- 1682 workshops – art based, leadership and public presentation
- 979 indigenous community participants
- 103 committed participants involved in training and employment opportunities
- 3 national policy seminars
- 23 conferences, presentations & seminars, in Australia, London & Rotterdam

AN OUTDOOR SPECTACULAR IN HERMANNSBURG

In May 2012 Namatjira toured to its home community of Ntaria (Hermannsburg) in Central Australia. Spectacularly, it took place under the ghost gums next to the old mission church, in the very place that Albert Namatjira grew up. On this night over 600 people – who had come from remote communities near and far - were audience to their own culture and language on a nationally travelled stage of the highest calibre. Laughter young and old rang out among the West MacDonnell Ranges, at jokes in Western Aranda that had previously fallen on deaf ears. The event included an outdoor exhibition of Ntaria school students' watercolour works, the launch of the Watercolours of Namatjira iPad app, performances by the Ntaria school choir and the Ntaria Ladies Choir, and a great big community BBQ. That night the community's pride swelled on mass.



NAMATJIRA IN REVIEW

"We rose to applaud Namatjira without hesitation on opening night, brought to our feet by this generous and enlightening production" ★★★★★

The Sydney Morning Herald.

"Namatjira is confident, articulate and beautifully made theatre" ★★★★★

The Age.

"Namatjira is an enactment of reconciliation...a tribute to how artfully its makers step through the political minefield of this kind of community-based work".

Theatre Notes.

"Namatjira is must-see Australian theatre"

Stage Whispers.

"...this is a major piece of contemporary playwriting... a feat of creative innovation on the part of Scott Rankin".

Augusta Supple.





NAMATJIRA ON TOUR: SHOWS, EXHIBITIONS AND WORKSHOPS.

Namatjira toured extensively from 2010 – 2013. Wherever the show toured so too did exhibitions of contemporary watercolours by Central Desert artists continuing to paint in the Hermannsburg tradition initiated by Albert Namatjira. Generating exposure and sales for these artists, the majority of these exhibitions sold out. Tours were also accompanied by watercolour masterclasses, movement workshops, seminars, talks and cultural exchange opportunities.

“Namatjira is a magnificent theatrical achievement; a marvellous, deeply moving, incredibly human story of triumph and tragedy”.

Arts Hub ★★★★★.

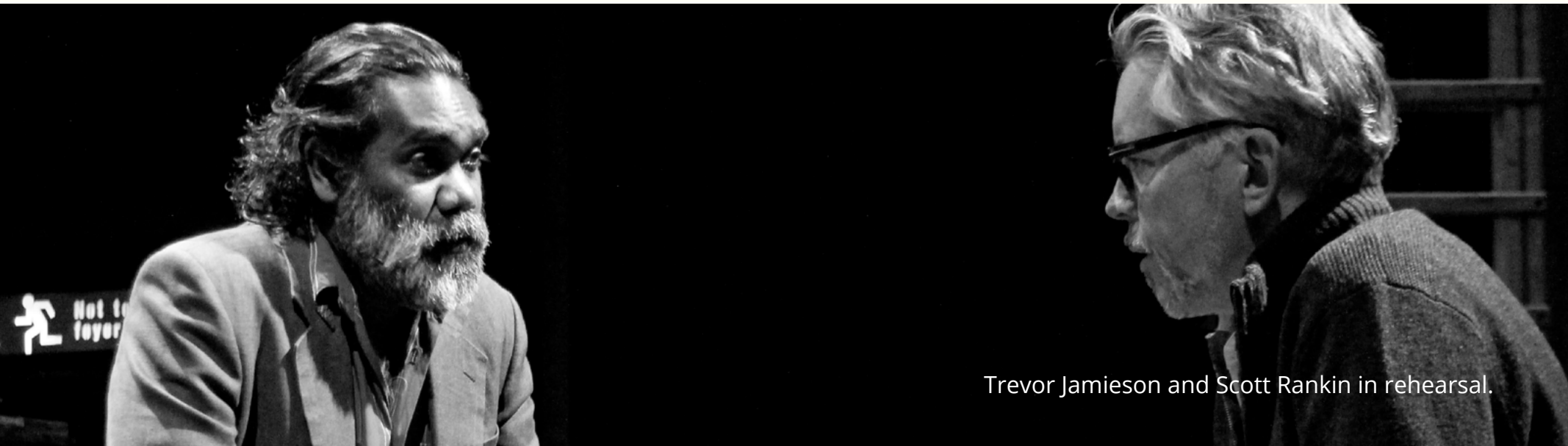
TOURING HISTORY

2010 – WORLD PREMIERE

- Developmental showing and exhibition – Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- Co-production with Belvoir Street Theatre, Sydney, NSW
- Exhibitions – Birrung Gallery and Damien Minton Gallery

2011 – 8 WEEK TOUR

- International Community Arts Festival (workshop presentation) Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- Malthouse Theatre in Melbourne, VIC (Exhibition: Alcaston Gallery)
- Drum Theatre, Dandenong, VIC
- Geelong Performing Arts Centre, Geelong, Victoria (Exhibition: Metropolis Gallery)
- Canberra Theatre Centre, Canberra, ACT (Exhibition: Chapman Gallery)
- Illawarra Performing Arts Centre, Wollongong, NSW (Exhibition: Wollongong City Gallery)
- Northern Rivers Performing Arts Group, Lismore, NSW (Exhibition: Lismore City Hall)

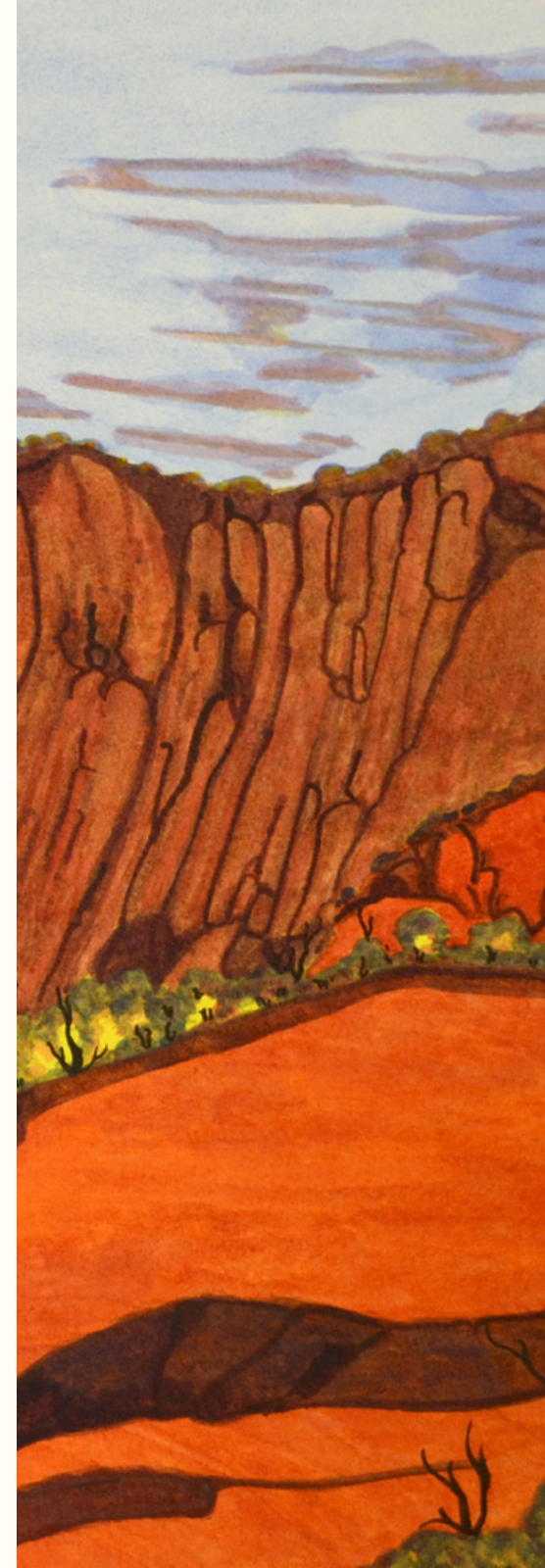


Trevor Jamieson and Scott Rankin in rehearsal.

TOURING HISTORY

2012 - 16 WEEK NATIONAL REGIONAL AUSTRALIAN TOUR

- Riverside Theatres Parramatta, Sydney (Exhibition: Damien Minton Gallery)
- Capitol Theatre, Tamworth, NSW
- Orange Civic Theatre, NSW
- Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre, NSW
- Civic Precinct Newcastle, NSW (Exhibition: The Lock Up, Newcastle)
- Griffith Regional Theatre, NSW
- Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre, NSW
- Albury Entertainment Centre, NSW
- Riverlinks, Westside Performing Arts Centre, Shepparton, VIC
- Esso BHP Billiton Wellington Entertainment Centre, Sale, VIC
- Frankston Arts Centre, VIC
- Arts Centre Warragul, VIC
- Burnie Arts and Function Centre, TAS (Exhibition: Burnie Regional Art Gallery)
- Theatre North, Launceston, TAS (Exhibition: 1842 Gallery, Launceston)
- Theatre Royal, Hobart, TAS (Exhibition: Art Mob Gallery, Hobart)
- Adelaide Festival Centre, SA (Exhibition: Artspace Gallery)
- Hermannsburg Heritage Precinct, Ntaria, NT
- Araluan Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT (Exhibition: Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs)
- Townsville Civic Theatre, QLD
- Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre, QLD
- Rockhampton Venues and Events, QLD



TOURING HISTORY

2013 – LONDON

- Purcell Room, Southbank Centre, London, UK 27 – 29 November 2013

With:

- Watercolour workshop & Lecture - Royal Academy of Art
- Exhibition: *Living Watercolours* – The Namatjira Family Legacy, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre
- Private audience with Her Majesty the Queen - Buckingham Palace
- Exclusive reception with the Prince of Wales – Royal Academy of Art



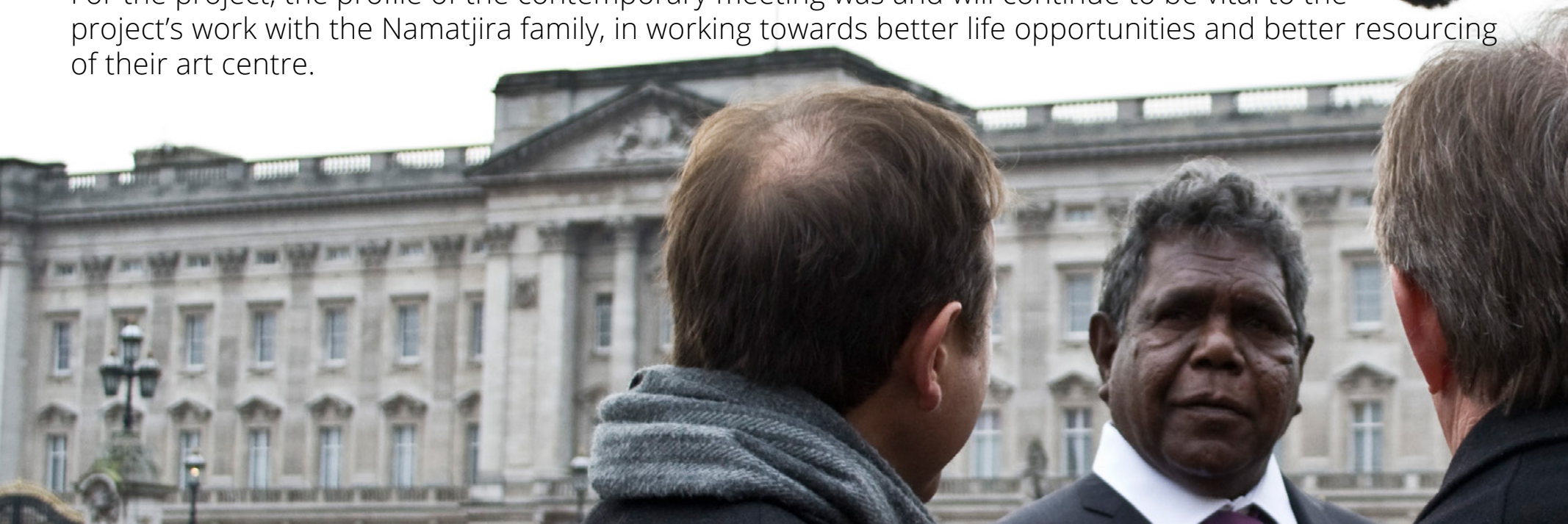
NAMATJIRA IN LONDON

In November 2013 the Namatjira company travelled from the desert to London. The trip was full of activity - a sell-out season at Southbank Centre; a sell-out watercolour exhibition opened by Kathy Lette and Geoffery Robertson; a watercolour workshop and seminar at the Royal Academy of Art, linked with the landmark 'Australia' exhibition.

Perhaps most anticipated, yet least expected, were the encounters with the Royal family. The Namatjiras were invited to an exclusive reception with Prince Charles at the Royal Academy of Art. Further to that, on the day of opening night, Namatjira company members, and grandchildren Lenie and Kevin, were invited to Buckingham Palace for a private audience with The Queen and The Duke.

For the Namatjiras, this was a momentous occasion, signifying the continuity of friendship between theirs and the Royal family, following on from Albert Namatjira meeting with the Queen on her coronation tour in Australia in 1954.

For the project, the profile of the contemporary meeting was and will continue to be vital to the project's work with the Namatjira family, in working towards better life opportunities and better resourcing of their art centre.



BIG hART

Formed in 1992 in Tasmania, Big hART is Australia's leading arts and social change company - producing critically and publicly acclaimed performance, visual, and media art, while being a powerful driver of solutions to complex social problems.

Big hART works with communities to foster social inclusion and participation. These values underpin all of the company's work.

Artistic outcomes of Big hART projects are widely recognized by numerous industry awards, and showcased in leading arts festivals around the world.

"Instead of being locked into the 'machine of theatre', Big hART and its performers sit on 'the evolving edge of the authentic moment' - being here and now but not compromising about making great work."

The Age, Australia



Kevin Namatjira onstage during Namatjira, Belvoir St Theatre, 2010.

CREDITS

**A BIG hART PRODUCTION
CREATED WITH THE NAMATJIRA FAMILY**

Writer/Director: **Scott Rankin**
Set Designer: **Genevieve Dugard**
Composer & Music Director: **Genevieve Lacey**
Costume Designer: **Tess Schofield**
Lighting Designer: **Nigel Levings**
Sound Designer: **Jim Atkins**

Creative Producer: **Sophia Marinos**
Associate Producer: **Cecily Hardy**
Assistant Producers: **Holly Rankin-Smith, Clare Atkins, Amy Hardingham**
Community Producers: **Carmen Robinson, Shannon Huber, Pru Gell, Sia Cox**

Production & Technical Manager: **Neil Fisher**
Stage Managers: **Lorna Earl, Jessica Smithett**
Sound Operator: **Jeremy Silver**
Tour & Company Manager: **Drew Cook**

Starring on stage: **Trevor Jamieson and Derik Lynch**

Portrait Artists: **Robert Hannaford, Michael Peck, Evert Ploeg**
Musicians: **Nicole Forsyth, Genevieve Lacey and Rhia Parker**

Scenic Artists: **Kevin Namatjira, Lenie Namatjira, Gwenda Namatjira, Albert Namatjira Jnr., Gloria Pannka, Ivy Pareroutja, Mervyn Rubuntja, Peter Tjutjatja Taylor, Betty Wheeler, Marcus Wheeler, Hilary Wirri, Dougie Kwarlple Abbott**





CREDITS

Set Scenic Artist: **Neil Mallard**

Set Landscape Artist: **Elton Wirri**

Choir sounds: **Ntaria Ladies Choir**

Film Crew: **Sera Davies, Stuart Thorne, Adrian Warburton**

Choreography: **Yumi Umiumare**

Webcaster: **Matt Davis**

Watercolours of Namatjira App: **Stuart Campbell**

Family & Cultural Consultants: **Rahel Engwaneke, Alison French, Judith Ingkamala, Gwenda Namatjira, Kevin Namatjira, Lenie Namatjira, Rosabelle Namatjira, Rosalee Namatjira, Gloria Pannka, Ivy Pareroutja, Gayle Quarmby (nee Battarbee), David & Lily Roennfeldt, Joseph Rontji, Mervyn Rubuntja, Elton Wirri, Mr Wirri, Hilary Wirri, Betty Wheeler, Marcus Wheeler.**

CONTACT

Creative Producer : Sophia Marinos

sophia@bighart.org

namatjira.bighart.org

bighart.org