



ilbijerri theatre presents

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# Chopped Liver

Written by Kamarra Bell-Wykes  
Directed by Rachael Maza Long  
Dramaturgy by John Romeril  
Featuring Nikki Ashby & Cy Fahey

## Synopsis

*She ran away.  
He ran amuck.  
And one day they ran into each other...*

Meet Lynne & Jim. They've both been around the block – working, protesting, jail, partying, and kids. Now they've come home - but can they leave their past behind?

It's about Life, Love, and being more than "Chopped Liver".

Touring nationally to communities, schools & prisons, this Blak comedy is written by Kamarra Bell-Wykes and presented by Ilbijerri Theatre, to raise awareness of Hepatitis C in the Indigenous Community.

The show is Deadly.  
The Virus doesn't have to be.

**Running Time:** 50 minutes (no interval)

**Audience:** Suitable for audiences age 16+. Performance includes drug references.

## A short history of the show

In 2005 Ilbijerri was approached by the Victorian Department of Human Services (DHS) to develop a play that would communicate Hepatitis C prevention and education messages in a culturally appropriate way to the Indigenous community.

The partnership grew to include the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) and Hepatitis C Victoria, as well as Corrections Victoria, Department of Justice.

The success of this collaboration has seen the project find national demand, with Ilbijerri teaming up with local and state health bodies in NSW, TAS, SA, WA & QLD to tour the show around the country.

The show first hit the road in November 2006, and has subsequently gone on to be seen by around six thousand people, in well over a hundred communities, schools & prisons across Australia. In 2008, the show was awarded an Indigenous Community Justice Award (for outstanding contribution towards improved social justice for the Koori Community in the Enforcement Initiative), as well as the prestigious "Secretary's Award" at the 2008 Victorian Public Healthcare Awards, for "keeping people well in the community".

The show has been devised specifically to be performed in non-theatre spaces. Shows have been presented in a range of settings including health centre foyers, school gymnasiums, local performing arts centres and other community spaces.

Live performance, particularly Comedy, is an effective tool in breaking down social boundaries where certain concepts and issues are considered too confronting to speak about. *Chopped Liver* has proven to be particularly effective in this sense, raising awareness and opening opportunities for discussion, prevention and support.



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## What are the key messages of play?

“The play explores the issues around needle use and tattooing, attitudes, discrimination, relationships, peer groups, community attitudes, bullying and rejection, and myth busting. As the lead male character Jim says “knowledge is power!”

The play starts in 1998 and you're taken along the journey of the two characters – Lynne and Jim – over 20 years to 2006. It's about their stories. They're from a small country town – could be anywhere. They move to the city and back again, and have a kid. But the whole time that they're traveling, they're traveling with this hepatitis C virus, and the play is about how their relationship with the virus changes over those 20 years. So hepatitis C is actually another character in the play.

Hepatitis C is something that's from their past, in their youth. But now, 10, 15 years later, even though they've got kids, got jobs and living straight, it's something they're still living with. Mistakes they make unknowingly come back and haunt them and now it is about trying to live with their consequences. But it doesn't have to be a negative, life damaging experience. Things are what you make them, so that's what the show is trying to show.

It's also putting hepatitis C on the same par as diabetes and heart problems. Blakfellas have so many health issues already – so it's just another one to add to the mix. But when we take responsibility and own these things, that's when we can positively address them.”

**(Kamarra Bell-Wykes)**

## About Ilbijerri

Ilbijerri (pronounced il BIDGE er ree) is a Woiwurrung word meaning Coming Together for Ceremony.

Ilbijerri is one of Australia's leading theatre companies creating innovative contemporary works by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists that challenges and connects with our audiences. Ilbijerri believes in the power of Indigenous voices. Our creative processes support the empowerment of Indigenous artists and communities to tell our stories, from our perspective. Ilbijerri productions have toured nationally and internationally being acclaimed by critics and resonating with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous audiences.

Our plays explore a range of complex and controversial issues from a uniquely Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective. Our plays possess the power to reach out and remind audiences of every person's need for family, history and heritage.

[www.ilbijerri.org.au](http://www.ilbijerri.org.au)