



ILBIJERRI
ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
THEATRE CO-OPERATIVE

Arts House, Meat Market

5 Blackwood Street
North Melbourne VIC 3051

ABN: 27 865 864 658

t: 03 9329 9097

f: 03 9329 9105

ilbijerri.org.au

Organisation History

Ilbjerri was created almost 20 years ago by Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander artists in Melbourne, in response to seeing non-Indigenous theatre companies telling Indigenous stories.

We wanted to see our stories – reflecting our experiences – told by our people.

It's this belief in "the power of black voices telling black stories" that has seen Ilbjerri become the longest surviving Indigenous theatre company in Australia. The company has toured nationally and internationally, finding critical acclaim and resonance with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous audiences.

Ilbjerri ensures that our stories are being brought to life both authentically and with respect, whether it's on the streets of Fitzroy (*The Dirty Mile*); in a remote Aboriginal health clinic (*Chopped Liver*); in a theatre in Japan (*Stolen*); or with a Reconciliation Week show that reminds us of every person's need for a connection to family, history and heritage (*Songlines of a Mutti Mutti Man*).

In 2008, Ilbjerri gained the added impetus of a new Artistic Director in the vibrant form of Rachael Maza Long – a move which has seen such conversation generating sights as: a cast of Indigenous performers encased in museum cabinets in Federation Square (*Jacky Jacky in the Box*); a tent full of the state's sexiest and most talented Blackfellas (the *VIPA Awards @ The Famous Spiegeltent*); and Australia's first Black Prime Minister (*A Black Sheep Walks into a Baa*, Melbourne International Comedy Festival 2009).

In 2009, Ilbjerri is poised on the brink of an immensely exciting new era of Indigenous theatre – where a Spade is a Spade, and Black is The New Black.

We invite you to join us on the ride.

"Ilbjerri... crackles with so much black humour it's like sticking a knife into a toaster" *The Age*