

Press Release  
For Immediate Release



**BANGARRA TO TOUR TORRES STRAIT CHILDREN'S PRODUCTION  
WARU - JOURNEY OF THE SMALL TURTLE IN 2024**



★★★★

**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)**

**29<sup>th</sup> April 2024:** 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* from 26 June to 9 November 2024. Winner of the Sydney Theatre Awards 'Best Production for Children' in 2023, *Waru* is a must-see Australian work for children aged 3 and up, having been performed over 80 times across its two critically acclaimed seasons, reaching over 17,000.

A journey of survival and discovery with our heroine Migi the turtle, the contemporary 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 2024 TOUR

MEANJIN	Queensland Performing Arts Centre	26 <sup>th</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup> June	<a href="https://www.qpac.com.au/whats-on/2024/waru-journey-of-the-small-turtle">https://www.qpac.com.au/whats-on/2024/waru-journey-of-the-small-turtle</a>
TARIBELANG BUNDA, GOORENG GOORENG, GURAN, BAILAI COUNTRY	Moncreiff Entertainment Centre	25 <sup>th</sup> September	<a href="https://aubundaberg.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/133087">https://aubundaberg.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/133087</a>
GIABAL, JARROWAIR COUNTRY	Empire Theatre	28 <sup>th</sup> September	Coming Soon

GADIGAL COUNTRY	Sydney Opera House	9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> October	<a href="https://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/events/book-now/246960/0">https://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/events/book-now/246960/0</a>
BUNURONG COUNTRY	Bunjil Place	14 <sup>th</sup> October	<a href="https://www.bunjilplace.com.au/events/waru">https://www.bunjilplace.com.au/events/waru</a>
DJAARA COUNTRY	Ulumbarra Theatre	17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Coming Soon
KOMBUMERRI COUNTRY	HOTA: Gold Coast	23 <sup>rd</sup> October	<a href="https://hota.com.au/whats-on/live/dance/waru-journey-of-the-small-turtle">https://hota.com.au/whats-on/live/dance/waru-journey-of-the-small-turtle</a>
TULMUR	Ipswich Civic Centre	25 <sup>th</sup> October	<a href="https://www.ipswichciviccentre.com.au/event/waru-journey-of-the-small-turtle/">https://www.ipswichciviccentre.com.au/event/waru-journey-of-the-small-turtle/</a>
BAILAI, GURANG, GOORENG GOORENG, TARIBELANG BUNDA COUNTRY	Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre	29 <sup>th</sup> October	Coming Soon
DARUMBAL COUNTRY	Pilbeam Theatre, Rockhampton	31 <sup>st</sup> October – 1 <sup>st</sup> November	<a href="https://www.seeitlive.com.au/What's-On/Waru">https://www.seeitlive.com.au/What's-On/Waru</a>
NGUNNAWAL COUNTRY	Canberra Theatre Centre	7 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> November	<a href="https://www.canberraticketing.com.au/show/waru-2024/">https://www.canberraticketing.com.au/show/waru-2024/</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)

Marygrace Lardizabal: 0479 081 960 | [Marygrace@kabukupr.com.au](mailto:Marygrace@kabukupr.com.au)

*Waru – journey of the small turtle has been generously supported by the Girgensohn Foundation, the Knights Family Jabula Foundation, the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund – an Australian Government initiative.*

