

**MELBOURNE
FESTIVAL**

**08—25
OCTOBER
2015**



Melbourne Festival and ILBIJERRI Theatre Company
in association with the Bardas Foundation present

TANDERRUM

FACILITATED BY ILBIJERRI THEATRE COMPANY

FEDERATION SQUARE
THU 08 OCTOBER from 6.30PM

COUNTRIES TO WELCOME

A Multicultural Funk Jam at 7.30pm

CREATIVE VICTORIA



PHOTO STEVEN RHALL

Today you are welcomed to witness a glimpse of our culture which we invite you to share with us.

6.30PM—7.30PM

TANDERRUM

Ceremony begins at the sacred sand circle in Federation Square.

At the end of TANDERRUM, you are invited to join us in the final dance.

7.30PM

COUNTRIES TO WELCOME

A multicultural funk jam on the Federation Square stage.

Curated by James Henry, and featuring Music Victoria's Best Indigenous Act 2014, **The Deans** and Sudanese singer songwriter **Ajak Kwai** will be joined by Indigenous and multicultural special guest performers to celebrate the official opening of the 2015 Melbourne Festival.



ABOUT TANDERRUM

TANDERRUM (the Kulin Nation Ceremony) is a celebration of the ground we stand on and of the people whose Ancestors walked it before our time.

We honor the countless ceremonies that our Ancestors danced and still dance to this day. As the world changes the Ceremonies change too but *TANDERRUM* still means the same thing—to welcome people to Country and to keep them safe.

This powerful event brings together Elders from the five clans of the Eastern or Central Kulin: **Wurundjeri, Boon Wurrung, Taungurung, Dja Dja Wurrung** and the **Wadawurrung** to celebrate their rich cultural heritage and formally open the **2015 Melbourne Festival**.

Through *TANDERRUM*, Melbourne Festival and its visitors acknowledge the Law (Lore) of **Creator Spirit Bunjil** and pay their respects to the vibrant and living culture of this land. When local and international artists pass through the smoke, they agree to follow the Law (Lore) of the land and pay their respect to its Custodians before receiving permission to perform song and dance on this land. This is the Law (Lore) of Bunjil that has existed from time immemorial. When people accept the Law (Lore) of Bunjil they agree to learn our history and respect our culture.

JOIN US IN THE FINAL DANCE

In ceremonies such as TANDERRUM there was traditionally no distinction between participants and the audience.

With this in mind we invite you to join us in celebration for the final dance in *TANDERRUM*.

Like a lyre bird we ask you to watch and listen to those around you and, when you feel comfortable, please join in from your spot in the crowd. Remember to respect the space and those around you.

We also ask that you not enter the ceremonial sand circle and be cautious of the fire.

TAUNGURUNG

The Taungurung people are closely affiliated with neighbouring tribes, through language, ceremonies and kinship ties. Taungurung are part of the Kulin Nation. The Kulin Nation mob also share common dreamtime ancestors and creation stories, religious beliefs and economic and social relationships. The Taungurung people share a common bond in moiety with the other tribes.

Our world was divided into two moieties: **Waang (Crow)** and **Bunjil (Wedge Tail Eagle)**. The nomadic nature of the Taungurung people enabled us to utilise the resources available in our vast Country. Our Ancestors had an intimate knowledge of their environment and were able to sustain the ecology of each region and exploit the food available.

DJA DJA WURRUNG

Jaara means people of the Dja Dja Wurrung speaking language group. Dja Dja Wurrung people have lived on our traditional lands and cared for our Country over many thousands of years. For us, Country is more than just the landscape, it is more than what is visible to the eye—it is a living entity, which holds the stories of creation and histories that cannot be erased.

Our dreaming stories of **Djandak (Country)** explain the creation of our lands and how Dja Dja Wurrung people evolved. **Bunjil (Wedge Tail Eagle)**, is our creator and helps us to understand our connections to each other through his law. **Mindi, the giant serpent**, is his enforcer implementing the laws and ceremonies that ensure the continuation of life.



WURUNDJERI

The Wurundjeri is a group that exists within the **Woiworung** group. The Wurundjeri have lived in the Melbourne area from time immemorial. In times of plenty, large gatherings occurred between different language groups, called **TANDERRUM**. These were for trade, initiation, marriage exchange, to discuss politics and to have a feast and celebration in honour of friendship and the time of plenty.

An integral part of the **TANDERRUM** is the highly valued **walert-walert (possum skin cloak)**. Traditionally you are wrapped in one at birth, in initiation ceremonies, at marriage and you are buried with your cloak. With the resurgence of Wurundjeri ceremony and cloak making, they are still being used in Wurundjeri ceremonies today.

BOON WURRUNG

The Boon Wurrung are the traditional people and custodians of the lands from the Werribee River to Wilson Promontory.

The Boon Wurrung were an extended language-based family group, consisting of six clans: Yallukit Willam, Ngaruk Willam, Mayune Baluk, Boon Wurrung Balug, Yownegerra and the Yallock Balluk. They were part of the larger confederation or nation of the **Kulin (the people)**.

The Boon Wurrung has a very strong and detailed oral history that recalled events estimated to be ten thousand years old. The descendants of the Boon Wurrung continue to live in the greater Melbourne area and take an active role in maintaining and protecting their cultural heritage.

The land of the Boon Wurrung was protected by **Bunjil** who travelled as an eagle. The waterways were protected by **Waa** who travelled as a crow. **Looern**, a demi-god of the Boon Wurrung protected Wamoon, the land we now call Wilson's Promontory.

WADAWURRUNG

The Wadawurrung is a group that exists within the **Wathaurong** group. The Wadawurrung ranged over a wide area according to seasonal food sources, ceremonial obligations and trading relationships. The people conscientiously managed their land by building substantial houses, cultivating root vegetables and promoting grasslands by using controlled winter fire to promote the best conditions for plants and game while eliminating the risk of wildfire in summer.

They were particularly good at cultivating and harvesting Old Man Weed, which is a very effective healing plant used for curing colds and chest infections.

The Creation Stories and the spiritual places which can be found right across Wadawurrung land are testament to the way the people lived in harmony with the environment. This strong sense of spirituality and connection with the land enabled the Wadawurrung people to survive in a constantly changing landscape. They continue this tradition today.

ELDERS

WURUNDJERI

Aunty Diane Kerr
& Aunty Irene Morris

Wadawurrung

Uncle Bryon Powell

Taungurung

Uncle Larry Walsh
& Aunty Bernadette Franklin

Boon Wurrung

Aunty Carolyn Briggs &
Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir

Dja Dja Wurrung

Aunty Fay Carter,
Aunty Linda Ford &
Uncle Hurtle Atkinson

DJIRRI DJIRRI

A Woiwurrung and Boon Wurrung word for willie wagtail, the next generation of leaders who act as a messenger for the Elders.

Wurundjeri

Mandy Nicholson

Wadawurrung

Tammy Gilson

Taungurung

Angela ten Buuren
& Hannah Morphy-Walsh

Boon Wurrung

Marbee Williams

Mentored by

Richie Hallal

Dja Dja Wurrung

Wendy Berick,
Ricky Nelson
& Trent Nelson

TANDERRUM

Artistic Director

Jacob Boehme

Artistic Mentor

Rachael Maza

Choreography

Jacob Boehme
& Mariaa Randall

Composer

James Henry

Musical Direction

Deline Briscoe
& Emma Donovan

Visual Artist / Designer

Maree Clarke

Dramaturg

Kamarra Bell-Wykes

Stage Manager

Brock Brocklesby

Production Manager

Ilana Russell

ILBIJERRI THEATRE COMPANY

Artistic Director

Rachael Maza

Associate Producer

Lisa Parris

Company Manager

Lauren Bok

MELBOURNE FESTIVAL

Artistic Director

Josephine Ridge

Event Producer

Edwina Lunn

Production Manager

Gene Hadley



Melbourne Festival's free program of activities
proudly brought to you by the City of Melbourne.

Supported by Vic Health and Helen Macpherson Smith Trust.