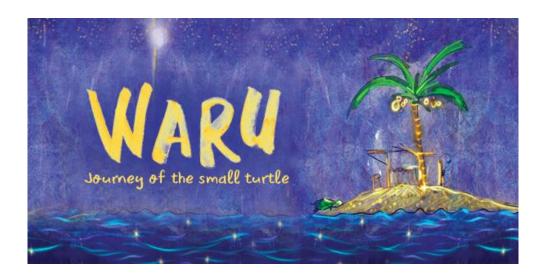
Press Release
For Immediate Release



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



## ★★★ 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)

**12**<sup>th</sup> **July, 2023**: 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*. Fresh from it's critically acclaimed (and kid approved!) Sydney premiere season in 2022, *Waru* is a must-see new Australian work for children aged 3 and up and their families.

A journey of survival and discovery with our heroine Migi the turtle, the contemporary saltwater 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 2023 TOUR

WURUNDJERI	Arts Centre	12 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup>	https://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au/whats-
COUNTRY	Melbourne	September	on/2023/kids-and-families/waru
DARKINJUNG	The Art House	22 <sup>nd</sup> and	https://www.thearthousewyong.com.au/whats-
COUNTRY	(Wyong)	23 <sup>rd</sup>	on/waru-journey-of-the-small-turtle
		September	
GADIGAL	Bangarra	27 <sup>th</sup>	https://my.bangarra.com.au/events?k=waru
COUNTRY	Studio Theatre	September	
	(Sydney)	to 14 <sup>th</sup>	
		October	
WADAWURRUNG	Geelong Arts	19 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup>	Booking details available soon
COUNTRY	Centre	October	
GUNDUNGURRA	Goulburn	24 <sup>th</sup> and	https://www.goulburnpac.com.au/Events-
COUNTRY	Performing	25 <sup>th</sup>	directory/Waru
	Arts Centre	October	

YUIN COUNTRY	Shoalhaven	27 <sup>th</sup> and	https://shoalhavenentertainment.com.au/whats-
	Entertainment	28 <sup>th</sup>	on/event-details/waru
	Centre	October	
	(Nowra)		
GIMUY	Cairns	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Booking details available soon
WALUBARA	Performing	November	
YIDINJI	Arts Centre		
GARRAMILLA	Darwin	9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup>	https://www.yourcentre.com.au/#!/events/-
	Entertainment	November	NXsrlHtJz4eysm5WvBK/
	Centre		

Tickets and more information: https://www.bangarra.com.au/productions/waru-journeyof-the-small-turtle/ or (02) 9251 5333

> - ENDS -Images are available for download here.

### For further information and interview requests: **KABUKU PUBLIC RELATIONS**

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