



Performing Lines WA

company background information

About Marrugeku Theatre Company

Marrugeku Theatre Company is at the leading edge of Australian contemporary intercultural performance. Founded in 1994, the company is currently under the artistic direction of Rachael Swain and Dalisa Pigram.

Drawing from the lives of people and communities living in remote in North West Australia, Marrugeku Theatre Company share the memories and traditions of Indigenous culture through contemporary dance-theatre.

Place and identity, migration and misplacement, and the constant shifting world of cultural identities and globalised fantasies constantly inform the direction of their productions.

Their ambitious large-scale outdoor works are created through long-term collaborations with a multicultural cast of professional and community based artists. The company utilises flexible contemporary dance languages, relevant traditional and contemporary music, physical theatre, circus, installation and video art.

Each visually spectacular production is designed to tour regional and remote communities as well as major Australian and international arts festivals.

Quotes

"It is synthetic theatre at its boldest, most expressive and physical, where the imagination stalks unchained on stage, the spirits of the land move unseen among us ...Scope, ambition, projection and sheer physical skills of this order are scarcely the norm on the national stage, or indeed in productions held across Cahill's Crossing in the lush, forbidden country of Arnhem Land."

Nicholas Rothwell, *The Australian*, 2000

"Marrugeku's Crying Baby was probably the highlight of my festival. This ongoing collaboration between members of Stalker Theatre Company, WA based indigenous performers and the Oenpelli community in Arnhem Land remains the most artistically, conceptually, politically and socially ambitious work being made in Australia today. The issues are huge and directly impact upon the working process of the company but the fragility, vulnerability, confusion and instability of that collaborative process is one of the most hopeful things I have witnessed in Australian Theatre." Sarah Miller, *Realtime Arts* # 42

Core artist biographies

Rachael Swain Co-Artistic Director

Rachael conceives and directs multimedia performances in a unique synthesis of theatre, circus, video, and dance, in a variety of alternative locations nationally and internationally. Rachael co devised and performed in all of Stalker's earlier street theatre productions. She conceived and directed *Mimi*, *Blood Vessel*, *Crying Baby*, *Incognita* and *Burning Daylight* for Marrugeku and Stalker. Her works have toured throughout remote and urban Australia, Europe, Latin America and the Pacific. She was commissioned by the European Capital of Culture to create SUGAR an intercultural dance, project in the port cities of Marseilles and Liverpool (06/07). Rachael has written, directed and produced several multi-screen video projects for live performances and installation, including proXy co directed with Andr   Lepecki 02. In 2005 she wrote and co produced a dance documentary and three short Noodle Westerns for *Burning Daylight*.

Dalisa Pigram Co-Artistic Director

Dalisa was born and raised in Broome, northwestern Australia. Her family is part of the Yawuru people of Broome and Bardi people of One Arm Point.

Dalisa is a founding member and recently appointed Co Artistic Director of the Marrugeku Company, with which she has toured to the Netherlands, The Philippines, New Caledonia, Latin America, Ireland, Belgium, Germany, Zurich and all over Australia with shows *Mimi*, *Crying Baby* and latest piece *Burning Daylight*. Dalisa has also toured with Stalker Theatre Company's *Blood Vessel* in Australia and overseas and was a co-devisor and performer in Stalker's *Incognita* which also toured extensively. Dalisa hopes to help keep her culture alive and strong through performing arts and teaching.

Works

- 2009** *Burning Daylight*, Redevelopment / AUS tour; Broome, Perth, Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart
- 2007** *Burning Daylight*, World premiere, Zurich Theatre Festival, Switzerland
- 2006** *Burning Daylight*, Avant Premiere: Shinju Matsuri Festival, Broome
- 2002** *Crying Baby*, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- 2002** *Crying Baby*, Sydney Festival
- 2001** *Crying Baby*, European Tour; Holland, Belgium, Ireland
- 2001** *Crying Baby*, Opening of the new Australian Museum, Canberra
- 2001** *Crying Baby*, World Premiere: Perth International Arts Festival, Australia
- 2000** *Crying Baby*, Avant Premiere: Oenpelli, Arnhem Land, and Festival of Darwin
- 1999** *Mimi*, 2000 TODAY, ABC Millennium Broadcast. ULURU: New Years Eve
- 1998** *Mimi*, Noumea Tour
- 1998** *Mimi* All the Best of Australia, Manila
- 1997** *Mimi*, Festival of the Dreaming, Sydney
- 1997** *Mimi*, Stage X, Brisbane
- 1997** *Mimi*, European Tour
- 1996** *Mimi*, Arnhem Land Tour: Kunbarllajnja, Maningrida, Elcho Island, Yirkala
- 1996** *Mimi*, Festival of Perth, Production Premiere

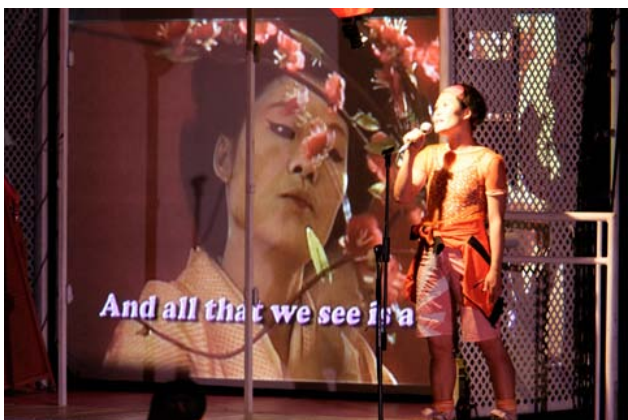
Resources

[Marrugeku and Stalker Website](#)

[Marrugeku in Broome, Keith Gallasch talks to Rachael Swain](#) Realtime Arts #65

[Stalker Theatre Channel](#) Youtube

Images of selected works



Burning Daylight (2007) Zurich, Switzerland, 2007; Images by Christian Altorfer



Crying Baby (2004)