

deBASE productions presents

# CHASING THE LOLLYMAN

A ONE MAN COMEDY SHOW CELEBRATING  
URBAN ABORIGINAL IDENTITY

Starring Mark Sheppard  
Directed by Liz Skitch

28<sup>th</sup> January - 13<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
Sue Benner Theatre, Metro Arts



# CHASING THE LOLLYMAN

## PRODUCTION TEAM

|                              |                                |                               |                                 |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Performer / Writer</b>    | Mark Sheppard                  | <b>Choreographer</b>          | Marilyn Miller                  |
| <b>Director / Co-devisor</b> | Liz Skitch                     | <b>Stage Manager</b>          | Anika Vilee                     |
| <b>Designer</b>              | Josh McIntosh                  | <b>ASM / Design Assistant</b> | Yvette Turnbull                 |
| <b>Lighting Designer</b>     | Jason Glenwright               | <b>Production Manager</b>     | Robert Kronk                    |
| <b>Sound Designer</b>        | Ian O'Brien                    | <b>Photography</b>            | Lukas Davidson                  |
| <b>Dramaturge</b>            | Nadine McDonald                | <b>Graphic Design</b>         | Lead Based Ink                  |
| <b>Visual Design</b>         | Bianca Beetson                 | <b>Publicist</b>              | Olivia Guglielmino,<br>Modcomms |
| <b>Musician</b>              | Kimba Fatiaki                  |                               |                                 |
| <b>Voiceovers</b>            | Dianna Cassidy<br>Robert Kronk |                               |                                 |



## ABOUT deBASE

Established in 1998, deBASE productions creates unique comic performances displaying artistic excellence. Based in the Metro Arts Building, deBASE develops comic work using many comic forms – from sketch comedy and clown to comic drama and satire. The deBASE principal artistic team is Bridget Boyle, Robert Kronk and Liz Skitch. For more information about the company, go to [www.debaseproductions.com](http://www.debaseproductions.com)

## KURIL DHAGUN

The first of its kind in any Australian State Library, *kuril dhagun*, located on level one of the State Library of Queensland, provides a nucleus for Queensland's unique Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. It is also the flagship for the network of Indigenous Knowledge Centres located throughout Queensland. *kuril dhagun* draws its meaning from *kuril*, referring to the native marsupial that is found on the State Library site, near Kurilpa Point on the Brisbane River, and *dhagun*, meaning earth/place/country, with a literal translation of the name being 'kurils place'. The State Library of Queensland is honoured to support the ongoing writings of Indigenous Queensland writers through *kuril dhagun* and its public program.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I first got to work with Mark on a Kite theatre show in 2002. We toured the state (Mark, Tim Mullooly, Peter Stewart and I) and many adventures were shared. A couple of years later, when deBASE was thinking about making *The Clown from Snowy River*, I knew that Mark was the Murri clown for the job. He had never clowned on stage before but had done plenty of clowning off stage. His clown, Daz was loved by all and the show is still touring the country.

Mark and I now live in a big old share house in West End. Sometimes our household (Mark, Fiona McGary and I) sit on the back verandah and share stories into the night. It was late one of these nights that Mark told us the *Chasing the Lollyman* story and I said "Hey, that'd be a great name for your one man show!" less than a year later – here it is.

Mark brought lots of ideas to the creative development, a combination of stories, opinions and feelings about his identity as an urban Aboriginal man. Mark has always been pretty quiet on these topics so I knew it was a big thing for him to open up and share in this way. Nadine McDonald came on board as our dramaturge and the three of us escaped the November heat in the air conditioning of *kuril dhagun* for an intense five-week creative development.

Many drafts, bags of lollies and showings later, we have a show.

*Chasing the Lollyman* really belongs to a wide community of people and thanks must go to all who have contributed ideas, energy and support to the making of the show.

Mark wants you, the audience, to feel part of this community too. *Chasing the Lollyman* has been a coming together of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous artists; it is a celebration, it is designed to provoke thought and conversation through the most powerful and healing form of communication – comedy.

*Liz Skitch, Director / Co-Devisor*



### **Mark Sheppard** *Performer*

Mark was born and raised in Mareeba, far north Queensland, and is a part of the Muluridgi and Mbarbarum tribes.

After moving to Perth in 1996 to attain a Certificate in Aboriginal Music Theatre at the Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts (ACPA), under the direction of Michael Leslie, he successfully auditioned for and completed a Bachelor of Arts, Theatre, at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA).

Mark has performed with companies such as Perth's Yirra Yaakin Noongar Theatre Company and Black Swan Theatre Company and Brisbane's Kooemba Jdarra. He has facilitated workshops in theatre and dance with Contact Inc., Inala Wongarra Committee, Vulcana Women's Circus and Drama Qld, and has been an artist in residence with the Queensland Theatre Company (QTC).

Mark has enjoyed an ongoing working relationship with deBASE productions through their show, *The Clown from Snowy River*, which has toured throughout Queensland and performed at both Woodford and Dreaming Festivals.



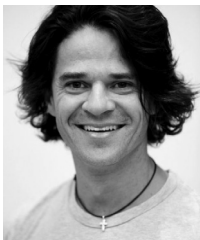
### **Liz Skitch** *Director*

Liz works as an actor/writer/director and comedian. She studied drama at Queensland University of Technology and following this, trained at the School of Philippe Gaulier in London. In 1998, she co-founded deBASE productions with Bridget Boyle and Robert Kronk.

New works created with deBASE include: *Popping Lead Balloons* (QAC 2009), *Waiting for Merlot* (BF08 Under the Radar 2008), *The Clown from Snowy River* (QAC/RAV 2006–10), *The Loud Room* (Melbourne International Comedy Festival 2003), *Frocking Fantastic* (Brisbane Powerhouse 2003, Melbourne Fringe Festival 2004) and *Titanic, the Clown Show* (Adelaide Fringe Festival 1999).

Liz has created many new works with Bridget Boyle and together they have started making children's theatre shows. Productions include *Lily Can't Sleep* (Out of the Box Festival 2006, Act 3 International Singapore and Kuala Lumpur 2007, Victorian Arts Centre 2007 and QAC 2007) and in 2010 they will create another new work for children with Queensland Theatre Company (QTC), *Hurry up and Wait* (a co-production with deBASE). In 2009, Liz was awarded a Churchill Fellowship and travelled to Japan where she carried research into Japanese children's theatre.

Liz's other performance credits include *The Alchemist* (QTC/ Bell Shakespeare 2009), *Show* (QTC/ QAC 2004), *Backseat Drivers* (QTC/Out of the Box), and *Ipswich Girl* (Dogs in the Roof 2003). Liz also performs as a standup comedian and in 2010 will premier her new show *Skitch Tease* at the Adelaide Fringe Festival. Liz is a proud member of the Media Entertainment Arts Alliance.



### **Josh McIntosh** *Designer*

Josh is a QUT graduate and has worked with some of Queensland's best known theatre companies and organisations. His design credits include *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Peter Pan*, *Jane Eyre*, *Hot Shoe Shuffle*, *Cats*, *Alice*, *Children of Eden*, *I Want to be in a Jane Austen Novel*, *Into the Woods*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Wiz*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe* (Harvest Rain Theatre); *The Wishing Well*,

*The Danger Age*, *The Year Nick McGowan Came to Stay* (La Boite); *The Seagull*, *Camino Real*, *Road, Our Town*, *The Three Sisters*, *Blackrock*, *Once in a Lifetime*, *The Crucible* (QUT Creative Industries); *The Road We're On* (Qld Music Festival); *The Passion* (Aspire Theatre Arts); *The Rabbit Hole* (Queensland Theatre Company); *The Last Five Years* (Oscar Theatre Company); and *The Return* (Springboard Theatre).

### **Ian O'Brien** *Sound Designer*

Ian is a performing musician, recording engineer and sound designer with over twenty years experience producing sound designs for theatre, commercial recordings across various genres and live sound. He is currently Principal 3rd horn with The Queensland Symphony Orchestra and the horn tutor at the University of Queensland. Ian holds a Masters of Philosophy in Music and a Diploma in Audio Engineering. He has worked for deBASE previously producing sound designs and recordings for *The Clown from Snowy River*, *The Loud Show* and *Waiting for Merlot*.



### **Jason Glenwright** *Lighting Designer*

Since graduating from QUT after a three-year Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Technical Production, Jason has practiced as a freelance lighting designer, mentor and advisor. In 2010 Jason is one of Queensland Theatre Company's Emerging Artists.

Jason's most recent theatre highlights as a Lighting Designer include *The Kursk* (La Boite/Matrix Theatre), *The Tempest* (Zen Zen Zo), *The Shining Path* and *Cake* (JUTE), *Cinderella*, *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *Peter Pan*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Sound of Music* (Harvest Rain/QPAC), *Lazarus Won't Get Out of Bed* (AS Theatre), *The Truth About Kookaburras* (Metro Arts/Pentimento), *The Passion* (aSpire Theatre Arts), *Dead Cats Don't Bounce* (Hot Tin Roof/QPAC), *The Pillowman* and *My Night with Harold* (23rd/Metro Arts), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Oscar Theatre) and *Brontë* (Three Sisters/Metro Arts). In 2009, Jason undertook the role of Assistant Lighting Designer on QTC's production of *The School of Arts*. Jason has also designed productions for companies including; QPAC, deBASE, CIRCA, Dianne Gough, Creative Regions, ...And Moor, MadCat, Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble, Backbone Youth Arts, Metro Independents and QUT. Jason was a 2009 Matilda Award finalist for his lighting design of Harvest Rain's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



### **Nadine McDonald-Dowd** *Dramaturge*

Nadine is currently the Program Coordinator for *kuril dhagun* at the State Library of Queensland. In her past life, she was the Artistic Director of Queensland's only Indigenous Theatre Company, Kooemba Jdarra, where she learnt to crave the written word and working with new and emerging Indigenous writers. With the kind hand of mentor Peter Matheson, she also tried her hand at the fine art of dramaturgy and has now been given the wonderful opportunity to work with Mark and Liz on *Chasing the Lollyman*. From the words of Uncle Jack Davis, "We are merely laying down the foundations for the next generation to come through and create their own pathways. Without this, we have nothing." *Chasing the Lollyman* is another pathway for our people to keep their stories alive!



### **Kimba Fatiaki** – *Musician*

Kimba is a South Sea Islander raised in Bundaberg, Queensland. He has been involved in the performing arts scene in Brisbane for the last 25 years. He was bass player for *Afro Dizzi Act* and has toured Australia extensively including supporting *Resin Dogs* and *Reference Point*.

He is a founder and composer for the Tongue and Groove Composers Collective, has composed for Laura Kahle and ACPA and has performed in the Brisbane Biennial.

## **Bianca Beetson** *Visual Design*

Bianca Beetson is a Kabi Kabi (Sunshine Coast) woman, born in Roma, western Queensland. Bianca studied a Bachelor of Arts, Visual Art at the Queensland University of Technology from 1993–95 and completed her Honors degree at the same university in 1998.

Bianca's work is always pink, with the occasional variation of hue or medium. She uses of humor and satire to critique issues of importance to her, drawing inspiration from real life experiences and conversations. Bianca's work is concerned with her individual identity as an Indigenous Australian, as well as the identity of Australia as a nation in terms of its history and its concept of itself.

In 1997 Bianca was selected for the Primavera exhibition at the MCA in Sydney. She had work in *Black Humor* and *Saltwater, Freshwater, Borewater* and *transvisual* national touring exhibitions. In April 1997 Bianca won her first art award; The Anglican Church Grammar School Old Boys Association Encouragement Award for artists under 25. As a member of the Campfire Group – Aboriginal artist's co-operation, she has had the opportunity to be involved in many projects based on cultural collaboration, including *All Stock Must Go* which was a part of the second Asia Pacific Triennial at the Queensland Art Gallery in 1996–97. Bianca has had a number of solo exhibitions in regional Queensland and Brisbane, and her work has been included in numerous group exhibitions in Australia and overseas. She currently has a solo exhibition touring around Queensland titled *The other Arty Beetson*. Bianca's work has also been included in festivals such as the Livid Festival, Stage X, and Dar. Recently Bianca received an Arts Queensland grant to produce and exhibit a body of work in the 2002 Adelaide Fringe Festival and she has been commissioned by Leah Purcell & Queensland Performing Arts Complex (QPAC) to create an art work for the *Black Chic's Talking* project. Bianca has work in public and private collections around Australian and overseas including Art Bank, QPAC and Queensland Art Gallery. She is a member of the prestigious ProppaNOW artist collective.



## **Yvette Turnbull** *Assistant Stage Manager & Design Assistant*

Yvette is excited to be back at Metro Arts in 2010 and off to a fresh start, pursuing her design aspirations in her first time with deBASE.

Some of Yvette's credits include: Productions with Vena Cava (QUT) in 2008–09, designing for *Like Dead* and DA on *No Exit*; as well as taking on the role of their graphic designer for 2009. Stage manager *Where the Wild Things Are* (Queensland Shakespeare Ensemble – Queensland Multicultural Festival 2009). Stage manager, *Transverse Fracture of the First Metacarpal* (Metro Arts Independents program). Assistant stage manager (Woodford Folk Festival 2009–10, *Genesis* as part of BF09). As well as crewing and performing in a variety of shows in Under the Radar, BF09.

Yvette spent the first part of 2009 with Cirque du Soleil in Brisbane and Perth as an usher on *Dralion*. She was also a keen volunteer working on BF08, BF09, Out of the Box Festival, State Library of Queensland, Riverfestival 2008, Exist in 08, Imaginary Theatre's *Tashi* and a regular with Laboite Theatre Company. 2010 sees new things on the horizon for Yvette, jumping forward with a positive attitude and a bit of cheese on the side.



### **Anika Vilee** Stage Manager

Anika's theatre credits include: *All Other Places* (deBASE productions); *25 Down, Heroes* – inc Australian national tour, *Excerpts From The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Puss In Boots*, *The Woman Before*, *Lily Can't Sleep* (Queensland Theatre Company); *Walking By Apple Tree Creek*, *Red Cap*, *James And Johnno* – Victoria tour, *The Dance Of Jeremiah*, *Urban Dingoes*, *The Removalists*, *After January* – inc Queensland regional tour, *Milo's Wake* – inc Queensland regional tour and Australian national tour, *Zig Zag St* – inc Queensland regional tour and Australian national tour and *Creche and Burn* – Australian national tour (La Boite Theatre Company); *Women In Voice 17*, *Institches Outside Comedy Season* (QPAC); *The Quivering* – Denmark (sacredCOW); *Little Victories* – Ireland national tour (Barnstorm Theatre Company); *The Impossible Dream* (JUTE); *Dead Cats Don't Bounce* (Hot Tin Roof Productions); *The Passion* (aSpire Theatre Arts); and *The Pink Twins* (Accolade Productions). A graduate of the University of Southern Queensland, Anika was awarded the 2005 industry voted Matilda Award for Backstage.

**In 2010, we invite audiences to experience a deBASE production**

## **Popping Lead Balloons** AND **Snagged** 2010 tours

We are proud to announce that two of deBASE's outstanding, comic dramas for young people, **Snagged** and **Popping Lead Balloons** have been selected by Arts Queensland for the **Artour – Subsidised Touring Menu**. Both are available to tour into schools or theatres. Workshops are also available.

If you would like to express interest in the 2010 tour, please contact us:

### **deBASE productions**

Studio 3.6, Metro Arts Building, 109 Edward Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

Tel: (07) 3221 9444 Email: [debase@mail.com](mailto:debase@mail.com) [www.debaseproductions.com](http://www.debaseproductions.com)

**Chasing the Lollyman** is supported by *kuril dhagun* at the State Library of Queensland and the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.



**!Metro Arts**

# MURRI LINGO

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Aaah</b>                 | Deadly! come on! how? Shut up! Solid! No way!   |
| <b>Abstudy</b>              | Ancient allowance system for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students undertaking studies, often mythical assumptions of Abstudy payments include free bikes when you turn 13 years of age. |
| <b>Bigesmob</b>             | A large gathering of people   |
| <b>Budu!</b>                | Penis   |
| <b>Camp</b>                 | Gay, queer, homosexual  |
| <b>Chair!</b>               | Good go! Whatever you reckon! Come on!  |
| <b>Deadly</b>               | Great! Solid! Bloody good! Aaah!  |
| <b>Dorries</b>              | Stickybeaks   |
| <b>Gibbiddum</b>            | Give it to them   |
| <b>Goolagee</b>             | Police or officers of the law   |
| <b>Guttagrastisja</b>       | Cut across here   |
| <b>Knock off!</b>           | Stop it! Carry on! Shut up!   |
| <b>Mareeba</b>              | Mark's home town, Far North Queensland  |
| <b>Mina Luvley</b>          | too lovely  |
| <b>Moongah</b>              | the hair on one's head  |
| <b>Mue!</b>                 | Arse  |
| <b>Muh!</b>                 | Can you believe it?   |
| <b>Muluridgi</b>            | Mark's Mob — coming together of two waters – Barron River and Granite Creek   |
| <b>Mungha!</b>              | Vagina  |
| <b>Murri</b>                | Aboriginal from Queensland, can be male or female – or both!  |
| <b>Namalah</b>              | Empty, nothing, non-existent  |
| <b>Ngkambi</b>              | Clothes or attire   |
| <b>Poky lata!</b>           | Poke you later. Later I will be having sexual intercourse with you.   |
| <b>Susu</b>                 | Boobies!  |
| <b>Tall man / Hairy man</b> | Not one to be spoken about unless you want to be scared to death.   |
| <b>Tjurrentja</b>           | Pants or trousers   |
| <b>Which way?</b>           | Where? What are you doin? Where you goin? What's up?  |