



Media Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YIRRA YAAKIN CELEBRATES FINALISTS FOR HELPMANN AWARDS

Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company congratulates David Milroy, Ursula Yovich and Wesley Enoch, on their selection as finalists in the prestigious 2011 Helpmann Awards.

WALTZING THE WILARRA, Yirra Yaakin's landmark Perth Festival production written and composed by David Milroy, has received three Helpmann Award finalist nominations: David Milroy for Best Original Score, Wesley Enoch for Best Director of a Play and Ursula Yovich for Best Female Actor in a Play.

David Milroy is a multi award-winning writer and is widely regarded as one of Australia's leading Aboriginal playwrights. **WALTZING THE WILARRA**, his most recent work, was critically acclaimed and sold out during the Perth International Arts Festival's 2011 world premiere season. David Milroy wrote the script, lyrics, and composed 15 original songs for the production of this outstanding new indigenous work.

Ursula has become one of Australia's most celebrated performers. She has dazzled audiences all over the world with performances from the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, Carnegie Hall in New York, to the concert hall of the Sydney Opera House. In **WALTZING THE WILARRA** Ursula's performance of Elsa was exceptional. She sang, danced and was the heart of this production, ageing forty years across the course of the play.

Wesley Enoch has been Artistic Director of Kooemba Jdarra Indigenous Performing Arts, an Associate Artist with the Queensland Theatre Company, a Resident Director with the Sydney Theatre Company, Associate Artistic Director with Sydney's Company B and is currently Artistic Director at the Queensland Theatre Company. Wesley led an outstanding national team of theatre practitioners and performers to create this landmark production for Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company.

The Helpmann Awards will be announced at the Sydney Opera House at a gala ceremony held on Monday the 1st of August 2011.

This is an exciting first for Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, and applauds the new vision of the company under the leadership of Artistic Director Kyle J Morrison.

Media enquiries, interviews, photo opportunities or print quality images can be directed to:

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