

## MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ILBIJERRI Theatre Company is bringing 3 performances of Heart is a Wasteland by John Harvey to the Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre at 7pm on Thursday 4 August and at 1pm and 7pm on Friday 5 August.

Heart is a Wasteland combines First Nations storytelling in a live music love story, set on the road through Australia's heartland.

Raye, a country-music star in the making, plays pub-to-pub along Australia's vast desert highways, trying to make a living in the hope of returning home to her son, Elvis. But when she meets Dan, another young wanderer at the crossroads of life, a love affair unfurls over a four-day drive to Alice Springs.

Following a sell-out premiere season at Darwin Festival 2021, ILBIJERRI Theatre Company's Heart is a Wasteland – directed by the company's multi- award winning Artistic Director Dr Rachael Maza AM – brings John Harvey's humorous and deeply heartfelt script to life.

With original music by Lydia Fairhall, exquisitely arranged by Gary Watling; beautiful audio-visual design – this production brings Australia's stunning outback right to the front – matched by the vitality of its new young leads. Heart is a Wasteland exposes a soul-warming battle of egos, recognising everyone's individual right to love.

ILBIJERRI is Australia's longest-running First Nations theatre company, 30 years strong in 2021. They create, present and tour challenging and provocative theatrical works that describe the experiences of First Nations people in Australia today with empathy and honesty.

Doors open 1 hour before the show and the BVCCC bar will be open for drinks and snacks before evening performances (no alcohol served before matinee). The performance runs for 75 minutes with no interval.

The show is suitable for ages 15+ and contains strong language and sexual references.

Written by John Harvey. A RISING Co-presentation. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria.

Performances in Bega are co-presented by The Twyford and supported by the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand Fund (RISE) – an Australian Government initiative.

Tickets range from \$10 - \$50 depending on performance. For information, online program and bookings visit <https://thetwyford.com.au/4-5-august-2022-heart-is-a-wasteland/> or call Lis on 6495 7435 for community Elder, Companion Card or group bookings.

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MEDIA MATERIAL high res images, video clips, music tracks and posters can be downloaded from the links below:



Writer: John Harvey, Director: Dr Rachael Maza AM, Musician: Gary Watling, Performers: Monica Karo & Ari Maza Long, Hero Image

- [Hero Images](#) by Aaron Walker
- [Productions Photos](#) by Fiona Morrison, Darwin 2021
- [Creative team headshots](#)
- [Link to music tracks](#) which may be used for advertising and promotions
- Link to a [30-sec promo](#) for Heart is a Wasteland
- Link to a [longer 2 min 34 sec promo video](#) for Heart is a Wasteland
- Link to a ['behind the scenes' video 4 mins](#) for Heart is a Wasteland
- [A3 and A4 Posters](#) for Bega performances

Marketing contact: Lis Shelley, The Twyford Hall Complex Ltd (co-presenting with the BVCCC)  
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