

JACKY

16 JAN – 2 FEB

By Declan
Furber Gillick



BELVOIR ST
THEATRE

Belvoir St Theatre present
a Melbourne Theatre Company production

JACKY

By **Declan
Furber Gillick**

RUN TIME: 1 hour 40 minutes (no interval)

CAST

Danny Howard
Keith

Mandy McElhinney
Linda

Guy Simon
Jacky

Greg Stone
Glenn

CREATIVES

Writer
Declan Furber Gillick

Director
Mark Wilson

Set Designer
Christina Smith
Costume Designer

Emily Barrie
Lighting Designer

Matt Scott
Composer and Sound Designer

James Henry
Intimacy Coordinator

Amy Cater
Voice and Dialect Coach

Matt Furlani
Assistant Director

Joel Bray
Dramaturgs

Jennifer Medway & Mark Wilson
Stage Manager

Jess Keepence
Assistant Stage Manager

Maddison Craven

WARNING

This production contains moments of racism/ racist slurs, sexual themes, some nudity, frequent coarse language and mature themes.

We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora nation who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we share our stories.

Jacky was commissioned and developed through Melbourne Theatre Company's NEXT STAGE Writers' Program, thanks to support from the Company's Playwrights Giving Circle, with Craig Semple and the Trawalla Foundation.

The world premiere of *Jacky* was first presented by Melbourne Theatre Company at Arts Centre Melbourne, Fairfax Studio, Monday 22 May 2023.

NEXTSTAGE

MELBOURNE
THEATRE COMPANY



Cover photography by **Jo Duck**
Rehearsal photography by
Stephen Wilson Barker



Mark Wilson & Greg Stone

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

HERE. NOW.

MARK WILSON

Jacky is a play about a man who wants to buy the flat that he rents. So far so simple.

Declan Furber Gillick tells us on the first page of his text that the play is set 'Here. Now.'

There begins the complexity, so long as we are willing to really unpack that 'Here' and that 'Now', and so long as we are willing to wrestle with how we exist in relation to that 'Here' and that 'Now.'

The play *Jacky* emerged out of the writing process on our first collaboration, *Bighouse Dreaming*. That play was a response to the abuses at Don Dale Youth Detention Centre, to the dysfunction of the youth justice system

in the Northern Territory, and to the ongoing crisis of black deaths in custody. The resulting work was tragic in form. As we developed this new work, our ambition for the project was, amongst the rest of it, that we did not make another tragedy.

So if *Jacky* isn't tragedy, what have we got? Is it comedy? History? Maybe both. Maybe it's tragedy again. An ironic tragedy? Whatever we call it, it is certainly a drama of acquiescence and of refusal. It is a drama about an individual responding to and taking action within circumstances beyond his control. It is a drama that hinges on his decisions – decisions which have definite consequences. It is also a drama

in which this individual has indissoluble ties to a collective, and in which the wrestle between individuality and collectivity is unavoidably connected to history.

Every play about 'Here. Now.' is also a play about 'There. Then.' and encourages us all – artist and audience alike – to look to the past to see how we got here, now, and hopefully prompts us to think about where we're going. To quote old Robin Boyd – 'Skin is as important as its admirers like to make it, and Australians make much of it. This is a country of many colourful, patterned plastic veneers, of brick veneer villas, and the White Australia Policy.' Much has changed since that was written in 1968, and plenty hasn't. For here, now, despite some aesthetic changes, we must still either have money, or sell ourselves to get it. What we can sell ourselves as (baker, record dealer, recruitment agent, sex worker) depends on who

we are, and on what the market will buy in the here and now. The 'queer experience' as Declan and I understand/know/conceive/live it, is inseparable from this historical, tragical, comical, material world.

He dedicates the play to the memory of Galmahra, the guide, also called Jackey Jackey, whose history gave rise to the alternate meanings of the name: in white slang, Jacky is a dismissive for any Aboriginal man; in black slang, Jacky means collaborator with the oppressor.

There is another dedication at the start of the play text, and that's to Declan's late father: Arrernte man, Stolen Generations survivor and lifelong campaigner, Land Rights activist, Kwementyaye H Furber.

With all this in mind, I invite you to wrestle with this play about a man who wants to buy the flat that he rents: here, now.



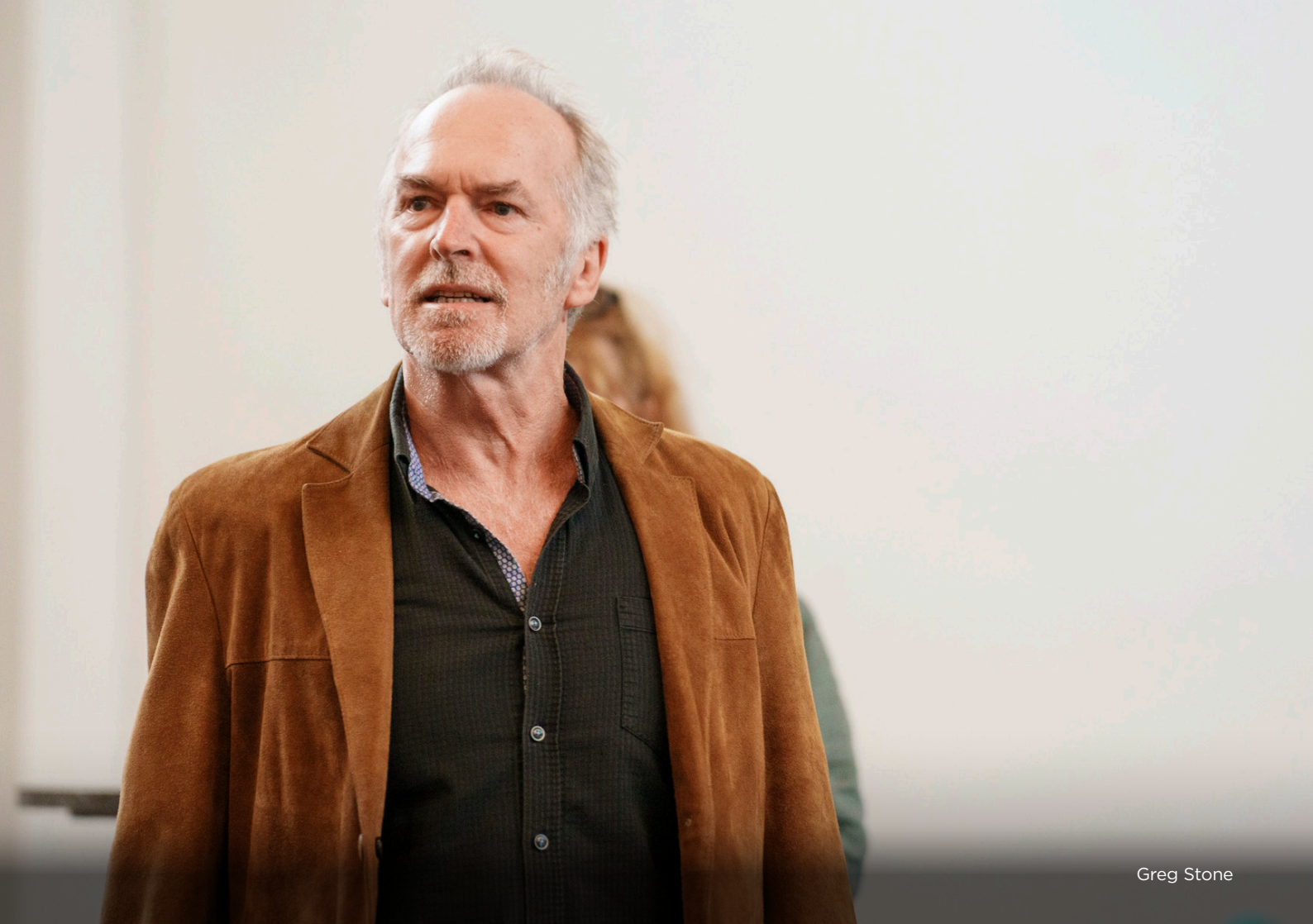
Greg Stone, Guy Simon, Mark Wilson & Mandy McElhinney



Guy Simon



Mandy McElhinney



Greg Stone



Danny Howard



Maddison Craven



Jess Keepence



Mark Wilson, Mandy McElhinney & Guy Simon



Danny Howard



Mandy McElhinney & Mark Wilson



Greg Stone & Guy Simon



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