

**2020 UPDATE:
DARWIN FESTIVAL SPECIAL
COMMISSIONED EVENT**



BUNGUL

**Gurrumul's Mother's Bungul
Gurrumul's Grandmother's Bungul
Gurrumul's Manikay**

Darwin Festival is thrilled to share an update from the creative team on our 2020 commission, *Bungul*.

Created on country in North East Arnhem Land with the Yunupingu family, *Bungul* is a ceremonial celebration of one of the most transcendent albums of our time. Darwin audiences are invited to experience the traditional songs, dances and paintings that inspired Gurrumul's final album, *Djarimirri (Child of the Rainbow)*, in a live performance by Yolngu dancers, song men and the Darwin Symphony Orchestra directed by senior Yolngu man Don Wininba Ganambarr and acclaimed Australia director Nigel Jamieson.

In the words of co-director Nigel Jamieson:

"We recently returned from the most extraordinary trip to East Arnhem Land to work with Gurrumul's family on Bungul. We can hardly contain ourselves with excitement.

Working with Yolngu elder Don Wininba Gamambarr and the extended family was a dream and enormously productive. The footage we have come back with is spectacular and beautiful, and we have huge hopes for the show being something extremely special.

The incredible skill and beauty of the performers and song men, their overwhelming warmth and generosity, focus and togetherness, the beauty of the traditional manikay and dances, their knowledge of country, the things we learnt Well, it blew us all away.

Perhaps most extraordinary of all were the extraordinary and deeply moving improvisations that they created, responding to Djarimirri. It has been the happiest and most moving of experiences and we are really



“

For the past eight months, the director has been coming back and forth from Arnhem Land in preparation for Bungul, a grand 90-minute stage show that will put Galiwin'ku's best dancers – who happen to be the songwriter's family – on stage for audiences around Australia next year.

JOURNALIST FOR THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN
PAIGE TAYLOR RECENTLY VISITED
GALIWIN'KU DURING REHEARSALS

”





In 2020, *Bungul* will be presented in all major cities, bringing an important Northern Territory story to Australian audiences. Darwin Festival is proud to be the only presenter of this work in Australia to offer *Bungul* as a major free public event, ensuring that as many people as possible can witness this incredible and historic performance.

Djarimirri was Gurrumul's final gift to the world. An astounding achievement of music acclaimed the world over, the album presents traditional songs and harmonised chants from Yolngu culture with hypnotic orchestral compositions.

Now, in his honour, his family add a further cultural and immersive visual dimension to this historic work, performing the songlines that have forged their identity and every aspect of their existence since the beginning of time.

Bungul at Darwin Festival represents a majestic union of two disparate worlds. It points to a potential contemporary Australian identity grounded in and drawing upon the extraordinary knowledge, understanding and wisdom of First Nations people that inspires us all listen to and care for the precious land we share.

Music by	Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu, Michael Hohnen & Erkki Velthiem
Directed by	Don Wininba Ganambarr & Nigel Jamieson
Creative Producer	Michael Hohnen
Musical Director	Erkki Velthiem
Design & Creative Associate	Jacob Nash
Lighting Design	Mark Howett
Video Design	Mic Gruchy
Sound Design	Steve Francis
Cinematographer	Paul Shakeshaft
First Camera Assistant	Scott Wood

In 2020, Bungul will be presented at 6 Festivals across the year including the Sydney Festival (January), Perth Festival (February), Adelaide Festival (March), Darwin Festival (August), Melbourne Festival (September) and Brisbane Festival (September).

Sydney Festival

sydneyfestival.org.au/events/bungul

25 January Sydney Opera House
Tickets from \$50 - \$80



Perth Festival

perthfestival.com.au/event/bungul-bunggul

Video for Perth Festival:
<https://youtu.be/p9QDKscRGYs>

7 - 9 Feb at Perth Concert Hall,
Tickets from \$29 - \$89



Adelaide Festival

adelaidefestival.com.au/events/bunggul

2 and 3 March Thebarton Theatre
Tickets from \$35 - \$79