



# Sista Girl Marketing kit

Version: 1 September 2017

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## **1 Approvals**

Please note all marketing materials including print (posters, flyers, press advertising), broadcast (TV, YouTube and radio ads) and digital (website, emails) require approval before being published or sent to print.

Approvals should be sent to the marketing contact as listed below. Please allow a 48-hour turn around on all approvals.

## **2 Promotional material summary**

Use this as a quick guide when creating marketing materials. You will find more detail about this production throughout this marketing kit.

Presentation Line: .... , State Theatre Company of South Australia & Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company presents

Show title: *Sista Girl*

Required acknowledgments: Tour supported by Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body the Western Australian Government through the Department of Culture and the Arts.

Running time: 70 minutes  
Genre: Contemporary Aboriginal  
Rating: Over 15: Some coarse language and adult themes

## **3 Performance history**

*Sista Girl* was first presented by State Theatre Company of South Australia & Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company at the Space Theatre, Adelaide and a regional tour in South Australia in May & June 2017.

*Sista Girl* held its first Western Australian presentation at the Main Theatre, Subiaco Arts Centre in Perth, in August 2017.

2017 Ruby Award Finalist, in the Community or Regional Impact under \$100,000 category.

#### 4 Short description

*Sista Girl* is a brand new Australian work, co-written by Elena Carapetis and Alexis West. Two half-sisters (A First Nations woman and an Italian-Australian woman) meet after the death of their father, in an exploration of the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal migrant Australians.

#### 5 Longer description

*A raucous and powerful look at our search for identity.*

*Two young women meet face to face for the first time across the bed of a dying man. Strangers to each other but bonded by blood and grief. Sisters. They break the cold silence of the hospital room to start a difficult conversation. About the past and secrets. About the women who were their mothers. And about why this man, their father, abandoned one family to make another. When the past is dying and can't say sorry, how do you move on?*

*Sista Girl* is an exploration of the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians, via the story of two women who share a white father. Co-written by Elena Carapetis (Gorgon) and Alexis West (Echoes .... of Knowing Home), the play will speak directly to audiences about questions of identity, grief and the complex nature of family.

Quotations

#### Reviews:

*It is a deftly understated performance, rich in wry comedy and yearning for lost connections. **The Australian***

*Tracksuit-wearing Georgie, played by Nadia Rossi, regales us with outrageously comical Italian-Australian observations and quick one-liners about her fellow bus travellers while revealing a strong sense of family and generosity of spirit beneath her sassy, socially struggling exterior. **The Advertiser***

*It's one not to be missed. **In Daily***

*Stepping into the role of Nakisha at short notice, Sharni McDermott is wonderfully ebullient and seemingly confident as she straddles the line between black and white societies, giving both a healthy serve as she races to business meetings in her flash BMW. **The Advertiser***

*Brilliantly humorous, tear-jerking and heart-warming production. **Glam Adelaide***

#### 6 Video

Promotional Video One:

<https://youtu.be/8UrV0isOzj4>

Promotional Video Two:

<https://youtu.be/tFRO2y75yTw>

Opening night vox pops:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNYnP6kXPIM>

## **7 Images**

High-resolution REHEARSAL images by photographer Kate Pardey available for downloading from our Dropbox site:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/okye494m8f5e0q1/AAAEFEuuFtCIDCaKAI3eju3Ya?dl=0>

High-resolution PRODUCTION images by photographer Kate Pardey available for downloading from our Dropbox site:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/t3w2yl82nvnvdse/AAB2ZpOSxTUPpJcv5fVuOy64a?dl=0>

## **8 From The Artistic Directors by Geordie Brookman & Kyle J Morrison**

*Sista Girl* is the first project in a new partnership between State Theatre Company South Australia and Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company in Perth. As creative leaders in our own cities Yirra Yaakin and State Theatre Company have a shared vision for a stronger program of culturally diverse works through a jointly held idea of cultural competency that will see more politically relevant and culturally safe theatre reach a wider audience. A creative and cultural partnership that will see both companies grow over the coming years focusing on an investment into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as artists and audiences to bring to our stages a shared narrative of this diverse country. This is an exciting partnership that will see South Australia and Western Australia lead the country in the next evolution of our shared theatrical narrative.

## **9 Writers' Notes by Elena Carapetis**

My grandparents escaped war and poverty to come to Australia for a better life. They endured every imaginable obstacle when they arrived but were victorious in their struggles. They were model citizens and their descendants have contributed a great deal to society. I wonder what they'd say to me, my ancestors, now that a bloodier story of Australia has emerged – because my mother's birthplace was also invaded illegally. What has happened to the First Nations people of this glorious land leaves me unsure of how we will ever move past the shadow of our dark shared history. *Sista Girl* is a metaphor for the sadness we all carry somewhere in our bones for our big dysfunctional Australian family and the belonging we all seek.

It has been an honour to make this work with Alexis West who has been exemplary in her generosity, wisdom and strength. My thanks, love and respect to her, to our amazing cast and creative team, all at State Theatre Company, Yirra Yaakin and Playwriting Australia, to my beautiful family and to you, our beloved audience. May we all be healed.

## **10 Writers' Notes by Alexis West**

Having the experience of being adopted out and growing up in a predominantly white family in predominantly white society some people may call my raising as 'privileged'. I've had a mostly good upbringing with parents who loved me even when they didn't know how to relate to me. The struggle of being a black woman in white Australia has constantly left me riddled with confusion and guilt. Both a sense of isolation and longing to belong has driven my journey and been a source of inspiration in all of my writings.

*Sista Girl* is an attempt at an unflinching exploration of two Australian women, sisters, one Aboriginal and one Italian, whose unique perspectives of being 'other' in a white patriarchal world is bought to an apex on January 26th when they come together as their white father dies. The sense of isolation, discrimination, self-loathing, guilt and the hope of acceptance that both women experience is, I hope, reflected in the play. Utilizing the gift and opportunity to co-write with the

talented and deep Elena Carapetis has been a remarkable expedition of self-discovery, forgiveness and healing.

### **11 Director's notes by Kyle J Morrison**

What agency is afforded to the women of our world, especially our women of colour and women of diverse ethnicity when male privilege is all pervasive?

When I first heard about this project I was immediately interested. The idea of having a shared narrative between two rarely heard female voices on our main stages is an idea we all should get used to. Elena Carapetis and Alexis West are the voices of an exciting future of more gender equality and culturally diverse theatre for our national audiences that will see our country grow. This is the world I want to hear more of, the stories of our women that have inherited 60000+ years of cultural and spiritual heritage and the trauma of our national history alongside the stories from our sisters that inherit the cultures and also the trauma of the women that immigrated here from war torn Europe. Words like reconciliation and recognition are just rhetoric without the human understanding of each other in the process. How can we grow together in a wider concept of nation without the honest conversation of who we are, where we come from and how we all feel about our national narrative. *Sista Girl* is the story of modern Australia that I want to hear, and working with such a strong team of skilled and generous artists gives me a confident image of our artistic future as a country. Developing the design ideas with Miranda Hampton and then materialising the world of the characters with enigmatic actors Natasha Wanganeen and Nadia Rossi has been an absolute honour. I have learned a lot to say the least. *Sista Girl* is asking hard questions about culture, heritage, gender and family and ultimately; what is "success" in the constant struggle to balance these themes.

### **12 Company information - Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company**

Yirra Yaakin (Yir-raarh Yaarh-kin] which means "Stand Tall" in Noongar language, is based in the heart of the Noongar Nation – a distinct Aboriginal cultural group from the south-west of Western Australia. Yirra Yaakin is Australia's largest Aboriginal-led theatre company and has been producing and presenting an annual program of quality contemporary Aboriginal theatre since 1993.

Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company have created a lasting contribution to the people of Western Australia producing and presenting world-class theatre that is both entertaining and educational.

Over the past twenty-four years Yirra Yaakin has won 30 awards; delivered over 1,000 workshops; performed 900 shows; undertaken 50 tours; commissioned over 50 new Australian works; employed over 400 Aboriginal Arts workers; facilitated 45,000 Workshop Participants; and our shows have been seen by over 400,000 audience members. Internationally Yirra Yaakin has toured to six continents and 13 countries, and has been involved in 31 international events.

Yirra Yaakin has won awards including Best Overall Partnership in the State Business Arts Awards, Excellence in Community Partnerships, the Prince of Wales Trophy for Outstanding Community Service and the Indigenous Facilitators Prize at the Sidney Myer Awards.

The Company is passionately committed to producing and presenting a mixture of contemporary and classic Aboriginal theatre, balanced with our existing community service and education programs.

*"...Yirra Yaakin is my favourite theatre company anywhere."*

**John Kinsella, The Australian**

### 13 Company information - State Theatre Company South Australia

State Theatre Company South Australia is the state's flagship professional theatre company performing an annual season of classic and contemporary Australian and international theatre works at its main performance home – the Dunstan Playhouse. The Company is a major community and cultural resource for all South Australians and is vital to artistic life in the state. State Theatre Company also plays an important role in the bigger picture of the Australian theatre scene, contributing touring productions and providing employment and career opportunities for artists and technical and administrative staff. We are committed to the development of new works for the stage and to the development of South Australian artists through our creative fellowship programs. The date of establishment as the state theatre company dates to the State Theatre Company of South Australia Act of 1972, an initiative of Don Dunstan. Throughout our 40 year history, the Company has played a pivotal role in the careers of many of Australia's leading actors, writers and directors, attracting artists of the calibre of Miriam Margolyes, Xavier Samuel, Neil Armfield, Ruth Cracknell, Judy Davis, Gale Edwards, Mel Gibson, Garry McDonald, Geoffrey Rush, Jim Sharman, Hugo Weaving, Jacki Weaver and John Wood.

### 14 Creative credits

**Written by:** Elena Carapetis & Alexis West

**Director:** Kyle J Morrison

**Starring:** Nadia Rossi & Sharni McDermott

**Designer:** Miranda Hampton

**Lighting Designer:** Rick Wooringham

**Composer & Sound Designer:** Andrew Howard

**Dramaturg:** Nicki Bloom

**Stage Manager:** Rebecca Davis

**Assistant Stage Manager:** Alira McKenzie-Williams

COSTUMES MADE BY STATE THEATRE COMPANY WARDROBE. SET MADE BY STATE THEATRE COMPANY WORKSHOP.

### 15 Partner credits

Program must include these credits:

Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company *gratefully acknowledges the support of* :

- the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body
- the Western Australian Government through the Department of Culture and the Arts
- and Development Partner, Woodside.

### 16 Funding partner logos

Program must include the logos of our funding & project partners:



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Culture and the Arts





High resolution versions of these logos can be download here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hnut5y6a634bnn8/AABGsA6UAaiXQ9UkkJw9dy7aa?dl=0>

## **17 Biographies**

### **DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY**

#### **Kyle J Morrison — Director**

Kyle J Morrison has been working in the theatre industry in Western Australia as an actor for 24 years, working for such theatre companies as Black Swan (Waiting for Godot 1993), Deckchair Theatre (King For This Place 1999, Jimmy and Pat Meet The Queen 2000 & Wonderlands 2007), Barking Gecko (Amy's Monster 2000 & Own Worst Enemy 2001) and Yirra Yaakin (King Hit 1999, Booyi Koorra Koorra 1999, Djill Djitt 2000, Inside Out 2001, One Day in 67 2004, Warloo 2005, In The Nyitting Time 2006, Muttacar Sorry Business 2001-2005). In 2008 Kyle was the assistant director on Sydney Theatre Company's production of Romeo & Juliet, Female Of The Species, written by Joanna Murray for Black Swan Theatre Company and Yibbiyung by Dallas Winmar for Company B Belvoir. Productions directed by Kyle J Morrison for Yirra Yaakin include: Muttacar Sorry Business (2007-2010), In The Nyitting Time (2008), Good Lovin (2009 - 2010), Honey Spot (2010), Mother's Tongue (2010) Kaarla Kaatijin (2010 - 2012), The Cake Man (2013), King Hit (2014), The Fever and The Fret (2015) and So Long Suckers (2016) which he also co-created. Kyle is currently the Artistic Director of Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company.

### **CAST BIOGRAPHIES**

#### **Nadia Rossi — Georgie Morelli**

Nadia Rossi completed a Bachelor of Creative Arts (HONS) from Flinders University Drama Centre and is a founding member of award winning theatre company isthisyours?. Nadia's State Theatre Company theatre credits include Three Sisters and The Memory of Water. For Windmill Theatre, she has toured extensively both nationally and internationally with Plop!, Cat and The Green Sheep. For The Border Project; I Am Not An Animal. For isthisyours?; Make Me Honest Make Me Wedding Cake (Adelaide Festival Centre inSPACE Development Award, Adelaide Fringe 2009), Best We Forget and You Wanna Talk About It (Melbourne Fringe Tour Ready Award 2014). Film Credits include The Swimming Lesson and Drive By. Future works include Angelique with isthisyours?, presented by Insite Arts and The Adelaide Festival Centre.

#### **Sharni McDermott — Nakisha Grey**

Sharni is an actor, singer, dancer and graduate of The Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts (ACPA) 2010. During her time at ACPA she worked closely under the direction of Leah Purcell. Sharni's credits include: Parramatta Girls (Riverside Productions), Saltbush (Insite Arts), Songrites (Development for PWA and SOH), The Voices Project – Between Stolen (Sydney Theatre Company), The Rock Low, Soul Music, X-Stacy, Miracles in Brisbane, A Midsummer Night's Dreamtime, Reflections, I'm Only 40 Years Old and Equus. Sharni sang the National Anthem for opening of the 2011 Indigenous All Stars' Football Match, as well as being a lead singer at the National NAIDOC Ball. She performed at both the Deadly Awards, and the Opening Ceremony of The Brisbane Festival and most recently at the Yellamunde National First Peoples' Playwriting Festival.

