



Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company
Presents World Premiere of

CRACKED

By Barbara Hostalek

Building a stronger community for 25 years.

As Australia's largest independent oil and gas company, Woodside has proudly supported Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company as Development Partner since 2012. We congratulate Yirra Yaakin on 25 years of inspiring contemporary Aboriginal theatre, and the next generation of artists through the *Next Step Training Program*.

WOODSIDE AND YIRRA YAAKIN. WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD A STRONGER COMMUNITY.

Shakara Walley and Ian Wilkes, Kaarla Kaatijin, 2014

**REAL CONVERSATIONS
GENUINE RELATIONSHIPS
STRONGER COMMUNITIES**

#strongercommunities



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CAST AND CREW

Joel Cartwright	Mathew Cooper
Dwayne Frances	Bruce Denny
John Rogers	Bobbi Henry
Edwina Aunty Pat	Luke Hewitt
	Holly Jones
	Rayma Morrison
Playwright	Barbara Hostalek
Director	Eva Grace Mullaley
Dramaturg	Polly Low
Projection Designer	Mia Holton
Set & Costume Designer	Sara Chirichilli
Lighting Designer	Karen Cook
Stage Manager	Jenny Poh
Sound Designer	Mei Swan Lim
Assistant Director	Brieanna Collard
Assistant Stage Manager	Maddie Young

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND SPECIAL THANKS

Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company would like to thank our current Koordahs and Donors and all of the staff at Subiaco Arts Centre for their support. *Cracked* was developed in partnership with Playwriting Australia.

Cracked has been assisted by the Australian government through the Department of Communication and the Arts' Catalyst—Australian Arts and Culture Fund.



Australian Government
Catalyst—Australian Arts and Culture Fund

Frankie is in jail for serious offences of assault and drug possession. She's bitter, disenfranchised and just wants to live life on her terms. But jail is a temporary escape for her – free from financial hardship, homelessness, and hunger.

Cracked is the story of Frankie as she rages her way through the criminal justice system with the hope of being reunited with her kids. Weaving several narratives, *Cracked* shows the complexity and disconnectedness of people that fall into a life of crime, and the trials faced by prisoners and others who are determined to help them find a better life.



Writer's Notes

The first time I attended Yirra Yaakin Writers' Group was in 2015. I was apprehensive and fearful at first as; I didn't know what to expect, if I had anything to write about or if I even could. The facilitators talked passionately about writing about a topic which burns inside of you that if you don't get it out you'll burst. It is then that I first started exploring the characters and themes that would later become *Cracked*, and it was the first piece of playwriting I had ever done.

I wanted to explore why some people can't change, why some can, why some people try to help them and others give up. I wanted to understand the headspace of people I know, who get trapped into self-destructive cycles of drug dependency and abuse, violence and other vices and how some of them have gotten out.

Cracked has had many creative developments and rehearsed readings. At times it has been a real emotional as well as a personal and creative struggle.

Coming out the other end, I have more understanding and empathy but I don't have the answers. I hope together we keep exploring, and come up with possibilities that restore dignity and reduce fear. And lastly, that we not give up.

Barbara Hostalek
Playwright

Director's Notes

We are all a bit broken
Living lives full of empathy
Displacement is rife
Not at all how it's meant to be

We are all a bit cracked
By the plight of those we love
Not knowing where our hearts fit
In the earth or up above

Surviving in this landscape
The measures we take to escape
Detrimental to ourselves and family
So many payments for one mistake

What a joy this has been
Working with such awesomeness
A new writer, what a blessing
A great story, full of truthfulness

An ever passionate crew
A skilled and dedicated cast
I'm ever grateful for Yirra Yaakin
Allowing *Cracked* to be my mast!

Eva Grace Mullaley
Artistic Director



Barbara Hostalek
Writer

Barbara was born on Larrakia Country in Darwin and moved to Noongar Boodjar to study Veterinary Science at Murdoch University in the 1990s. Her maternal ancestry is connected with the Clarkes and Murphys of the East Kimberley - Gija and Yawuru people of Broome, Beagle Bay Mission and Port Hedland. Her paternal heritage is Territorian with grandparents of Czechoslovakian, Castellorizian and English ancestry.

As an emerging playwright with a passion for crafting her voice through theatre. Barbara's short plays titled *Cracked* (2015), *Banned* (2016), *Go Fish* (2017) and *Turtle Pool* (2018) have been developed by Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company Writers Group. *Cracked* was further developed in 2016 with Playwriting Australia and Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company. In June 2017 Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company was invited to workshop *Cracked* during the Kia Mau 'Breaking Ground' Festival in Wellington, Aotearoa. On return from Wellington, Barbara continued her participation in The Blue Room Theatre's Sustained Playwrighting Course facilitated by veteran award-winning playwright Hellie Turner and wrote a new scene for the script titled *Umbra* (2017).

In 2018, Barbara's play *Banned* was produced by Mudskipper Productions in association with Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company and Playwriting Australia. It premiered at The Blue Room Theatre, in February as part of FRINGEWORLD Summer Nights, with a second reworked season staged in July at The Blue Room. Both seasons sold out and the show received rave reviews, including 4 stars from The West Australian. Barbara was nominated for best new work at 2018 PAWA awards for *Banned*.

All her short plays have had sublime rehearsed readings which inspire her continuing re-writes. Barbara is grateful for all the support however big or small on this journey as a career playwright.



Eva Grace Mullaley
Director

Eva Grace Mullaley is a Widi woman from the Yamatji Nation in the Midwest Region of Western Australia. She graduated from the Certificate IV in Aboriginal Theatre Course at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) in 2003.

Eva began her directing career in 2005 when she was assistant to David Milroy for the first creative development of *Windmill Baby*, produced by Yirra Yaakin. In her 15+ year career Eva has worn many hats in the theatre industry including Director, Dramaturg, Producer, Stage Manager, Tour Manager (internationally and nationally), Event Manager, Actor, Lecturer in Character and Script Analysis, Collaborating Director, Workshops Coordinator and many more.

Her artistic endeavors include working for Melbourne Theatre Company, Ilbijerri Theatre, Te Rehia Theatre Company, Yirramboi Festival, Circus Oz, 7 Digits (Canadian Circus Company), WAAPA Aboriginal Performance, Moogahlin Performing Arts Company, Yirramboi Festival St Martins Youth Theatre, students at Worawa School for Aboriginal Girls and mentoring emerging artists in Melbourne, nationally and internationally.

2018 saw Eva relocate to Melbourne, successfully securing funding for the continuing development and incorporation of the BPAA (Blackfulla Performing Arts Alliance). In March 2019 Eva was appointed the incoming Artistic Director of Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, relocating back to Perth to take on the role.



Mathew Cooper
Joel Cartwright

Mathew is a Wongatha man from Kalgoorlie. He graduated from the WAAPA Aboriginal Theatre course in 2009 and WAAPA Acting course in 2012 where he appeared in numerous productions including: *The Crucible*, *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*, *Black Rock*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Pillars of Society*.

Mathew's television credits include *The Marshes* (2018), *Janet King* (2017) and *Redfern Now* (2013). His work with Yirra Yaakin includes *Yirra Yaarnz* in 2012 and 2013. Other recent stage credits include the remount of *The Season* with Tasmania Performs (2018), *Coranderrk* with Illbijierrri Theatre Company (2017) and *Stolen* with National Theatre of Parramatta (2016).



Bruce Denny
Dwayne

Bruce Denny's heritage is Yamatji (mother's side) and Native American (father's side). Bruce started his acting career in the late 1980s, firstly in Community Theatre before progressing to professional work.

Bruce's screen work includes *The Decadent and Deprived* (2018), *Bad Girl* (2016) and *Death Bet* (2008). He won Best Actor Award for short film *Speed Date* at the 48 Hour Film Festival in New Zealand and a theatre award for his role in *Frankenstein* produced by Garrick Theatre. His role in *600 Seconds* at the Blue Room as part of the Fringe Festival was Critics Choice for the Best of the Best night.

Other theatre credits include *If I Drown I Can Swim* workshop with Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company and several productions with WA Opera including *Tristan & Isolde*, *Nabucco*, *Madam Butterfly*, *Carmen*, *La Traviata*, *The Magic Flute*, *Rigoletto* and *Aida*. Film and television credits include *Paper Planes*, *Gallipoli*, *Cloud Street*, *Bran Nue Dae*, *Leather*, *Mickelburgs Stitch*, *Leaky Boat*, *Sundowner*, *Speed Date*, *Storm World*, *Two Fists One Heart*, *Bush Patrol* and *The Hero*.



Bobbi Henry
Frances

Bobbi-Jean Henry is an actress who has worked on such shows as *Run A Muck* for Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company and Randolph Stow's *Tourmaline* for the Black Swan State Theatre Company as well as a stage production of *Educating Rita* and *By Degrees* for Effie Crump Theatre Company.

Bobbi has worked with Queensland State Theatre Company performing children's theatre all over the state. She also worked with Australian Children's Television Foundation on the second series of *Genie from Down Under*. Bobbi played Pearl in the award-winning short film *Pilbara Pearl*, and appeared in the film *The Life of Harry Dare*.

This will be Bobbi's return to the theatre after raising three sons.



Luke Hewitt
John Rogers

Nominated Best Actor 2014, 2013, 2010 and winner of the Perth Theatre Trust/ Equity Guild Award for Best Actor in both 2009 and 2008. Luke has been acting professionally in Perth for over 20 years.

Some of his theatre credits include *One Day in '67* and *King Hit* with Yirra Yaakin, *Alienation*, *An Oak Tree*, *Speed-the-Plow*, *Amadeus*, *Face to Face*, *Milk and Honey* with Perth Theatre Company, *Assassins*, *A Perfect Specimen*, *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Boundary Street*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Streetcar Names Desire*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *As You Like it*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *12th Night*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, with Black Swan State Theatre Company, *Wonderlands*, *A Comedy of Errors*, *Twelfth Night*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Romeo and Juliet* with Deckchair Theatre Company, *Tours of the Gun*, *Road Train*, *Bone Dr* with Kompany M.

Some of his Film and TV credits include *Serangoon Road*, *The War That Changed Us*, *Cloudstreet*, *Pipe Dreams*, *Streetsmartz*, *Parallax*, *Wormwood*, *Bush Patrol*, *Ship to Shore*, *Jasper Jones*, *Two Fists One Heart*, *Stone Bros*, *Crush...*



Holly Jones
Edwina

Holly graduated from WAAPA in 2000 where she appeared in numerous productions including *The Man from Mukinupin*, *The Innocent Mistress*, *Hamlet*, *Portia Coughlan*, *Camino Real*, *The Threepenny Opera* and *Kids Stakes*. She then moved to Sydney where she performed in a range of films, TV series, TVCs and theatre productions. Some of her TV credits include *All Saints*, *Headland*, *Solo* and *The Heights*. Holly also appeared in various feature films including *Below* directed by Maziar Lahooti, *Hounds of Love* directed by Ben Young, *Looking for Grace* directed by Sue Brooks and *Dirty Deeds* directed by David Caesar. She has been involved in the Emerging Writers Creative Development for Black Swan Theatre Company. Holly has performed in a number of theatre shows: *Banned* by Barbara Hostalek, *Necessary Targets* for the MTC and *Fidelity* at Tamarama Rock Surfers. Holly travelled to Paris in 2002 to further develop her physical theatre skills at Ecole Jaques Le Coq.



Rayma Morrison
Aunty Pat

Rayma was born in Yalgoo and raised by her maternal grandmother on country. She speaks the Wongutha language and is a respected elder. She originally trained as a community liaison worker and in marketing with Yirra Yaakin. Rayma worked in Aboriginal health, promoting healthy eating for over 20 years.

She was the first Aboriginal woman to head up Radio Mulba station in Port Hedland, where she also worked at the North West Telegraph. Rayma has always had an interest in the arts and made her professional theatre debut in *Skylab* - a Yirra Yaakin and Black Swan Theatre Company co-production in 2018.



Polly Low Dramaturg

Polly has over forty years of experience in the theatre industry as performer, dramaturg and writer. She has worked with Yirra Yaakin on numerous occasions and is one of the people who teach the Yirra Yaakin playwrighting group. She is also the Literary Director at Black Swan State Theatre Company, as well as a freelance dramaturg, actor and playwright. She has engaged extensively in script development work, dramaturging plays by highly experienced playwrights, by those not quite so experienced, and by those just beginning their playwrighting journeys. She has worked with playwrights engaged in crafting adaptations of works, as well as with those creating completely new plays for the stage. She has also developed performance scripts with many community groups (including groups in Esperance, Shark Bay and Albany), and last year wrote *Between Wind and Water* for Agelink and the 2018 Fremantle Festival. Polly has enjoyed working as dramaturg with playwright Barbara Hostalek throughout the development of both of Barbara's plays that have gone into production so far.



Jennifer Poh Stage Manager

After graduating from the WA Academy of Performing Arts in 1987, Jennifer worked with The Hole in the Wall Theatre Company for four years, during which time she was involved with over 30 productions and toured regionally and nationally. In 1992 she toured Australia for 15 months with Amanda Muggelton's *Shirley Valentine*. Jennifer worked with Effie Crump Theatre for 8 years. In 2002 Jenny toured to Sao Paulo, Brazil with Effie's award-winning production of *Redemption*, she toured *Noel and Gertie* regionally and was voted Best Stage Manager at the 2002 Equity Awards.

Jennifer has since free-lanced with the Perth Theatre Company, The Hole in The Wall, Regal Theatre, Civic Theatre Restaurant, WA Opera, WA Ballet, Deckchair Theatre, Onward Productions, Buzz Dance Theatre and His Majesty's Theatre. This is the third time Jenny has had the pleasure of working with Yirra Yaakin.



Sara Chirichilli Set & Costume Designer

Sara studied Design at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts from 2008 and received the prestigious David Hough Award for best student designer in 2010. Sara was assistant designer in Deckchair Theatre Emerging Artist Program in 2011. In 2012 Sara worked on *Les Misérables* at the Regal Theatre, designed set and costume for *The Book of Death* at the Blue Room, as well as WAYTCO's production of *Wind*. Sara was Design Assistant in Shakespeare in the Parks 2011-2012 productions of *The Tempest* and *The Comedy of Errors* and co-designer for *Much Ado About Nothing* in 2013. In 2014 Sara designed set and costumes for *Giving Up the Ghosts* at The Blue Room Theatre. In this time, she also worked with ICW Productions designing the set and costumes for *The Mikado* and set design for *The Sound of Music* at the Regal Theatre. Sara's most recent work was for The Blue Room Theatre on the shows *Between Solar Systems*, *Porto*, *Tamagotchi* and *Laika*.



Karen Cook Lighting Designer

Karen is a lighting designer, stage manager and technician. With Yirra Yaakin, she has designed lighting for *Mother's Tongue* and *Windmill Baby*, stage managed *Honey Spot* and *I Don't Wanna Play House*, and assistant stage-managed *Skylab*. She has designed lighting for companies such as The Last Great Hunt (*The Talk*, *The Advisors*), *Lost & Found* (*Ned Kelly*, *Actéon*), Spare Parts Puppet Theatre (*The Little Prince*, *Hachiko*, *Tales from Outer Suburbia*, *Miss Lily's Fabulous Feather Boa*), Barking Gecko (*Aesop and His Fables*), and a host of independent theatre companies. For her lighting of The Nest Ensemble's *Joey: The Mechanical Boy*, Karen received a 2015 Performing Arts WA award nomination for best design. Several of her lighting designs have been part of independent theatre productions, including *Grounded* (winner, Best Production and Members' Choice 2017), *Motortown* (winner, Best Production 2008), and *Quest: A Tell-Tale of the Heart* (winner, Best Production Team 2008).



Mia Holton Projection Designer

Mia Holton is a visual artist specialising in videography and video design. Since 2005 she has designed and integrated video projection into various Fringe Festivals, independent theatre and dance performances as well as Renegade Productions, Yirra Yaakin, Black Swan State Theatre Company, WAYTCO, Perth Theatre Company and Ochre Dance Company productions.

Mia was a founding member of CDV (Corazon de Vaca) a Spanish/Australian contemporary theatre company (2005-2012), part of Black Swan State Theatre's Hotbed ensemble 2010, artist in residence at Rorelson choreographic centre Malmö, Sweden 2010, and video designer for the gala opening of the new State Theatre Centre of WA, 2011. She graduated from ECU receiving the Best Electronic Artist award at SoCA, 2006.



Mei Swan Lim Sound Designer

Mei Swan Lim is a practicing sound and visual artist whose work centres on the environmental, emotional and spiritual importance of place, interdisciplinary investigation and cultural storytelling. Her works have appeared at Proximity Festival, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, Perth Festival and Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery. Lim completed a Bachelor in Visual Arts degree at Edith Cowan University in 2017.



Brianna Collard
Assistant Director

Brianna Collard is a Noongar woman from the South West of WA. She completed a Certificate IV in Aboriginal Theatre at the WAAPA in 2016. Brianna performed in three workshop productions (*Stolen, Lungs and Gunjies*) whilst at WAAPA, before concluding her studies with *Poetry, Prose and Songs from the South* as the major unit production. Recently, Brianna interned as a part of dramaturgy creative development workshop for Barbara Hostalek's first play *Banned*. Brianna is incredibly eager to learn as much as possible, in her role as Assistant Director on *Cracked*. She is incredibly passionate about working on the production which tells a story her family knows intimately.



Maddie Young
Assistant Stage Manager

Madeleine Young is a 3rd Year WAAPA Student studying Production and Design, specialising in Stage Management. Recent work has included *Banned* and *Paradise! A Cool and Smart Show* at The Blue Room Theatre, *Fever* (Aboriginal Performance at WAAPA), *Link* (Contemporary Dance at WAAPA) as well as Production and Stage Manager of *Radio Active* (Contemporary Music at WAAPA).

In 2017 Madeleine worked as an Assistant Stage Manager at WAAPA on *Windmill Baby, Radio Active, Rise* and *Heathers the Musical*. Prior to WAAPA, Madeleine volunteered as a Stage Manager for Nillumbik Youth Theatre on *High School Musical on Stage* (2016) and *Alice in Wonderland Junior* (2016) while studying a Diploma of Screen and Media.



Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company would like to thank our current Koordahs and Donors for their continued support.

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Subiaco Arts Centre
180 Hamersley Road
Subiaco WA 6008


Phone: (08) 9380 3040
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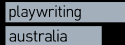


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