



Social Story

West Australian Opera
Koolbardi Wer Wardong

ABOUT KOOLBARDI WER WARDONG



Koolbardi wer Wardong
is based on a traditional
Noongar story.

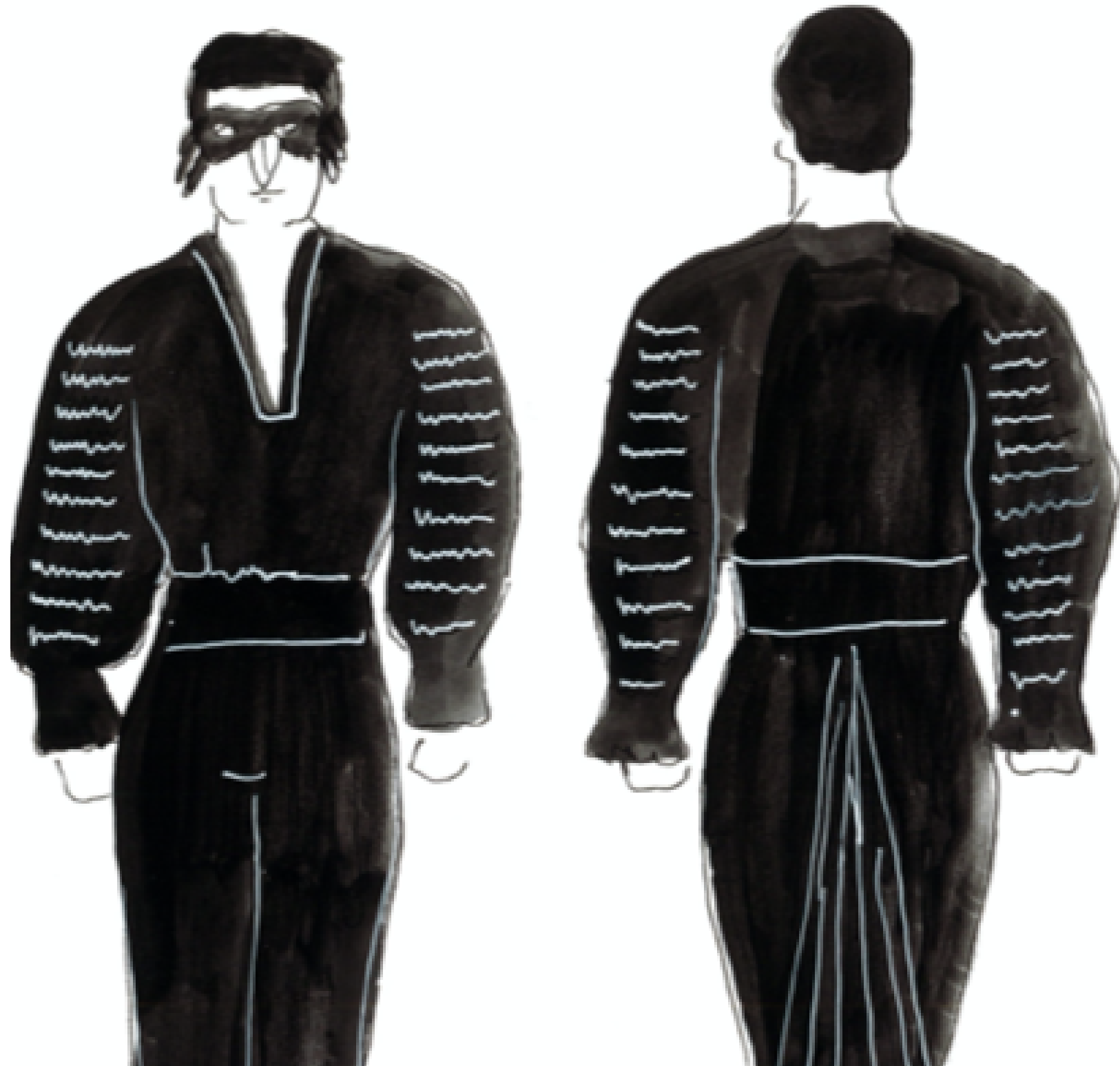
The story begins a long
time ago, when the earth
was cold. Ngaank Boodja
(Mother Earth) comes to
start telling this
cautionary tale to the
barna, the other animals.

KOOLBARDI THE MAGPIE



Koolbardi the Magpie is the more outgoing bird, he loves attention and thrives on praise. He also sometimes takes credit for doing things that he has not always done. Koolbardi thinks Wardong the Crow is stuffy, boring and too preoccupied with catching fish.

WARDONG THE CROW



Wardong the Crow is quiet and considers himself more intelligent than Koolbardi. Wardong thinks Koolbardi is a terrible show off and that he is the better hunter, hence ordering Koolbardi around to fish and hunt to show that he is better.

KOOLBARDI AND WARDONG



Koolbardi



Wardong

Koolbardi the Magpie and Wardong the Crow were once close, like brothers. They would spend time happily playing and laughing. Both birds had white feathers and were beautiful, they both knew it too. They were also secretly jealous of one another.

THE STORY



One day, the brothers go fishing. Facing two Djidi Djidi's teasing, Wardong offers Koolbardi some of his catch.

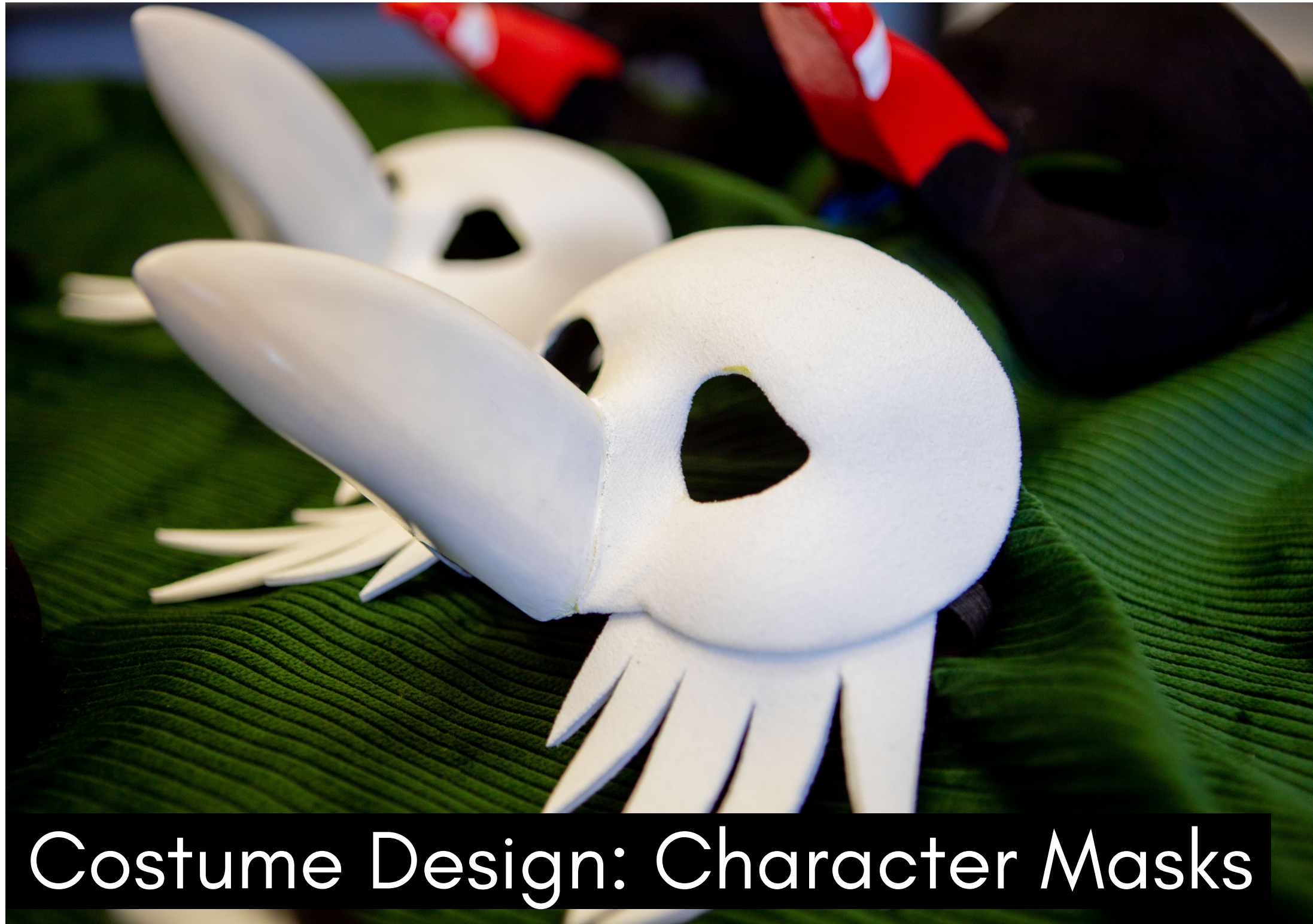
However, Koolbardi steals all the fish, leaving Wardong empty handed.

THE STORY



Wardong is furious at Koolbardi but with Ngaank Boodja's advice, he calms down and heads back to camp to settle the argument with Koolbardi.

THE STORY



Costume Design: Character Masks

Wardong returns finding Koolbardi boasting about catching all the fish. Koolbardi asks "Who's the prettiest?". Unaware of the situation, the Barna sings back : "Koolbardi, there's nobody finer than you!". This makes Wardong even angrier.

THE STORY



Performance Stage Design

The brothers fight with
the scuffle landing
both of them in the
fire.

Wardong's feathers
turn black, Koolbardi
gets caught in the
ashes and turns black
and white.

THE STORY



Ngaank Boodja intervenes, sending the brothers in opposite directions, never to be friends again. She reassures that it is for the best, and to never forget that pride always comes before the fall.

MEET THE CHARACTERS



Apart from Koolbardi the Magpie and Wardong the Crow, there are several other characters who you will meet in the following slides.

DJIDI DJIDI



He's a giant, king-sized bird, trapped in the smallest bird's body possible. He is fearless, smart, sometimes a little bit too big for his boots. Not afraid to spread gossip and get in the middle of a stoush.

MIS DJIDI DJIDI



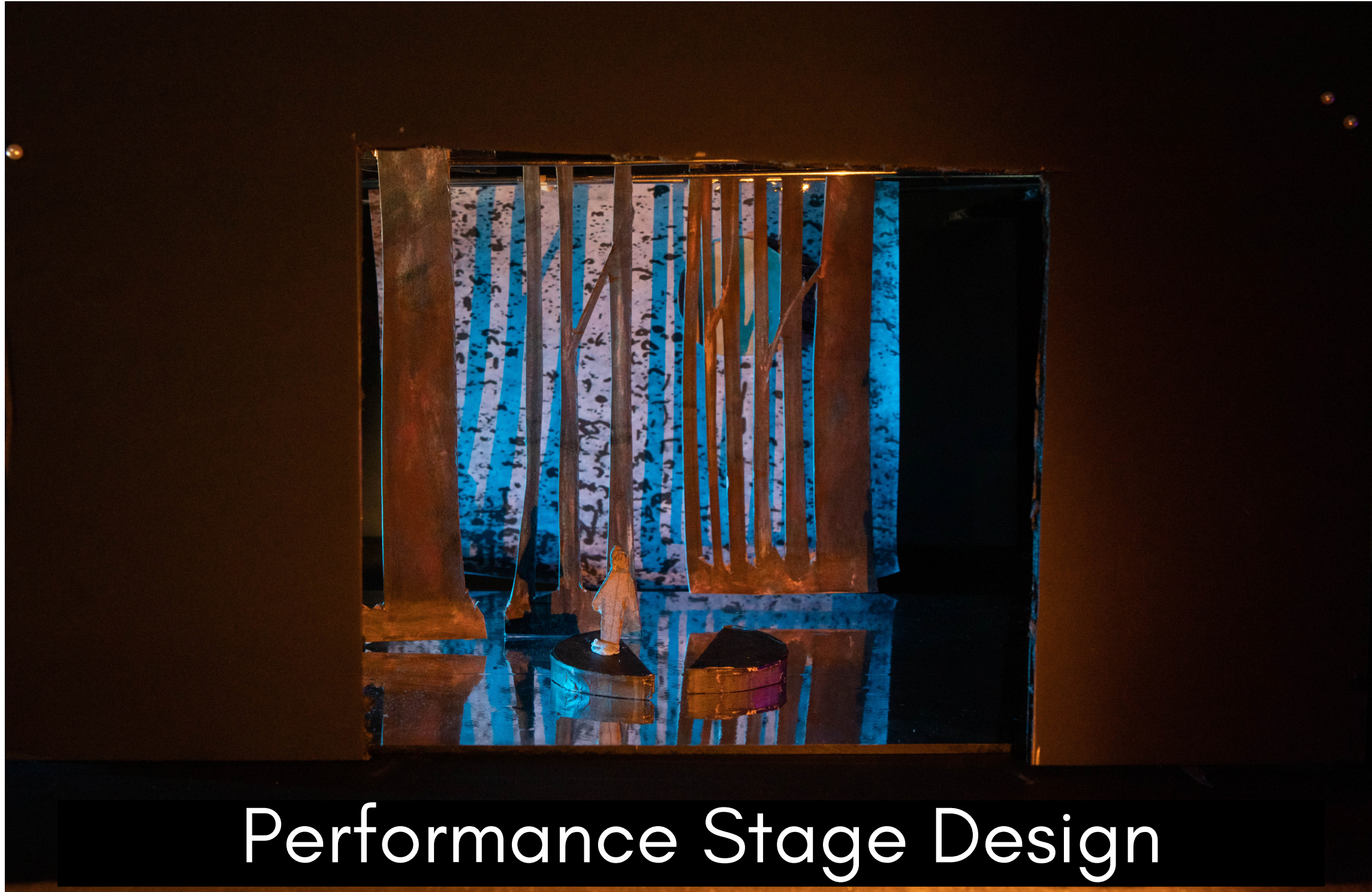
Never far away from her fella, always ready to defend her territory, Miss Djidi Djidi is Beyoncé to Djidi Djidi's Jay-Z (or Nancy to Sid). Loves a bit of drama, not afraid to step up and stand by her man.

NGAANK BOODJA



As strong as she is beautiful, Ngaank Boodja (Mother Earth) is past, present and future combined. Elegant, clever and compassionate. Ngaank Boodja oversees the barna (animals) and brings wisdom without judgement.

BARNA WARANGKA



The Barna Warangka is the animal chorus performed by West Australian Young Voices and Noongar Childrens Choir. The chorus is made up of the following animals.

CHURDITCH



ECHIDNA



FROG



BUTTERFLY



COCKATOO



FAIRY WREN



KANGAROO



OWL



SWAN



THANK YOU!



We hope you enjoy
the show!



**WEST
AUSTRALIAN
OPERA
2021**

