WEST AUSTRALIAN OPERA 2022



GINA WILLIAMS AND GUY GHOUSE

# KOOLBARDI WER WARDONG

SOCIAL STORY

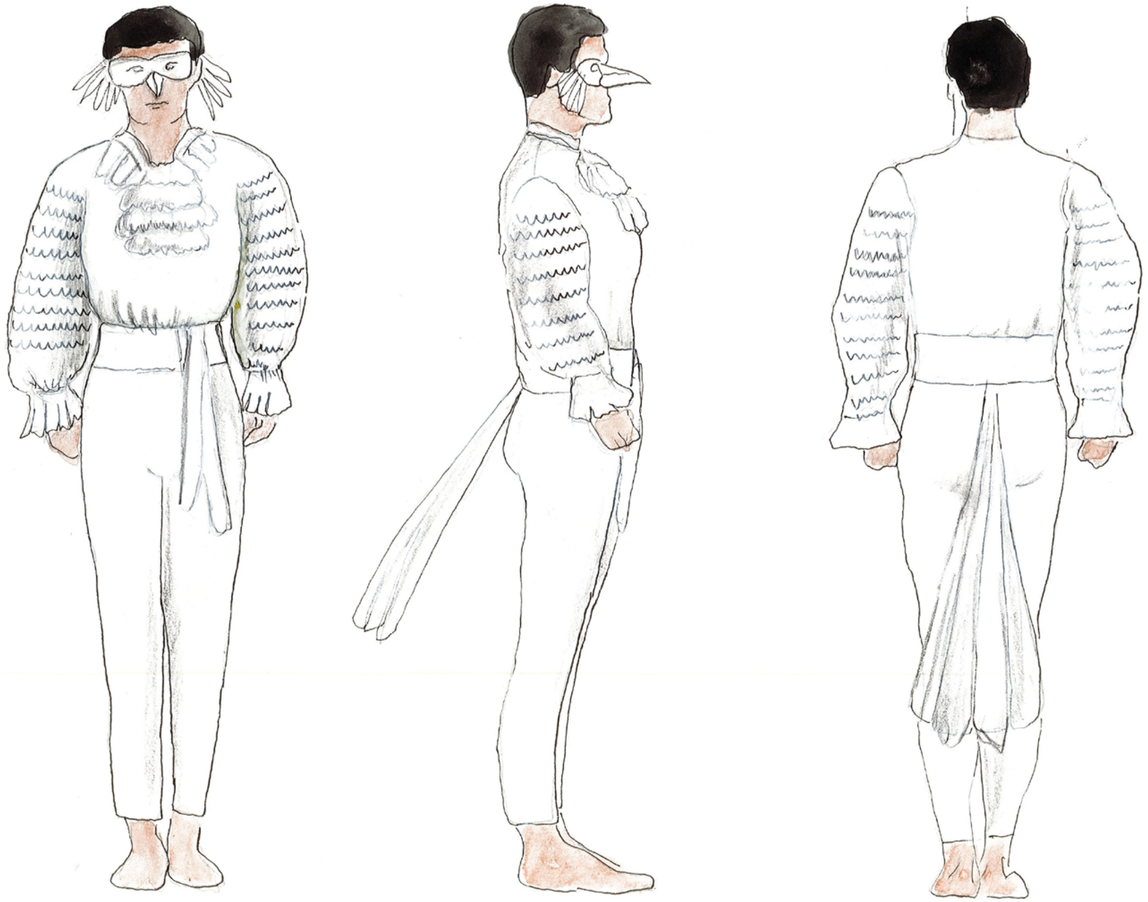
# ABOUT KOOLBARDI WER WARDONG



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 story to the barna, the other animals.

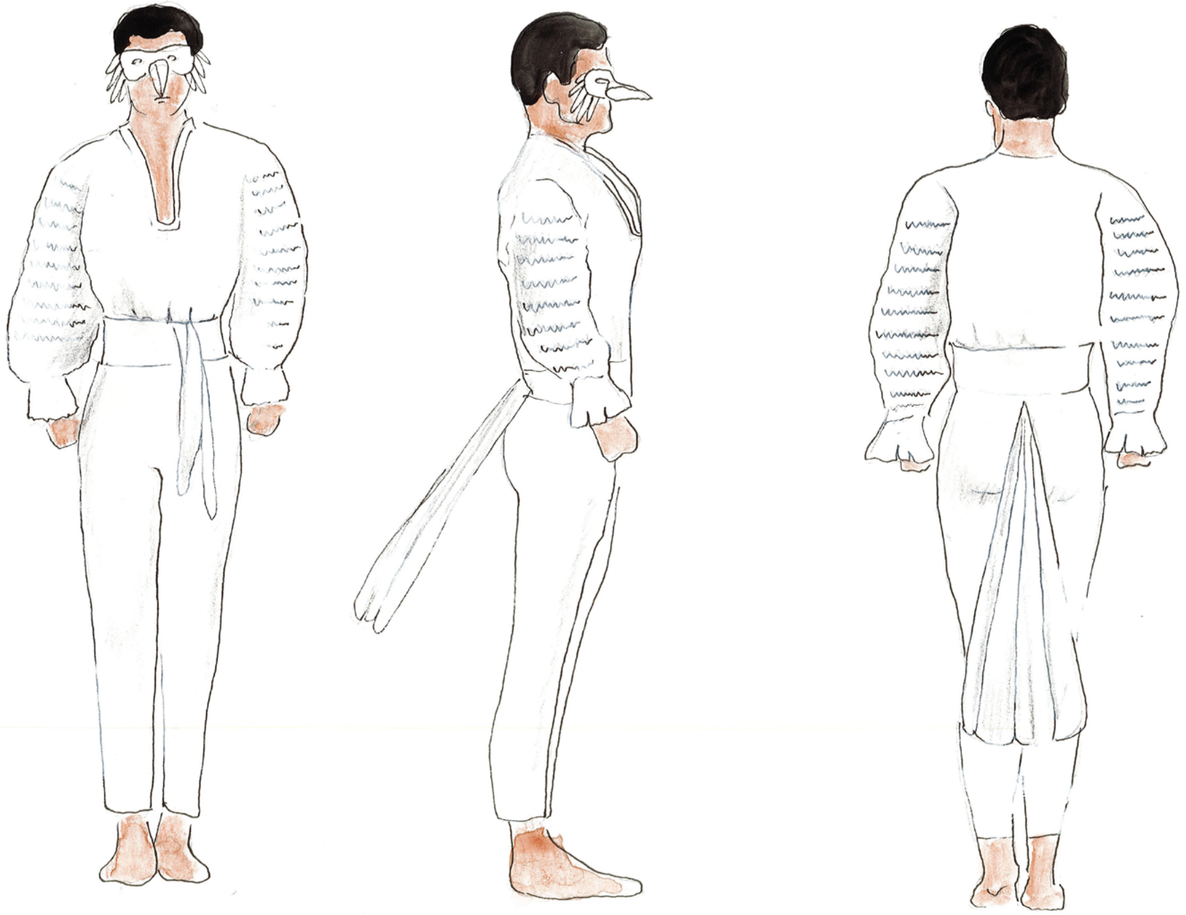
# KOOLBARDI THE MAGPIE



Koolbardi the Magpie is the more outgoing bird. He loves attention and thrives on praise. He also sometimes takes credit for 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. He orders Koolbardi around to fish and hunt so he can prove his skills.

# KOOLBARDI AND 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, and they both knew it. They were secretly jealous of one another.

# THE STORY



One day, the brothers go fishing. Facing two Djidi Djidis teasing them, 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.

# THE STORY



Wardong returns to find Koolbardi boasting about catching all the fish. Koolbardi asks, “Who is the prettiest?” Unaware of the situation, the Barna sing back: “Koolbardi, there is nobody finer than you!”

This makes Wardong even angrier.

# THE STORY



The brothers fight and the scuffle ends with both of them landing 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 that we must never forget pride always comes before the fall.

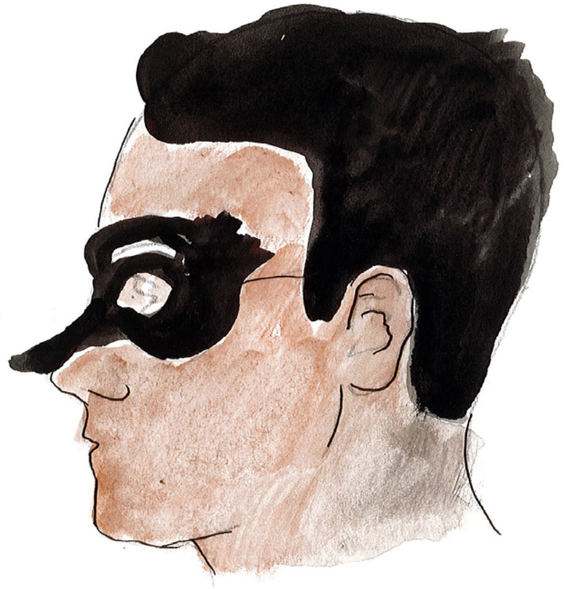
# MEET THE CHARACTERS



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

# DJIDI DJIDI





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

# MISS 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. She loves a bit of drama, and is 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 and brings wisdom without judgement.

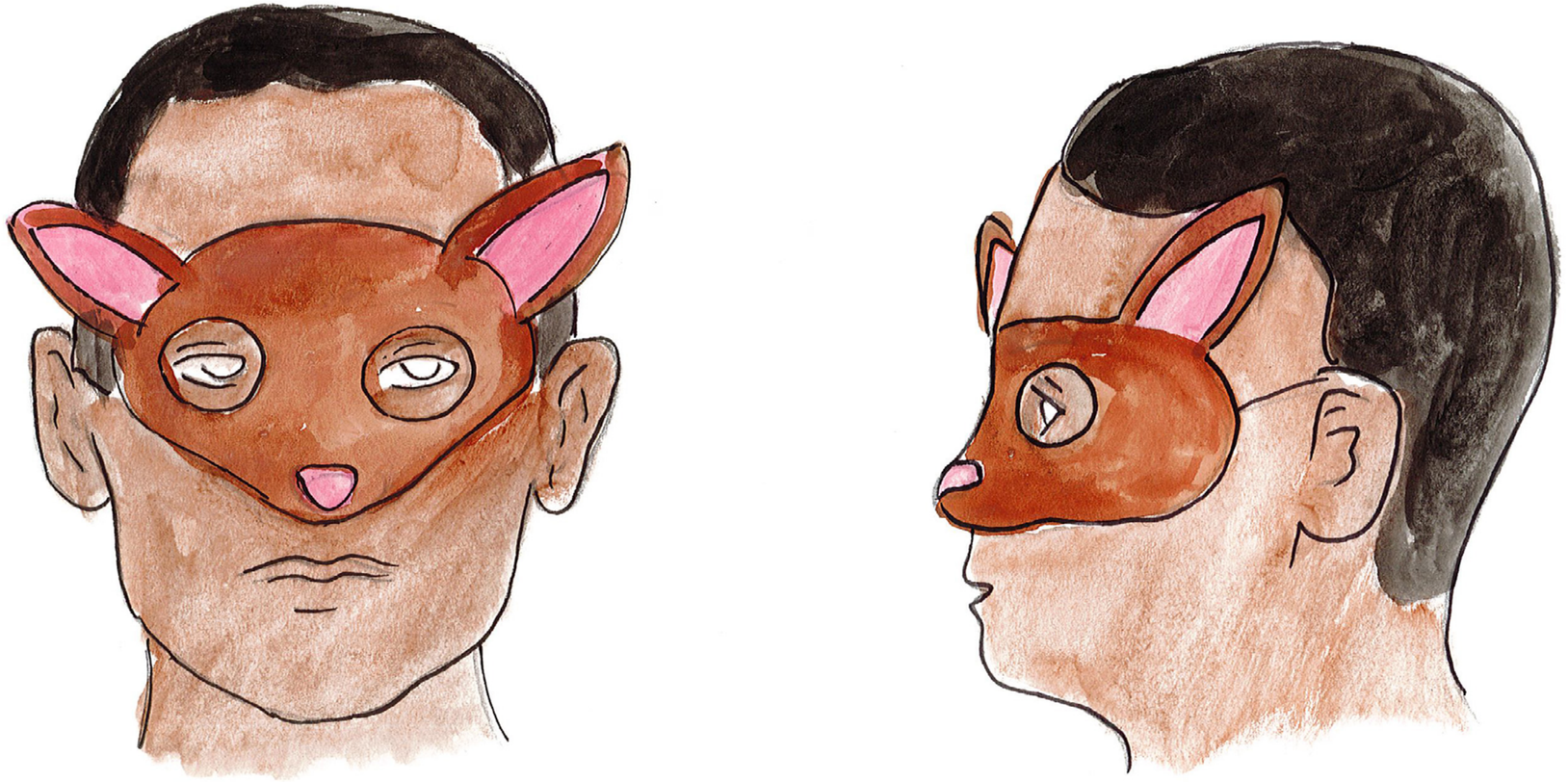
# BARNA WARANGKA



The Barna Warangka is the animal chorus performed by the Great Southern Children's Chorus supported by Lotterywest.

The chorus is made up of the following animals...

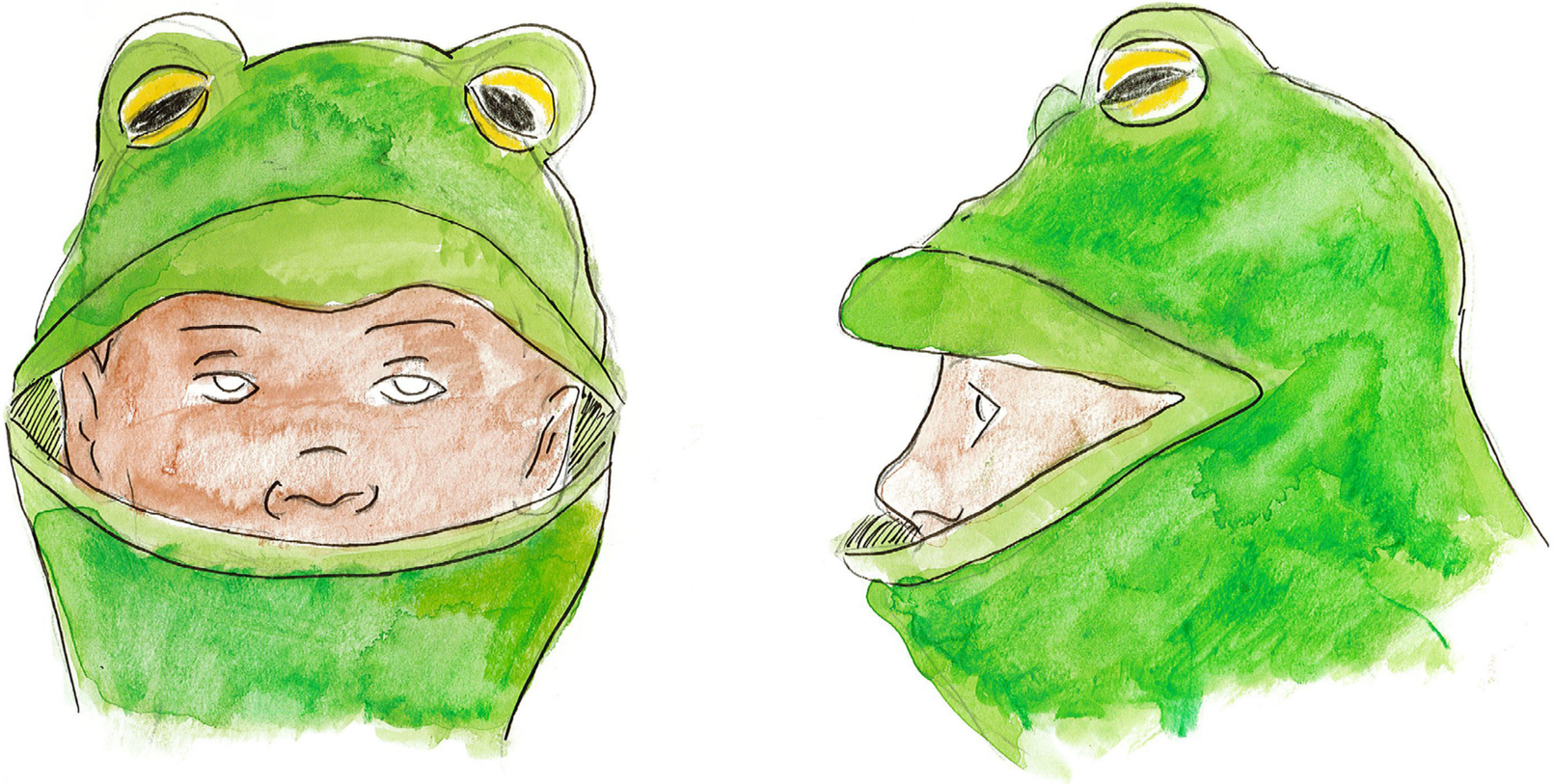
# CHURDITCH



# ECHIDNA



# FROG



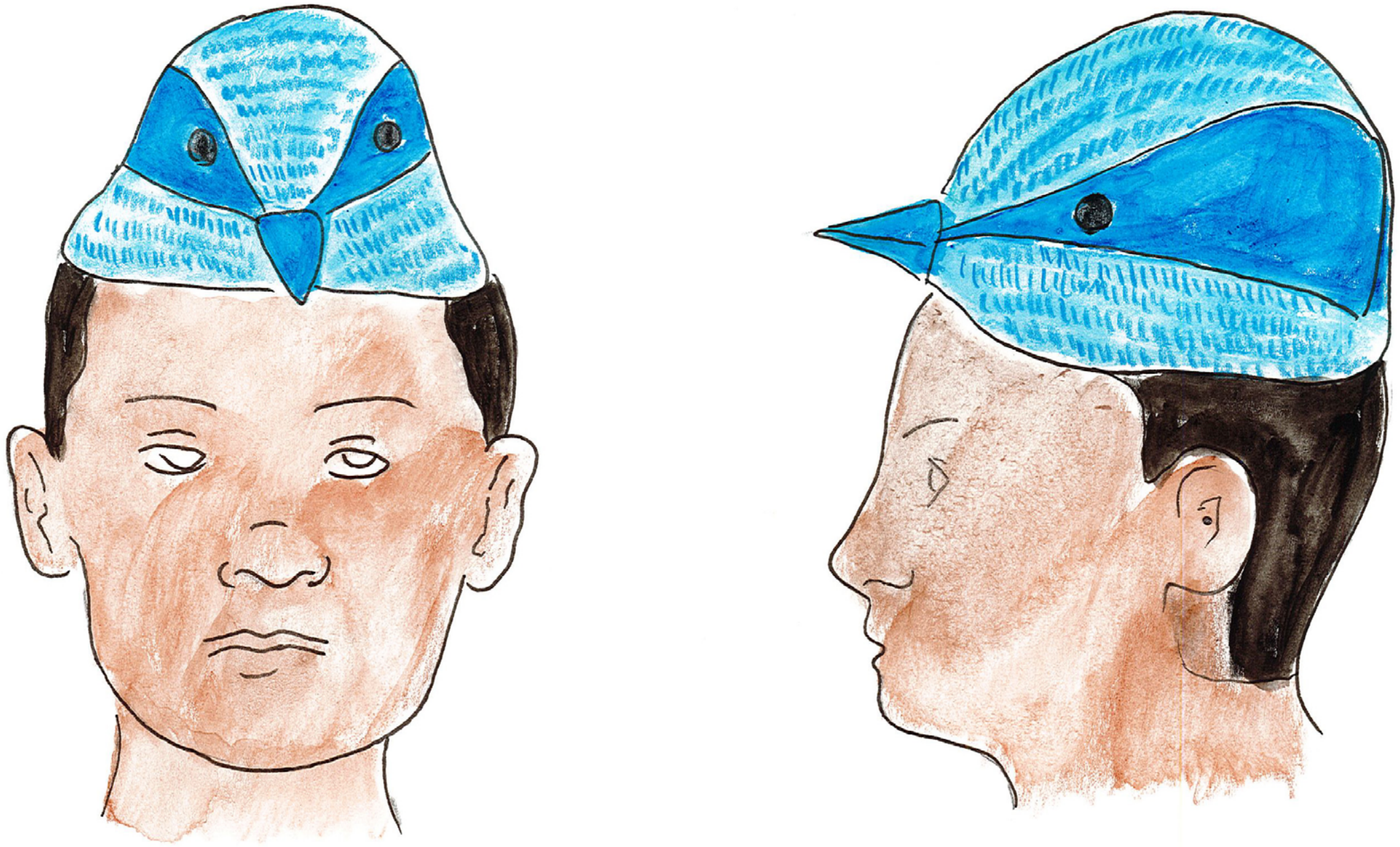
# BUTTERFLY



# COCKATOO



# FAIRY WREN



# KANGAROO

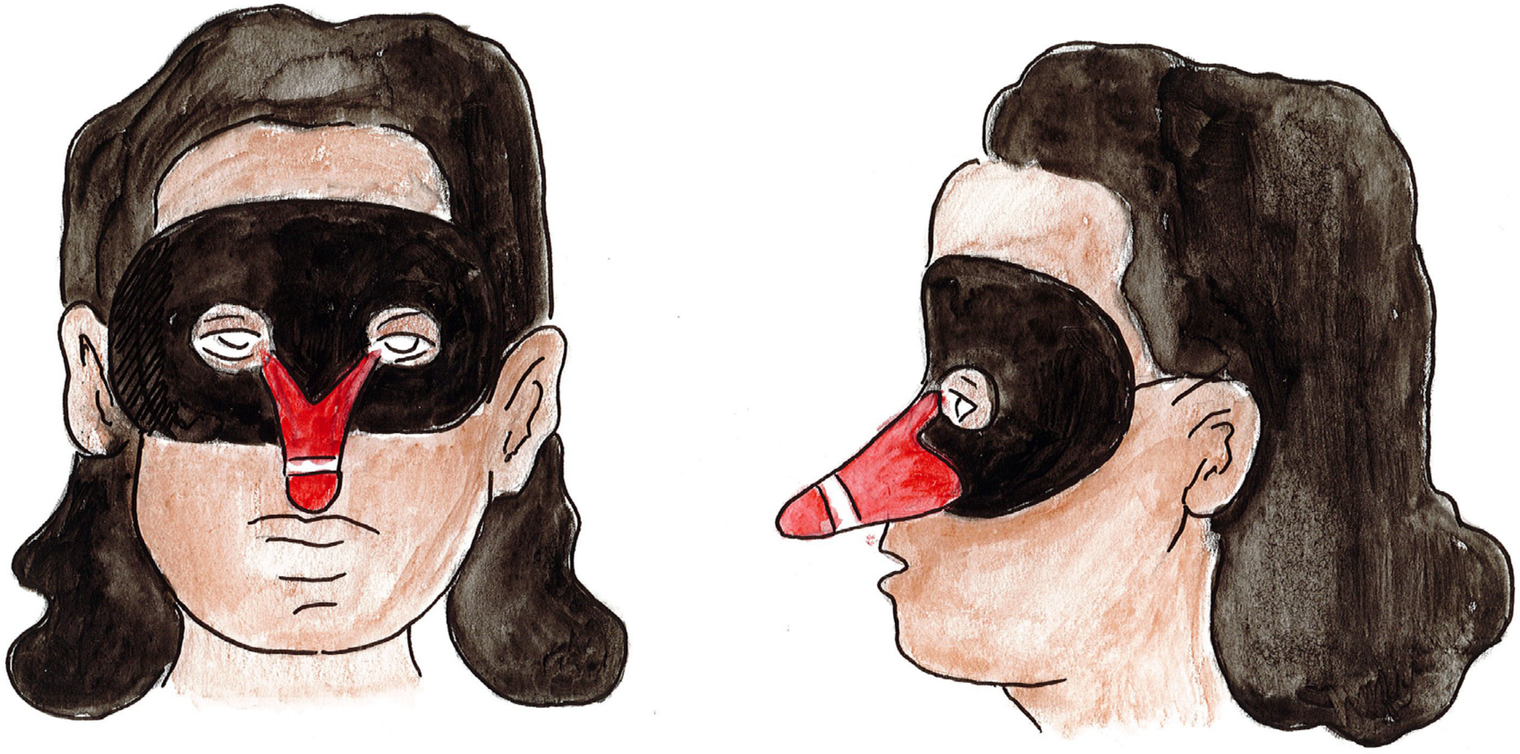


# OWL





# SWAN



# ENJOY THE SHOW!



We hope you enjoy the show!

# THANK YOU!



Thank you for joining us!

WEST AUSTRALIAN OPERA 2022

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Department of **Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries**

Department of **Primary Industries and Regional Development**

Australian Government

Australia Council for the Arts

WEST AUSTRALIAN OPERA

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West Australian Opera acknowledges the Aboriginal peoples of Western Australia as the Traditional Custodians of this land and we pay our respects to Elders past and present.