

STOLEN

Produced by National Theatre of Parramatta



Marketing Brief

In support of your presentation, we will supply the following materials:

- Artwork: 4x6 inch Design (postcard)
- Artwork: A3 Design (poster)
- Artwork: A1 Design (poster)
- Artwork: Banner Design
- Program Content and Design Template
- Media Release Template
- Media Reviews
- Director's Note: Vicki Van Hout
- Writer's Note: Jane Harrison
- Production Synopsis and Marketing Copy
- Production and Rehearsal Images
- Promotional Video
- Education Resource Kit
- Show Blog
- Social Media Timeline and Content

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1. MARKETING COPY

Review Quote

“Van Hout’s production is expansive, earthy, and generous” **Time Out Sydney**

“Van Hout has inter-woven and augmented the scenes with beautifully choreographed and performed dance and movement segments, that heighten the anguish and despair of the stories, yet infuse them with a renaissance of identity and hope.” **Stage Whispers**

Short Copy

Insightful and moving, *Stolen* tells the stories of five individuals from the Stolen Generation. On its 20th anniversary this is a must see Australian classic.

Van Hout moves the storytelling into a contemporary dreaming time underlaid with hope. Chronology and geography is fluid as she unlocks movement from place and communities

Long Copy

A must see for all Australians

Insightful and moving, *Stolen* tells the stories of five individuals from the Stolen generation.

What happens in a world without family? What happens to a person who lives without love? A world where there is no one to keep you safe. Does our sense of family and community influence our future?

This play is as relevant today as it was twenty years ago. Themes of loss and love, the poignancy of five children’s experiences, struggling to make sense of their world.

Stolen will continue to resonate long after you return to your home.

OR

Stolen sketches the stories of five children taken from their families in early childhood and the impact this has on their lives and those of their families.

This script by Jane Harrison has become an Australian classic. 2018 is the twentieth anniversary of its premiere.

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Stolen is as relevant today as when it was first performed. Themes of loss and love and resilience, the poignancy of five children's experiences struggling to make sense of their world.

It is a classic and important work brought to life in a bold, visceral and contemporary fashion by Director Vicki Van Hout, who moves the storytelling into a contemporary dreaming time underlaid with hope. Chronology and geography is fluid as she unlocks movement from place and communities.

The main link between the five characters is that they were all stolen and placed in a children's home, although not necessarily at the same time. However, in many scenes they interact as though they were there together.

The script merges past and present in a non-linear narrative. The play begins with the characters as children and ends with the resolution of their characters – where they are at the present moment in time, the end result of all that has gone before. This is a story that needs to be retold, as we recognise that there are now more children in custody than there were nearly twenty years ago. Stolen is on the school curriculum in NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland. We haven't researched everywhere. It is worth noting that teaching of the Stolen generations is on all school curriculums.

Director's Note

"I am always surprised by the power and presence of humour, especially when times appear at their bleakest and this play readily utilises humour to this effect. This play is ultimately not about lives in the home care system, but of the resilience to overcome an appalling start in life. This work operates as a sort of modern day urban song cycle, the storytelling occurs in a kind of dreaming time, where chronology and geography is fluid and secondary to the essence of who these characters are.

I am always seeking to embed my own works with the knowledge I have and am continuing to accumulating as a long time alumni of NAISDA. At NAISDA we learned dances, were told stories, lore and law, we made our own props from simple materials, often including, developing and substituting the traditional artefacts with urban equivalents at hand.

I have enhanced the idea of Stolen occurring as a song cycle, sung or conceived by the character Ruby. Because she is deemed disturbed, I see her character as accessing the Dreaming more readily. "

Vicki Van Hout

*PUTTING THE NATION ON STAGE***Writer's Note**

“What can I tell you about *Stolen*, the first play I ever wrote? Firstly, that I was honoured to be given the opportunity to write this play by Ilbijerri Theatre Company. It was an honour, and a deep responsibility, to be tasked with creating a story that, in its simple way, tries to encapsulate the experiences of the Stolen Generations. I can tell you that it took six years to write and workshop and finally get to the stage. And that it has taken on a life of its own since, touring many parts of the world along with cities and regional towns across Australia and that even in a place as culturally different as Japan it still resonated.

I can tell you that half the Aboriginal actors I know, it seems, have performed in it at one time or another in the 18 years since it premiered! And that everyone who performs in it or directs it brings their own poignant stories and experiences to the story, enriching it with their commitment and talent.

For audiences, I hope it brings understanding that we are all part of this story, it is part of our history and our present. For the Aboriginal community members in the audience, it is my profound hope that we do your stories justice.”

Jane Harrison

2. REVIEW QUOTES

“Van Hout’s production is expansive, earthy, and generous” **Time Out Sydney**

“Van Hout and her ensemble have delivered a fresh and emotionally affecting take on an Australian classic, well worth the trip to Sydney’s west for those who normally restrict their theatre diet to within their capital city.” **Limelight Magazine**

“The second work in the first season by the National Theatre of Parramatta, *STOLEN* reflects the Riverside’s mission to present work that resonates with audiences, allowing them to immerse themselves in issues that have dramatically and unfairly impacted on the well being of our indigenous community.” **Sydney Arts Guide**

“The play is at once a chance to reflect on the tragedies of our recent past and a celebration of the endurance of Aboriginal people and their diverse cultures.” **Daily Review**

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“Van Hout has inter-woven and augmented the scenes with beautifully choreographed and performed dance and movement segments, that heighten the anguish and despair of the stories, yet infuse them with a renaissance of identity and hope.” **Stage Whispers**

Please see full reviews in supporting documentation.

3. PRODUCTION IMAGES

Images by Amanda James

The following images can be supplied in high resolution.





4. PREVIOUS AUDIENCE

Premiered on June 3rd 2016 to 3 week sold out season in the Lennox Theatre at Riverside.

5. SOCIAL MEDIA

A suggested Social Media timeline and content will be provided along with supporting quotes and images (already formatted to the correct size).

Stolen is available to our in May and June. Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week take place in May and provides an opportunity to connect more broadly with activities and groups that represent Indigenous issues nationally.

6. BLOG

As part of this program, participant Bianca 'Bee' Cruse was Assistant to the Director Vicki Van Hout. Bee wrote about her experience working on the development and production of *Stolen* [here](#).

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7. PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS



Main hero image and poster for *Stolen*

A promotional Video will also be made available.