



Under the star-illuminated skies of the Torres Strait, a green turtle navigates her way back to the beach where she was born. The season has started, the turtles are returning to nest, and soon the island will welcome a new generation of hatchlings – amongst them, our small turtle friend, Migi!

In Bangarra's first dedicated work for children, join our heroine Migi as she undertakes a journey of discovery and survival. A contemporary saltwater Lagaw Kazl (Island Children) story inspired by the totemic system of the green turtle, *Waru – journey of the small turtle* is an interactive and immersive introduction to Torres Strait Islander culture and dance for 3–7-year-olds, premiering at Bangarra's newly renovated home in Walsh Bay.

Created by Stephen Page, together with Hunter Page-Lochard and Bangarra alumni Dancers and Choreographers Sani Townson and Elma Kris, *Waru* provides teachers, parents and care-givers with a unique opportunity to open up conversations about climate change, caring for the environment and the traditional cultural values of respect and reciprocity.

Inspired in part by *Turtle (Corroboree, 2001)*, choreographed by Stephen Page, Peggy Misi and Elma Kris.

Creative Team

Director *Stephen Page*

Cultural Creatives *Sani Townson and Elma Kris*

Writer *Hunter Page-Lochard*

Composers *Steve Francis and David Page*

Set and Costume Design *Jacob Nash*

Lighting Design *Matt Cox*

Language Consultant *Leonora Adidi*

Artists

Aka Malu - Storyteller *Elma Kris*

Dancer *Aba Bero*

Recommended for ages: 3 – 7 years



Technical Specifications:

Highly tourable, adaptable to a range of venue spaces. Specialist equipment will tour with the show.

Duration: 45 minutes (no interval)

Audience Capacity: 500

Number of performances: Maximum 2 shows per day or 9/10 shows per week depending on schedule

Format: Audience end on or Proscenium

Performance area: Minimum 10m wide x 10m deep.

Bump in: 48 total crew hours to Performance#1

Show crew: 1 x venue technician

Touring party: 4 (2 performers, 1 stage manager, 1 technician) + Director as required.

Marketing Resources: Resources include high and low quality images suitable for web and social media, synopsis and copy, media release, poster and signage templates.

Education Resources: Our education resources are designed to provide a range of pathways for young people to explore the art of Aboriginal and Torres Strait storytelling.

Additional Activities:

Workshops will be available on request and can be scheduled as part of the season.



"I'm thrilled to be able to work with my father on a children's based show, especially now that I have a two year old daughter. I'm excited to be able to share the culture and stories of fellow creatives Sani and Elma's with the youth community. Being a part of Play School given me an even greater appreciation of the importance of sharing culture with young people in Australia today."

Hunter Page-Lochard

[Waru Promotional Video](#)

(for internal use only – not for public release)

CONTACT:

Phoebe Collier

Phoebe@bangarra.com.au

+61 0403 065121

<https://www.bangarra.com.au/productions/waru-journey-of-the-small-turtle/>