



Supported by



A development reading of

THE BLACK WOMAN OF GIPPSLAND

by Andrea James

Directed by Glenn Shea

An onstage reading, offering an insight into the first draft of a new Australian work.

From *Sunshine Super Girl* playwright **Andrea James** comes a new MTC NEXT STAGE Commission that delves deep into one of the first urban legends of colonial Australia. In a special development reading, audiences will be offered a unique opportunity to hear an exciting new Australian work in progress while gaining rare insight into a vital side of the playwriting process.

In 1840, a settler swore he found a bible printed in Edinburgh, a blue silk purse and a broken looking-glass in the remains of a Gunaikurnai camp near Ninety Mile Beach. But did he also really see the face of a 'pale woman' in a possum-skin cloak? Was there really a 'white woman' in Gunaikurnai country or were these unverified stories a cover for other activities – these are the questions Jacinta is trying to answer when she holes herself up in a country motel to put the finishing touches on her thesis. But can she solve a 150-year-old mystery in four days? And get justice for her people?

The Black Woman of Gippsland explores colonial Victorian 'history' through a vital First Nations' lens. This presentation of James's first draft will showcase a work of powerful personal importance for an acclaimed playwright, and offers audiences the opportunity to be part of the continuing development process – Saturday's reading may even differ from the first as Andrea James takes on insights and observations from the initial public presentation to make subsequent textual adjustments.

FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY, 7.30PM
SATURDAY 27 FEBRUARY, 7.30PM

Southbank Theatre, The Sumner

Duration approximately 75 minutes, without an interval.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples are advised that this reading refers to people who have passed away. This reading contains adult themes, references to historical massacres of First Nations people, references to deaths in custody of First Nations people and some coarse language.

mtc.com.au

CAST & CREATIVES



Fiona Choi
Cast



Stephen Phillips
Cast



Melodie Reynolds-Diarra
Cast



Leonie Whyman
Cast



Glenn Shea
Director



Andrea James
Playwright

MTC is a department of the University of Melbourne



NEXT STAGE

Made possible by MTC's Playwrights Giving Circle

MTC MELBOURNE
THEATRE
COMPANY