

BRAN NUE DAE

BRAN NUE DAE is a documentary about the musical of the same name. The film is structured around two main elements: the production of the musical and the life of its creator Jimmy Chi. Both elements are interwoven with key participants in the musical, people important in Jimmy's life, and archival footage.

Jimmy grew up in Broome, a town in the remote north of Western Australia. He is part of a culturally diverse community which results from Broome's history as a thriving Pearling town. Jimmy was sent to a Catholic mission in Perth to complete his secondary schooling and from which he was eventually expelled. After a major car accident and several months in a psychiatric hospital he gave up his university studies, returned to Broome and devoted himself to music. BRAN NUE DAE is the combination of his own experiences, his views of the world and the pooled talents of his friends who make up the Broome band "Kuckles".

The musical is the story of an Aboriginal boy's flight home from the city of Perth to his homeland at Djaridjin (Lombadina), in the north-west of Western Australia. His journey in search of identity, love and security takes us across the state in a blend of rock opera, road movie, comedy, song, dance and romance. The music derives from sources as disparate as traditional Aboriginal performance, blues, rock and roll, Hollywood musicals and the rituals of the Roman Catholic Mass.

The documentary includes rehearsals of the show and finishes with the opening night of world premiere in Perth, Western Australia.