

For years Jimmy Chi has been creating BRAN NUE DAE. It is the combination of his own experiences, his views on the world, and the pooled talents of his friends who make up the Broome band Kuckles.

BRAN NUE DAE the musical is a story of an Aboriginal boy's flight from the city of Perth, to his homeland at Djaridjin (Lombadina). 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 film is structured around two main themes: the production of the musical and the life of Jimmy Chi. Both elements are interwoven through filmed sequences from the stage production, interviews with key participants, players 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 and writing songs.

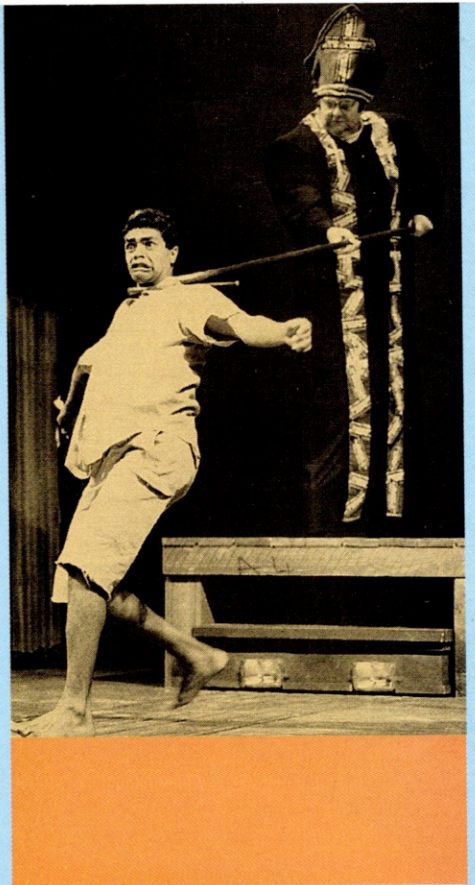


Photo by David Wilson



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CINEMATOGRAPHY: JOEL PETERSON
EDITOR: RAY THOMAS
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: CHRIS MCGUIGAN
PRODUCER/DIRECTOR: TOM ZUBRYCKI
MUSIC BY KUCKLES: JIMMY CHI, STEPHEN PIGRAM, MICHAEL MANOLIS, PATRICK BIN AMAT AND GARY GOWER

The play was directed by Andrew Ross, musical direction by Stephen Pigram and Mick Manolis and choreography by Michael Leslie.

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Tom Zubrycki is an award winning documentary filmmaker whose recent credits include KEMIRA-DIARY OF A STRIKE (1984), FRIENDS AND ENEMIES (1987), AMONGST EQUALS (1988), STRANGERS IN PARADISE (1989), LORD OF THE BUSH (1990).

55 minutes, available on 16mm, VHS and U-matic

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