

AUSTRALIA / THEATRE



THE SEASON

Families are like seasons: you don't get to pick them, but when they do show up, you better be ready.

Aboriginal playwright Nathan Maynard presents the Melbourne premiere of **The Season**, a comical tale of culture and country and about a family bursting with love.

Somewhere between the mainland and its southern-most mate lies Big Dog Island. For six weeks of the year that's where you'll find the Duncans, a mob as funny as they are unforgettable. They come from all over to make the most of mutton-bird season, and have done for as long as anyone can remember.

Long memories mean it's not just the birds that arrive for this year's harvest. As old secrets are dug up from their burrows, fledgling rivalries begin to take flight and outsiders stick their beaks where they're not welcome. It might all fall apart if it wasn't for the fierce love that holds this bunch together.

"The birding" industry is an s an exuberantly lively expression of culture amongst the Tasmanian Aboriginal community and here, Nathan Maynard, a descendant of the chief of the Troowolway Clan of North East Tasmania knows those hot, cramped, feather-daubed work sheds first hand, and his hilarious plain-speaking play has the ring of absolute authenticity.

Under the direction of Isaac Drandic, The Melbourne premiere of **The Season** features the exciting – but all too rare – combination of an Aboriginal writer, director and seven member cast of some of the nation's most distinguished Aboriginal actors, including Trevor Jamieson (*The Secret River*) and Tammy Anderson (*I Don't Want to Play House*).

Nathan Maynard has 17 years experience as a dancer in schools and communities. In 2012 he performed in *Shadow Dreams*, a collaboration of Terrapin Puppet Theatre and the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. **The Season** which made its world premiere at Sydney Festival in 2017 is Nathan Maynard's first full-length play.

"Nathan Maynard's play has an ebullience and a warmth about it that is utterly endearing."
The Australian

"A joyous yarn about an Indigenous family told with cheeky humour and lots of heart." Limelight

The Coopers Malthouse Merlyn Theatre

Thu 12 – Sun 15 Oct

Thu - Sat 7.30pm

Sat also 2pm

Sun 5pm

1 hr 40 mins, no interval

A Reserve \$59 / \$49

B Reserve \$49 / \$39

Under 30s \$30

www.festival.melbourne

The Coopers Malthouse 03 9685 5111

MEDIA CONTACT

TATIA SLOLEY M 0403 305 395
tatia@tspublicity.com.au

MARY THOMPSON M 0415 745 910
mary@tspublicity.com.au