



Wesfarmers Arts

SYNOPSIS & CASTLIST

WEST AUSTRALIAN OPERA PRESENTS

Wundig wer Wilura in Concert

5 November 2025
Kinjarling, Albany Entertainment Centre

7 November 2025
Goomburrup, Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre

Writers and Composers Gina Williams & Guy Ghouse
Arrangement and Orchestration Dr Chris Stone
Music Director and Keyboard Joshua Haines
Director Matt Reuben James Ward
Drums/Percussion Daniel Susnjar
Bass Nick Abbey

Wilura Jessica Hitchcock
Wundig Jarred Wall*
Mubarn (Clever Man) David Leha
Bworan (Old Man) Tyrone Brownley
Ngaank (Wilura's Mother) Charley Caruso
Kabaarli Kalyat (Wilura's Nanna) Alana McGaw
Gulambiddi (Wilura's Betrothed) Jarrad Inman*
Mandi (Wundig's Betrothed) Bella McGill
Kongk (Wundig's Father) Tyrone Brownley
Maamyok (Wundig's Mother) Julianna Thomas
Maambart (Wilura's Father) Benjamin Gath

* Supported by The Roberts Emerging Artist Program

TOURING PARTNER

Wundig wer Wilura in Concert is a Wesfarmers Arts Commission and this presentation is supported by the WA Government through the Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program and MM Electrical Merchandising.



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

West Australian Opera is proudly supported by the WA Government and Lotterywest, and the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body.



Wundig wer Wilura is a very old love story of the two hills, Mt Bakewell and Mt Brown in York, Western Australia.

A very long time ago, there was an old man who was a much loved and respected Burdiya (leader) of his Moort (family). He made sure his Moort and the Boodja (land) they lived on was well taken care of.

As time passed, the family grew very big and it was becoming unsustainable for a group so large to stay in one place. The Burdiya sent his sons out to the hills to see if the land would be able to support them and grow their families. The sons went away and returned with a wide variety of food, showing their father the land was abundant and they would be ok to set up camps elsewhere.

The sons and their families were sent away with blessing of the Burdiya; the families continued to grow this legacy of living harmoniously on country with each other.

The Burdiya grew very old and as it became apparent his passing was imminent, the sons were called back to pay their respects to their father.

The sons and their families returned to the valley, bringing food with them and gathered to celebrate their Burdiya's life with music, dance, storytelling and sporting contests. The old man passed, surrounded by the love, respect and care of his descendants.

Those who remained agreed to come back regularly to celebrate with sporting contests and music and dancing to commemorate their much loved burdiya. The families continued to meet in this way, until a time when things went irreparably wrong.

Wundig came down from the hills with his family. He was a good hunter; he was known for having "moorditj mart" (good legs) and for being able to run fast.

Wilura was from the valley people, she was beautiful, but she was related to Wundig.

But oh, the heart's desire! Wundig loved Wilura and Wilura loved Wundig. The two youngsters took off without telling anyone.

The valley people went up the hill to look for their daughter. The hills people thought Wundig was with them. The valley people didn't believe them, and a massive fight broke out.

The hills people were too good on their own patch and the valley people were being wiped out. The valley people, realising they were at risk of being wiped out, retreated and called on their Mubarn (spirit man) to deal with the situation.

The Mubarn stopped the fight – turning the hills men into Balga (grass trees).

Now that the fighting had been dealt with, the Mubarn turned his attention to the two lovers. He banished Wundig's spirit to Walwalling (the place of tears) and Wilura's spirit to Wongborel (sleeping woman). Before their deaths, the Mubarn told them they would not be reunited unless the two hills crumbled.

He sealed this division by making the river run between the two hills.

Today, Walwalling is known as Mt Bakewell, and Wongborel is known as Mt Brown. Nowadays, you cannot go up Walwalling unless you are prepared to go all the way up to the top.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People are advised that this work may contain images and sounds related to people who have passed away.



PRINCIPAL PARTNER AND
COMMISSIONING PARTNER
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