Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse
WINNER - INDIGENOUS ACT OF THE YEAR
2013 WA Music Industry (WAMi) Awards

“Gina has a beautiful voice but it goes much deeper than this – she connects with a song in a way that takes the listener to a different place. To hear her sing is an experience you won’t forget.”
- James Morrison, Australian Jazz Legend

It’s a rare performer who is able to capture the hearts and imagination of an audience, to connect deeply through the power of song. You know when it happens, there’s that magical moment when a hush falls over the room; when the audience connect with the performer. You can feel it, and you know you know that it’s special. It’s even more special when it’s in a completely different language.

Yet that’s exactly what Noongar singer-songwriter Gina Williams, alongside her dear friend and collaborator Guy Ghouse have been doing with audiences all over. You don’t need to know what she’s singing, we all understand love, loss and joy, it all means the same thing regardless of language.

Gina is a Balladong daughter, one of the 14 clan groups which make up the Noongar nation, covering the south west corner of Western Australia. She also has links, through her grandmother to the Kitja people of the East Kimberley region at the other end of the state. Her grandmother was removed from Halls Creek and eventually brought down to Mogumber mission. She never returned to her homeland. Gina’s music is informed by an ancient culture and she has drawn from a deep well of recent West Australian and even deeper personal history. By official records, Noongar language is critically endangered (there are very few fluent speakers left). Her mother and grandmother, both part of the stolen generations were never allowed to speak their languages.

Gina wasn’t stolen, but was relinquished as a baby for adoption, and for her, writing and singing beautiful songs in Noongar language is a personal mission.

“I grew up not knowing anything about my true history. I’ve had to go back as an adult and learn. I don’t regret this, but it means I’ve had to claw territory back. I wanted to learn the language, to write songs so that I could teach my children. It’s an incredibly beautiful language – when I hear Noongar language I hear music, it literally sings to me.”

“Gina has a gift. Her stories draw you in, making you listen to every word, and you soon realise what an amazing talent she is.”
- Lani Kereopa, Daily Post (NZ)

Nowadays, Gina and Guy bring a fresh, new, modern take on an ancient tradition; merging evocative sounds, natural acoustic instruments and that incredible, beautiful voice. The natural rhythms of the language are perfectly captured and represented in these new songs. And there’s an onstage connection and charisma that comes from two people who’ve grown up with similar soundtracks and a deep friendship.

And there are few guitarists who connect to their music and perform without compromise like Guy Ghouse. With a musical pedigree which goes back all the way to the 1920’s, it seemed only natural that, at the tender age of eight, Guy would follow his parents and grandparents footsteps and pick up the guitar. Guy is best known for his performances with the insanely talented group Desert Child, and has featured at many major festivals across Australia, the UK, the US and beyond.

“Society today has surrendered a lot of instinct to technology – and instead of relying on our instincts with music, we tend to look to machines to tell us whether something sounds right or not. I love that when we’re playing music together, we know in our hearts we’re onto a good thing,” said Guy.
Performing with the all-important blessings of her elders and her community, Gina and Guy will take you on a journey you will not get anywhere else in the world. And it will be one you are not likely to forget.

“It would be hard to find a braver, yet more self-effacing personality than Gina Williams...Her personal message seems to be that of eternal hope and optimism...Watch out for her progress. She is well-worth catching.”

- Claire Condry, Australian Stage

Gina’s career highlights include:


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