

# Case study

## JUTE and Stephen Carleton

### Details

#### What:

Stephen Carleton's play *Bastard Territory* premiered in Darwin followed by a season in Cairns. *Bastard Territory* is a co-production between Knock-em-Down Theatre, Browns Mart and JUTE Theatre Company.

The play's story centers on Russell, the dark skinned son of two white parents, as he delves into his parents' past lives in Papua New Guinea and repatriation in Darwin in the late 60's to mid 70's. The notion of identity formation, belonging and culturally diverse family formations are explored.

The play was shortlisted for the Patrick White Playwrights' Award (2011) and was a finalist for the Queensland Premiers Drama Award in 2012.

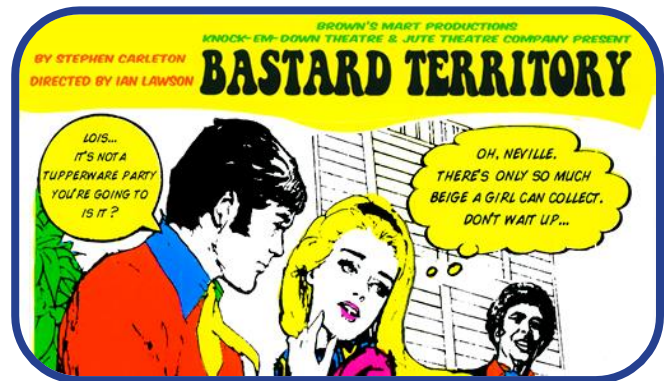
Funding from the Arts Queensland Projects and Programs Fund supported Queensland artists to participate in the Darwin premiere in April and for a two week season in Cairns in June 2014.

#### When:

April – June 2014

#### Where:

Brown's Mart Theatre,  
Knock-em Down Theatre, Darwin  
Centre of Contemporary Arts, JUTE, Cairns



*Bastard Territory*

#### Key stats:

- 1743 attendees in Darwin and Cairns
- 23 performances of the productions
- 95 per cent rated the work good or excellent
- 100 per cent of survey respondents felt that *Bastard Territory* met or exceeded their expectations of JUTE's work.

#### Arts Queensland contribution:

\$25,302 – Projects and Programs Fund

#### Contact for further information:

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## Outcomes

- A sell-out season in Darwin of a touring Queensland production. The Darwin season exceeded expectations with the second week of the play sold out early.
- Interest was generated by this work. Representatives from Queensland Theatre Company and other regional arts venues attended the Cairns season. QTC have expressed an interest in including the show in their 2016 program. JUTE is working with ArTour to develop a regional tour in 2016 accordingly.
- The Production strengthened networks with producing partners, artists and creative artists in Brisbane, Cairns and Darwin.
- The play text will be published by Playlab (Queensland) to coincide with the planned 2016 remount and tour.



Bastard Territory

## Learnings and reflections

Bastard Territory has received positive feedback from media and audiences.

*"It's such a pleasure to see theatre so intelligent, so political in intent and yet so entertaining and satisfying."*

*"Was great to get up to Cairns to see vibrant new theatre being made in a regional setting. Congratulations."*

The production was an enormous logistical undertaking with producing partners located in three different cities. New communication skills were implemented to ensure smooth running of the production. JUTE reflected:

*The three-way co-producing relationship involving partners in three different cities - Darwin, Brisbane and Cairns - involved us developing new communications skills and methods for production and marketing meetings and strategy eg tri-city conference calls involving up to six or seven people at a time.*

In terms of what they would do differently next time, JUTE reflected

*Things we would do differently next time would involve locking in key creatives earlier in the process.*