



MEEKTA

THE BALLAD OF JAMES ARDEN





MEERTA is a creative piece of powerful truth-telling with warm heartfelt theatre.

Performed by David Arden
Gunditjmara/Kokatha Songman & Storyteller

Premiered Yirramboi Festival May
2023 @ The Pavilion, Arts Centre
Melbourne

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and all peoples should be aware that *MEERTA* project contains images of people who have passed away

A very special thanks to the funders and supporters of **MEERTA**:

- **Creative Victoria,**
- **Yirramboi Festival & City of Melbourne,**
- **Australia Council for the Arts,**
- **Harmonic Whale,**
- **The University of Melbourne - Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts & Cultural Development, Faculty of Fine Arts & Music & Melbourne Conservatorium of Music.**






MEEERTA

THE BALLAD OF JAMES ARDEN







A live music performance on a stage. A large projection screen in the background displays the title "MEEKTA" in a stylized, hand-drawn font with a yellow and orange brushstroke effect. Below the title, the subtitle "THE BALLAD OF JAMES ARDEN" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font on a yellow brushstroke. The stage is lit with warm, yellow and orange lights. Several musicians are visible on stage, including a guitarist on the left, a violinist, a guitarist in the center, a drummer, a singer at a podium, a bassist, and two saxophonists on the right. The audience is visible in the foreground, mostly in silhouette.

MEEKTA

THE BALLAD OF JAMES ARDEN





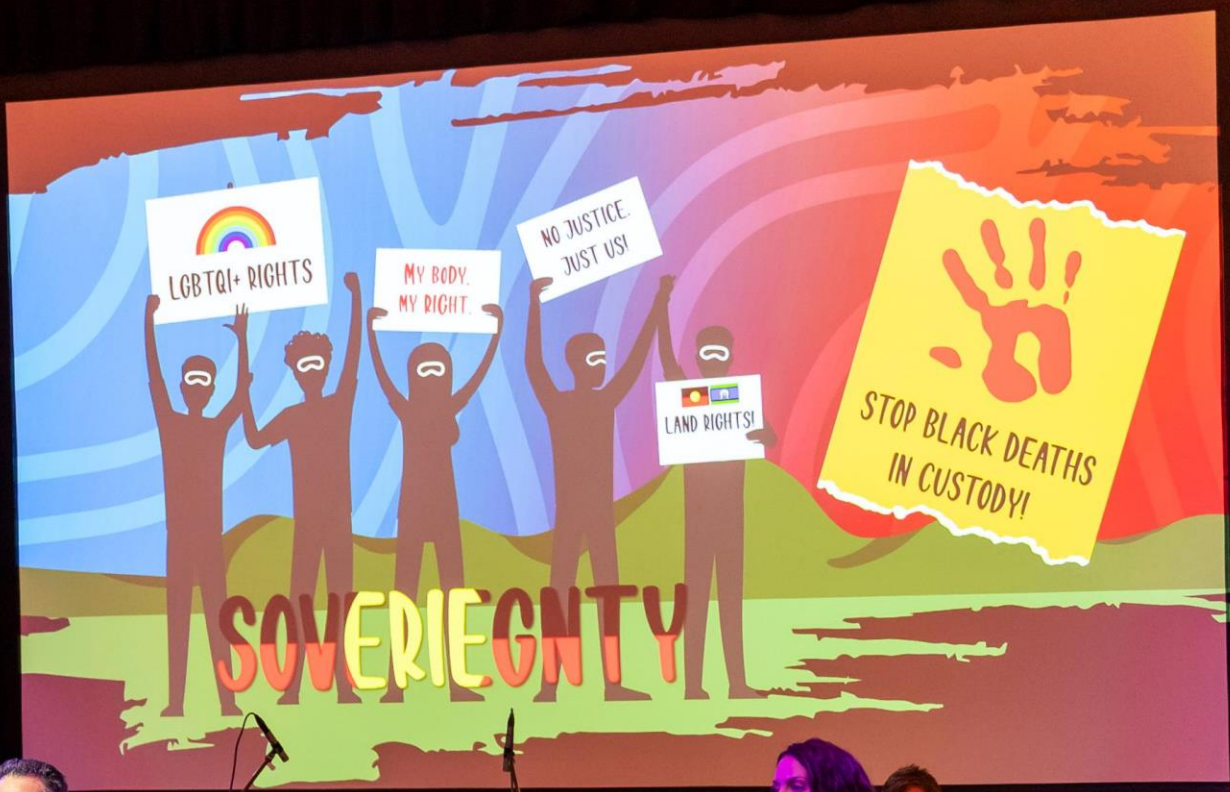
MEERT

THE BALLAD OF JAMES GARDEN

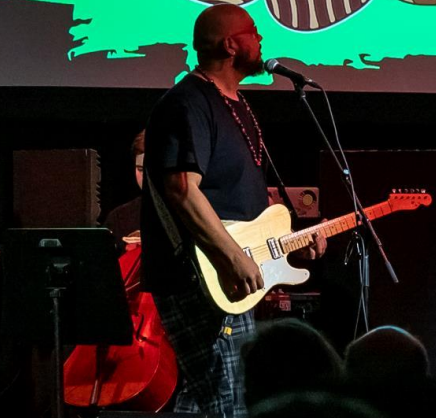


















DAVID ARDEN

MEEEX

THE WORLD OF JAMES A



AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

Beautiful, tender and heart wrenching history.

Memories of the Old People honoured for the love they brought into this world.

Music was incredible as was the backdrop of artwork and photo memories. I wish I could see it all again.

Thankyou Dave Arden. This story needs to be told.

MEERTA – Rise up! The Ballad of James Arden was a moving and memorable performance.

It is an intimate, warm and gracious journey that not only traces the familial, spiritual and political threads connecting the two, among other kin, but also celebrates the irrepressible spirit of the Gunditjmarra people.







DAVID ARDEN

MEEERTA

THE BALLAD OF JAMES ARDEN

**THE PAVILION,
ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE**

11TH & 12TH MAY 2023

6:30PM

Proudly supported by:
Yirramboi Festival & City of Melbourne,
Australia Council for the Arts, Creative Victoria, Harmonic Whale,
The University of Melbourne - Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts & Cultural Development,
Faculty of Fine Arts & Music & Melbourne Conservatorium of Music.

www.davidaarden.com

PUBLICITY

RADIO

- **3KND**, Big Brekkie, live to air interview with Gman, Tues 2 May, <https://www.3knd.org.au/post/dave-arden-talks-about-his-great-great-grandfather-james-arden>
- **Radio PBS**, State of the Arts, live to air interview with Annika Priest, Wed 3 May
- **Radio National**, The Music Show with Robbie Buck, broadcast, Sunday 7 May, (27mins) <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/musicshow/david-arden-andree-greenwell/102232196>
- **Radio 3CR**, Bunjil's Fire, live to air interview with Robbie Thorpe, Wed 10 May (1.07) <https://www.3cr.org.au/firefirst>
- **ABC Radio Melbourne**, Friday Revue, live to air interview with Brian Nankervis, Fri 12 May, (2.44) <https://www.abc.net.au/melbourne/programs/thefridayrevue/the-friday-revue/102313656>



DAVID ARDEN

MEERTA

THE BALLAD OF JAMES ARDEN

**THE PAVILION,
ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE**

11TH & 12TH MAY 2023

6:30PM

Proudly supported by:
Yirramboi Festival & City of Melbourne,
Australia Council for the Arts, Creative Victoria, Harmonic Whale,
The University of Melbourne - Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts & Cultural Development,
Faculty of Fine Arts & Music & Melbourne Conservatorium of Music.

www.davidaarden.com

PRESS

- **Deadly Western Connections,**
<https://deadlywesternconnections.com.au/events/meerta-rise-up-the-ballad-of-james-arden-2/>
- **Theatre Matters,**
<https://theatrematters.com.au/news/yirramboi/>
- **Limelight,**
<https://limelightmagazine.com.au/event/meerta-rise-up-the-ballad-of-james-arden/>

REVIEWS

- **What did she think,** [MEERTA - RISE UP! THE BALLAD OF JAMES ARDEN: Music Review \(whatdidshethink.com\)](https://whatdidshethink.com)
- **Artshub,**
<https://www.artshub.com.au/news/reviews/performance-review-meerta-rise-up-the-ballad-of-james-arden-arts-centre-melbourne-2633852/>



DAVID ARDEN

MEEERTA

THE BALLAD OF JAMES ARDEN

**THE PAVILION,
ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE**

11TH & 12TH MAY 2023

6:30PM

Proudly supported by:
Yirramboi Festival & City of Melbourne,
Australia Council for the Arts, Creative Victoria, Harmonic Whale,
The University of Melbourne - Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts & Cultural Development,
Faculty of Fine Arts & Music & Melbourne Conservatorium of Music.

www.davidaarden.com

WWW

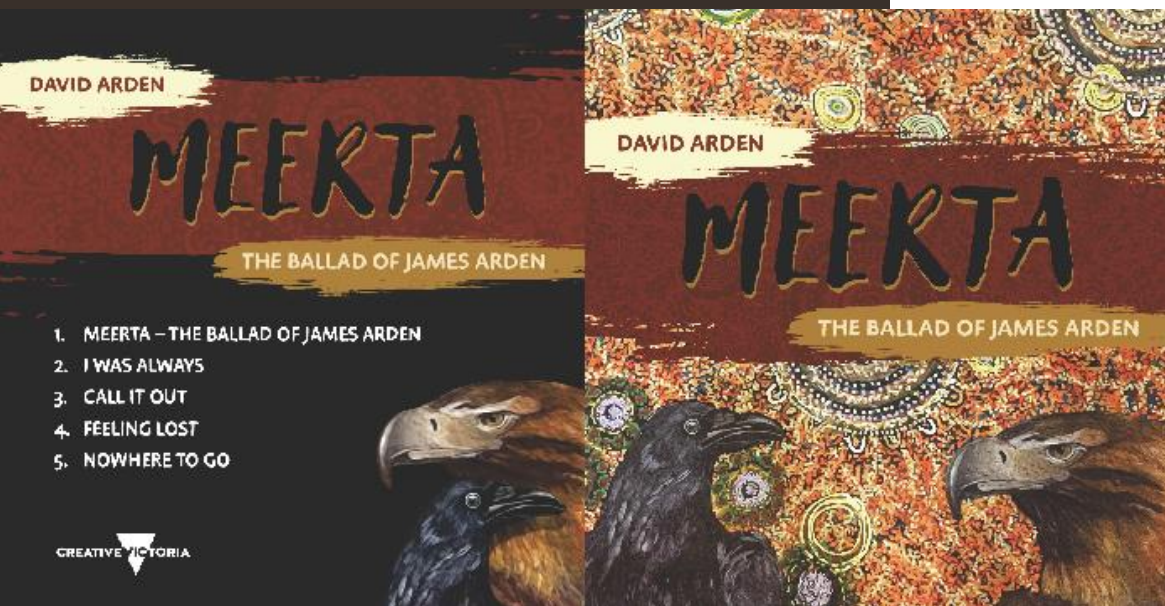
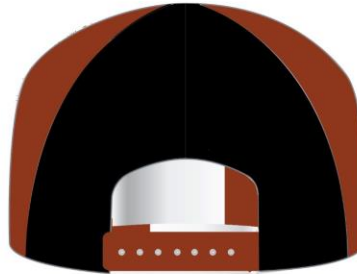
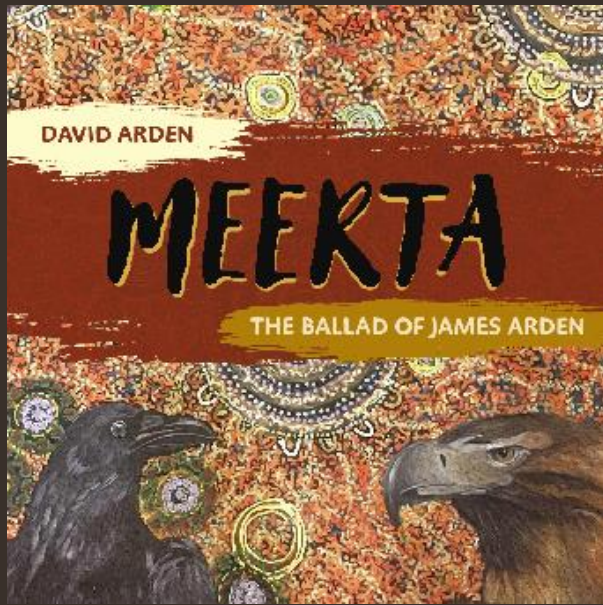
<https://yirramboi.com.au/events/meerta-rise-up-the-ballad-of-james-arden/>

<https://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au/event-archive/2023/yirramboi/meerta>

<https://www.davidaarden.com/>

TV

- **NITV TV News**, interview and filming at dress rehearsal for news segment,
<https://transfers.sbs.com.au/w/e1LrLaxrsiDnYDBmwXoIrDayCs4yVylz4p1YrpcB0dLyN>



MEERTA CD CREDITS & THANK YOU's

Recorded at: Harmonic Whale Studio, Brunswick, Melbourne.

Produced by: Daniel Jauregui and Co-Produced by: David Arden.

Supporting Studio: The Tiki Room, Pembroke Pines, Florida.

Music Arrangements by: David Arden and Daniel Jauregui.

Recording Engineering: Daniel Jauregui, Lee Levin.

Mixing Engineer: Daniel Jauregui, JK Almao.

Mastering: JK Almao.

Cover Art: Original Painting by Nina & Shane Wright.

Graphic Design: Dixon Patten & Cheryle Arden.

Gunditjmara Languages by Vicki Couzens.

Project Executive Producers: Violet Arden and Jill Morgan.

All songs composed by David Arden except "No Where to Go" composed by Archie Roach for the Northland Campaign to save Northland Secondary College.



1. Kokatha/Gunditjmara Clan

2. I See I Hear

3. Close My Eyes

4. Annie Louisa

5. Freedom Called

6. I Was Always

7. Call It Out

8. Nowhere To Go

9. One Step Forward

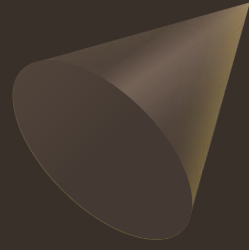
10. So Young

11. We Won't Cry

12. Meerta – The Ballad Of James Arden

“David has the sweetest rhythms & he has a perfect ear on the guitar. His use of dynamics is simply brilliant”.
the late Archie Roach AM

“David is giving something of incredible value to those willing to share an evening of music, reflection and celebration”
Uncle Colin Hunter



MEERTA Musicians



**Dave Arden – Musical Director
Singer, Songwriter, Guitar**

Daniel Jauregui – Musical Director, Guitar

Chris Cameron-Drums

Brad Brown - Bass

Jake Amy -Keys

Ann Metry- Bass

Wayne Morgan -Didge

Vocals

Deniece Hudson

Monica Karo









**Music students
from the
Victorian
College of the
Arts and
Melbourne
Conservatorium
of Music**



STRINGS

Lara Sawkins

Bailey Clennett

Sonia Freiburg

Sophia Hans

Sunni-Rae Healey Morrison

Andrew Seamer

HORNS

Hugo Turudia

Michael Fraser

Stephanie Burger

Brandon Bartholomeuz

NOTATION

Jordan Murray





MEEKTA

THE BALLAD OF JAMES ARDEN



MILLER SOLD






LGBTQI+ RIGHTS

MY BODY,
MY RIGHT.

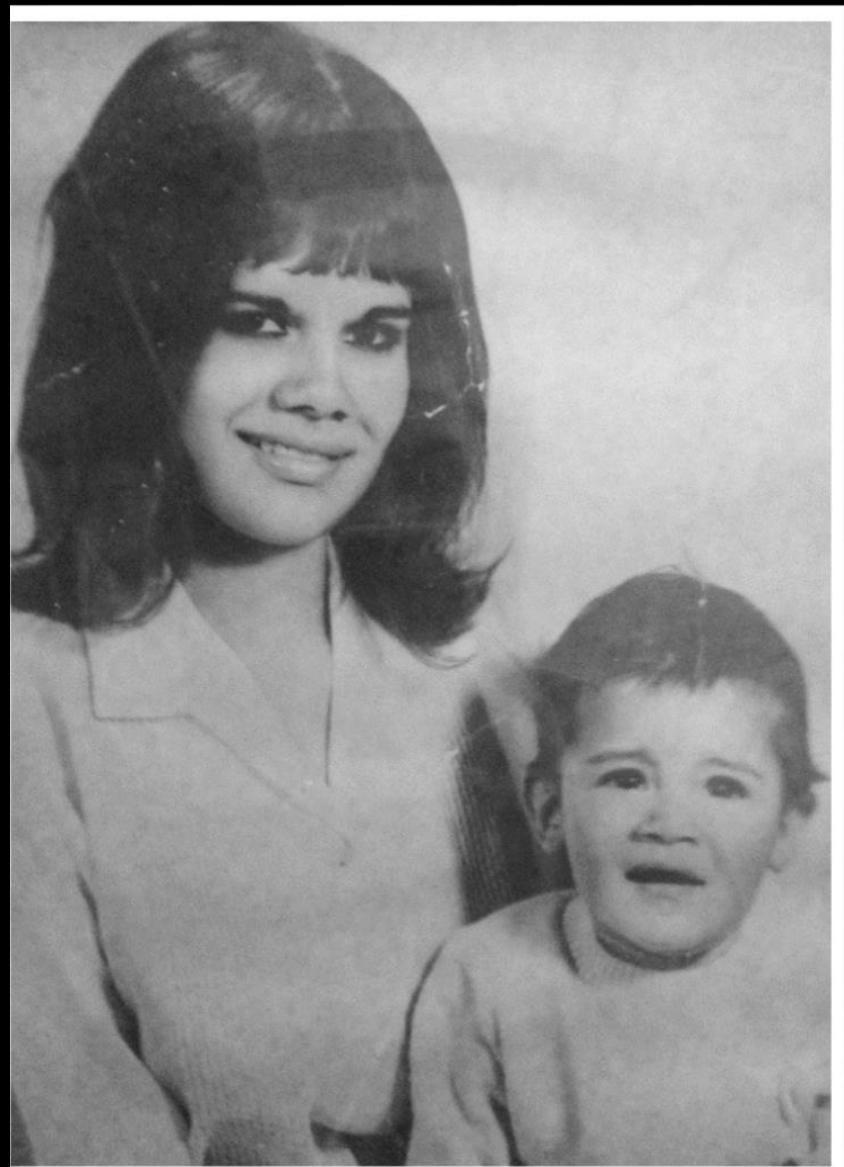
NO JUSTICE.
JUST US!


LAND RIGHTS!


STOP BLACK DEATHS
IN CUSTODY!

SOVEREIGNTY

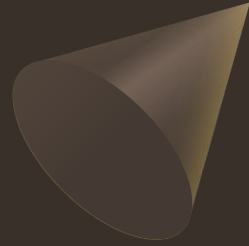




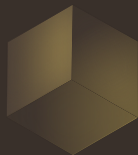








The MEERTA ALBUM IS DEDICATED to the late Uncle Archie Roach
& to my little brother Wallace Amos Arden Jnr for the memories
and journey we shared together & to my cousin-sister Diana
Nikkelson. Dave Arden



Visual Concept & Design
Dixon Patten

Filming
Dardi Munwurro

Photographer
Tiffany Garvie

Original Painting Artwork
Shane and Nina Wright

Meerta Producers
Violet Arden
Jill Morgan

YIRRAMBOI 23
04 ——— 14 MAY

MEERTA - Rise Up!
The Ballad of James Arden

6:00PM Doors open
6:30PM Performance starts



Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander
audience are warned
that the event
contains reference to
people who have
passed.
No flash photography.





