

**FIRST NATIONS
FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT
WRITING/STORYTELLING
FOR THEATRE**

**SONYA
RANKINE**

Sonya is a Narungga, Ngarrindjeri, Ngadjuri, & Wirangu woman who is a multidisciplinary artist.



Q + A

What attracted you to apply for the Fellowship?

The opportunity to bring an idea to life. Learn the skills to develop a theatre production, the intricacies of what is involved and the layers of bringing everything together.

What do you hope to achieve over the next 12 months?

To create at least a draft of my proposed production concept. Through the 12 months to meet key people in the industry and gain skills from. I want to

immerse myself in the process of development, and particularly the writing techniques. To work closely with my Ngarrindjeri family and incorporate Ngarrindjeri language into this project. I hope to work with family and friends and bring all their skills and talents together.

What playwrights inspire you?

I'm inspired by all First Nations storytellers and the commitment to share our stories with our voices leading the narrative and presentation.

The importance of being led by First Nation creatives and working alongside Elders and community is incredibly important.

I've been so inspired in on a very personal level as a Narungga person working alongside my cousin Jacob Boehme on Wild Dog and recently with Guuranda show for the Adelaide Festival. The

embodiment of telling stories of culture and language in film and on stage. As a singer/songwriter I had the opportunity to create songs in Narungga language and has been an incredible experience. It's been so rewarding and gave me the confidence to apply for this fellowship.

The work of Ursula Yovich from when I first saw her first solo showing of Magpie Blues at the Dreaming Festival. The telling of her story through song which incorporated originals and cover songs that connected deeply to her life. The presentation was so beautifully delivered and resonated with me emotionally. The power of telling stories through song is what has guided by practice as a singer/songwriter. Ursula's work inspires me to follow that path and create a theatre production that is grounded in my story and culture.



The multi-faceted work of Leah Purcell and the way she beautifully crafts and translates stories into stage and film in all aspects of her work. Truth telling is at the heart of her work. The depth and breadth of her work is truly inspiring. The honesty that she brings with cultural integrity at the core of presenting stories as a playwright. All these elements are what inspires me to challenge myself and believe in myself.

What excites you most about this opportunity?

So many aspects excite me. First and foremost is that this fellowship will give me the opportunity to create from beginning an idea I've been thinking of for some time. I've collaborated on many projects but to develop my own production is exciting. It's a scary and daunting prospect but I'm so eager to embrace the steep journey of learning.

BRINK

