

MEDIA RELEASE

23 May 2018

Film Screening continues Reconciliation journey at Tuggeranong Arts Centre

To mark the ACT's inaugural Reconciliation Day public holiday and the commencement of Reconciliation Week, Tuggeranong Arts Centre has planned a special screening of the feature documentary *Zach's Ceremony* for Sunday 27th May.

The afternoon will commence with a Welcome to Country by the Centre's patron, highly respected Ngunnawal Elder Aunty Agnes Shea. It is a fitting occasion for Aunty Agnes whose tireless service welcoming people to Ngunnawal country, in the tradition of her people, has been a major force for Reconciliation in the ACT.

The key feature of the afternoon will be a free screening of *Zach's Ceremony* - the uplifting and moving coming-of-age feature documentary debut from director Aaron Peterson, which follows the complex journey of Zach Doomadgee from boyhood to manhood in two distinct cultures.

Wangala Films describe the documentary, saying, 'Growing up isn't easy, especially for Zach who is rapidly making the transition from boyhood to manhood, in both the modern world and his ancient culture. Pressures from his loving, but staunch father, the temptations of city life and the ever present spectre of racism all take their toll. Ultimately Zach must embrace the traditions and knowledge of his ancestors and awaken the warrior within.'

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with Zach and his father, the film's creator and producer Alec Doomadgee. Afterwards, a live performance by the Monica Moore Trio will take place in The Hunting Lodge overlooking Lake Tuggeranong.

This event aims to fulfil the national Reconciliation Week theme 'Don't Keep History a Mystery' by inviting Canberrans to celebrate, embrace, explore and learn about Indigenous people, history and cultures and gain a better understanding of our First Australians.

Tuggeranong Arts Centre CEO Rauny Worm says, 'the Centre is proud of the rich history of our First Nations people and is honoured to be on the land of the Ngunnawal people. Our First Nations programs offer a host of cultural, arts based activities created with and for the community throughout the year. This event is an opportunity to continue that celebration of First Nations arts and culture and to encourage the ongoing journey towards Reconciliation.'

This Reconciliation Week event marks the beginning of a busy few months of First Nations arts programs at the Centre. In June, filmmaker Marissa McDowell will commence a six-month mentorship project 'Connections to Country: Now'. McDowell will work with emerging First Nations Australian filmmakers to produce a series of short films that tell First Nations stories and celebrate connection to country.

And in July, the Centre will welcome ILBIJERRI Theatre Company with their production *Which Way Home*. Alongside the production, director Rachael Maza, writer Katie Beckett and artist Kamahi Djordon King will also present a series of community workshops in writing, acting, and visual arts.

Reconciliation Week Film Screening: *Zach's Ceremony*

3pm, Sunday 27th May

Tuggeranong Arts Centre, 137 Reed Street, Greenway ACT

This event is free to attend, but please register to guarantee a seat: <http://www.trybooking.com/VOZJ>