

KUTCHA'S

CARPOOL

KOORIOKE

PRESS KIT

KUTCHA EDWARDS

WITH

ARCHIE ROACH

ELAINE CROMBIE BART WILLOUGHBY

EMILY WURRAMURRA ALICE SKYE

DAN SULTAN BUNNA LAWRIE

UNCLE JACK CHARLES



Cruise the streets of Fitzroy with Mutti Mutti songman Kutcha Edwards and some of our most loved Indigenous artists sharing their stories of this iconic suburb - it's a chance for a laugh, a few songs and a yarn and passing on

Join Kutcha and his celebrated passengers on a series of musical journeys through Wurundjeri country. Set deep in Melbourne's latte belt (that is, Fitzroy and Collingwood) **Kutcha's Carpool Koorioke** cruises with Kutcha Edwards as he picks up some celebrated Aboriginal passengers. Yes, this suburbs might be full of vegan cafes, boutiques and bistro pubs but this place always was, and always will be, Wurundjeri country.

Season One of **Kutcha's Carpool Koorioke** web series features a stellar musical cast who jump in the car to sing, laugh and share stories. Joining Kutcha in the car this time round are artists Archie Roach, Dan Sultan, Alice Skye, Bart Willoughby, Bunna Lawrie, Emily Wurramara plus Elaine Crombie and local legend and regular passenger Uncle Jack Charles.



KUTCHA EDWARDS

A Mutti Mutti man and member of the Stolen Generations, Kutcha Edwards began his musical career 25 years ago as part of the ensemble Watbalimba and has gone on to become one of the country's most respected singer/songwriters. For 18 years he has produced Beyond the Bars Prison Radio broadcasts with 3CR in Fitzroy. He knows these streets and every building and beneath every place we learn there is another layer of amazing stories of what was before. His music serves as a collection of stories told through song, coming from experiences in his own life and that of his friends and family.

Through his music, Kutcha explores a range of issues, including the stolen generations, family, love, racism and beating alcoholism. His music touches the soul and through his humour and insights we realise that with recognition of the true Aboriginal history, there can be hope of reconciliation.



John Harvey - Director Statement

I first worked with Kutcha Edwards on his theatre show 'Songlines of a Mutti Mutti Man'. The show was about his family and he brought them all on stage to perform with him. You see, he knew this show wasn't just an opportunity to tell their story, but that story-telling has the power to heal the spirit. And this is what he does for our community as a songman not just through his deep baritone heartfelt voice, but in the space he holds for our story-tellers. He has a deep love and respect for his community – which is reciprocated from his community. And as we walk the streets of Fitzroy we can't take 10 steps without someone calling out 'Kutcha' or 'Uncle Kutch.' And to me this is what Fitzroy is about, the connection between people; this is what makes a place.

This series speaks of this strong Aboriginal connection with Fitzroy – and how these songs, many of which have been soundtracks to our lives, have held us, given us strength in the dark times and always brought us together. In Dan Sultan's episode, Dan says "Music is something I could always and can still, really rely on, as being in the same place that I left ". And similarly the songs that the artists share have always been there for us, even when it seemed like nothing else was. I loved hanging out with everyone making this series and showing our community in this way. This isn't just a car ride and a singalong. From the heart-ache to the triumphant celebration of Australia's living musical legends, this web series is a firm nod to the statement that white Australia has a black soul. Join us for the ride.



l to r: John Harvey with Kutcha and Dan Sultan in Atherton Gardens, Fitzroy

Producers' Statement

This web series is the first of a series of collaborations between two Indigenous production companies, Brown Cabs and Tamarind Tree Pictures – bringing together a wealth of experience in factual and scripted film making. The dream is that Kutcha's carpool cruises the whole country. But first ... this boutique series of four episodes made on the streets of Fitzroy. Each episode is stand-alone and ranges from 8-10 minutes.

As we journey down Gertrude Street, also known as dirty gerty or the dirty mile, we share the music that has been born out of a movement, spilled out onto the pavement and shared with everyone; friends, family and passers-by.

To walk the streets of Fitzroy today is to see trendy restaurants, designer clothes and hipster bars serving craft beer. In **Kutcha's Carpool Koorioke** we are reminded that Fitzroy, once the fringe of Melbourne, is still Wurundjeri Country.

John, Anna, Fiona, Kutcha and Danielle



ARCHIE ROACH with UNCLE JACK CHARLES

Songs: *Charcoal Lane* (Archie Roach)
We Won't Cry (Archie Roach)
Blind Joe's Creek (Kutcha Edwards)
Get Back Up Again (Kutcha Edwards)

Kutcha cruising along the top of Smith Street singing along with Archie Roach to Archie's 1990 hit 'Charcoal Lane'. Archie is one of the country's most celebrated artists and 'Charcoal Lane' speaks volumes to the Koori experience in Fitzroy. Archie talks about first arriving in Fitzroy and discovering his big sister, the sister he had not seen since he was taken at the age of 3.

When Uncle Jack catches a lift the ride becomes - "three outstanding men; without warrants; and, of note". Kutcha takes a shortcut down one of Fitzroy's iconic laneways and Uncle Jack Charles takes the opportunity to share his story of transforming from the serial Smith St pest to a man fulfilling his cultural obligations .

They pull around a corner to iconic 3CR radio station and drop in on Johnny Mac's show. Archie recalls getting his very first recording ever, with Johnny Mac's late father Gilla. It was that evening, when the switch boards lit up, that propelled Archie as a singer/songwriter across the country and across the world over several decades to where he is today. Fittingly they finish with Archie's 'We Won't Cry', and the lines sung by Uncle Jack remind us of what Fitzroy means to the Koori community "I'm here beside you Archie, don't you forget it. I'm here with you, walking down this road". Profound words of resilience for three men, who as members of the Stolen Generation have walked these streets – together.



Front Passenger: ARCHIE ROACH is a Gunditjmara / Bundjalung man and an iconic singer, songwriter and guitarist, as well as a campaigner for the rights of Indigenous Australians. Roach's debut solo album, 'Charcoal Lane', was released in 1990. It featured the song 'Took the Children Away', added to the National Film and Sound Archive's Sounds of Australia registry in 2013 when he also won a Deadly Award for his Lifetime Contribution to Healing the Stolen Generations as well as for Album of the Year. Roach has toured around the globe, headlining and openingshows with many international stars.



Always Up for a Ride Passenger: UNCLE JACK CHARLES is a proud Bunurong / Wiradjuri / Djadjawurrung Elder and an Australian legend. Actor, musician, activist and up until recently, heroin addict and cat-burglar. His TV and screen credits include the landmark Australian film 'The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith', 'Bedevil', 'Blackfellas', 'Tom White' and 'Rosehaven' among others.



Uncle Jack co-founded the first Aboriginal theatre company Nindethana in 1972. His acting career spans over six decades. Uncle Jack was the subject of Amiel Courtin-Wilson's award-winning documentary 'Bastardy', and was awarded the prestigious Tudawali Award at the Message Sticks Festival in 2009, honouring his lifetime contribution to Indigenous media. He was also a recipient of a Green Room Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014. Uncle Jack made headlines in 2016 when he was refused a taxi unless he paid the fare upfront, just moments after he was named Victorian Senior Australian of the Year.

ALICE SKYE & EMILY WURRAMARA **with UNCLE JACK CHARLES**

Songs: Friends with Feelings (Alice Skye)

Lady Blue (Emily Wurramara)

Get Back Up Again (Kutcha Edwards)

Time Is All I Have (Kutcha Edwards)

Alice Skye and Emily Wurramara are part of a new generation of Indigenous artists. When Kutcha joins Alice and Emily singing Alice's hit song 'Friends With Feelings', we know that music can transcend generations. But some things don't, such as Kutcha's understanding of texting and social media lingo, "LOL, JK...don't get it". A quick lesson in social media from Alice & Emily sets Kutcha on his way. Alice speaks about her first song being inspired by her country and her late father, whose presence she feels when she sings. Emily talks about singing in her language and how her ancestors' spirits are with her, empowering her as a singer songwriter.

Kutcha shares his 30 year connection to Uncle Jack Charles; as members of the Stolen Generation they didn't know their mothers were sisters and that they were cousin brothers. Uncle Jack speaks about how Fitzroy is his home, a place of belonging and this is where he first found his family at the 'Builders' hotel where, "every face in the place seemed to be black. Anyone who could they rushed up to introduce themselves to me as an Uncle or Aunty".

Kutcha takes Emily and Alice to the former Victorian Aboriginal Health Service in Gertrude Street, now the social enterprise restaurant, 'Charcoal Lane'. A look at the amazing mural by Robert Young featuring the old dental bus. Inside they harmonise to Emily's stunning breakout song 'Lady Blue'.



Front passenger: Alice Skye is a proud Wergaia and Wamba Wamba woman based in Melbourne. Alice grew up around Gariwerd, the Grampians in country Victoria, and her songwriting often reflects the calming mountain landscape that she calls home. As a young person growing up she was drawn to her family and heritage but says it was tough, “I don’t have the traditional look that people expect from an Aboriginal person in this country. People would say, “Well you’re not really Aboriginal.” So I struggled heaps growing up because I was really proud of my family and the culture we have. So, a lot of my music is about being confused about who you are, what you can say”.



Front passenger: Emily Wurramara is from Groote Eylandt via Brisbane. Singer-songwriter Emily Wurramara released her debut EP ‘Black Smoke’, containing stories from her heart sung in both English and her traditional language Anindilyakwa. Black Smoke amassed over 1 million Spotify streams and a publishing contract with Mushroom. Now, only two years on – with a child of her own and a world of wisdom at her feet, - Emily Wurramara has released her debut album ‘Milyakburra’.

DAN SULTAN with UNCLE JACK CHARLES

*Songs: Roll with the Rhythm (Kutcha Edwards)
Wait'n (Kutcha Edwards)
Get Back Up Again (Kutcha Edwards)
Old Fitzroy (Dan Sultan)*

Cruising in Fitzroy, multi ARIA Award winner Dan Sultan joins Kutcha as they belt out the bluesy melodies of Kutcha's 'Roll With The Rhythm'. Dan talks about how music is, "something that I could always, then, and can still, really rely on it being in the same place as I left it." Dan shares his first electric guitar he received when he was four, and how his clever mum ensured he didn't get an amp to go with it.

Uncle Jack Charles catches a lift to the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service and as his yarn rolls into full momentum, is interrupted by a call, a sales call perhaps. Dan says he's a sucker for sales calls, handing all his details across in the hope of winning an iPad. And if he received a call with Uncle Jack's baritone voice, he'd surely buy whatever he was selling.

Dan talks about his song-writing process and what it means politically to be a successful young Indigenous man in this country. The two of them go to the Park and sing Dan's 'Old Fitzroy' - a place they both know.



Dan Sultan and Kutcha by the Stolen Generations Marker in Atherton Gardens, Fitzroy.

Front Passenger: Dan Sultan is an Arrernte / Gurindji man and Aria award winning rock singer-songwriter and guitarist. In 2010 he won Best Male Artist and Best Blues & Roots Album for his second album, 'Get Out While You Can'. In 2014 he won Best Rock Album for 'Blackbird' which reached number four on the ARIA Albums Chart. In 2017, Sultan's record 'Killer' was nominated for three ARIA awards: Best Male Artist, Best Rock Album, and Best Independent Release. His electric roots rock sound has won him fans across the country.

Born in the Melbourne suburb of Williamstown to an Irish father and Aboriginal mother, Sultan was raised in Fitzroy and the Northern Territory town of Yuendumu, where his father worked as a lawyer for the Aboriginal Legal Service.



BART WILLOUGHBY and BUNNA LAWRIE **with ELAINE CROMBIE** **and UNCLE JACK CHARLES**

Songs: We Have Survived (Bart Willoughby)
Black Boy (Bunna Lawrie)
Get Back Up Again (Kutcha Edwards)
Wait'n (Kutcha Edwards)

Kutcha and music legends Bart Willoughby and Bunna Lawrie cruise Fitzroy belting out the defiant Aboriginal anthem, 'We Have Survived'. Bart talks about finding his way to the Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music at the University of Adelaide as a 14 year old in handcuffs; that's when he was introduced to drumming, singing and guitar.

Bunna remembers first performing his song 'Black Boy' in the Vault in Port Augusta. Everyone knew, even then, this was going to be a deadly hit.

Kutcha, Bart and Bunna join Elaine Crombie and all the crew busking with the Smith Street mob to sing 'Black Boy'.



Front Passenger: BART WILLOUGHBY is a Pitjantjatjara man. Bart is a pioneering Aboriginal Reggae Artist best known for Indigenous anthems, 'We Have Survived', 'Black Man's Rights' and 'Aboriginal Woman'. He was a founding member of No Fixed Address in the early 80's and in 1981 starred in the break-out Indigenous music feature film, 'Wrong Side of The Road'. He also formed the band 'Mixed Relations' in the 90's.

Bart forged the path for many. The first Indigenous artist to score a feature film, the first to sign a record deal and to tour internationally, with No Fixed Address. An inimitable performer, multi-instrumentalist and innovator in his field, Bart recorded an album that featured him performing on The Melbourne Town Hall Grand Organ, again the first Indigenous Artist to do so.



Front Passenger: BUNNA LAWRIE is a Whale ongman, Mirning Elder and founding member/lead singer of Coloured Stone. 2019 marks over 40 years of constant touring for the prolific songwriter, who has appeared in almost every remote Aboriginal community and festival in Australia, punctuated by performances overseas. Formed in 1977 in Koonibba, on the Nullarbor Plains, Coloured Stone have played to enormous international crowds, won countless awards and even knocked Michael Jackson off the number one spot in New Caledonia in 1984 with their single 'Black Boy'.

Bunna is passionate about his culture and the preservation of traditional land and law. As an extension to his role as a Mirning Elder, Whale Songman, Medicine Man, Musician, Singer, Songwriter and Visual Artist, Bunna Lawrie is an educator and conducts Healing and Cultural Training Workshops taking experiences from the Mirning culture.



Jump on Board Passenger: ELAINE CROMBIE is a singer/song-writer/actor who has performed on screen and stage across the country and around the world, from 'Barbara and the Camp Dogs' to 'Top of the Lake S2', 'Black Comedy S2', '8MMM' and 'Redfern Now'. She is a proud Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara/Warrigmay/South Sea Island/German mother of two brilliant sons, Andrew and Michael.



DIRECTOR/CO PRODUCER - JOHN HARVEY

John is of Saibai Island and English descent and has always had a passion for story. He is a director, producer and writer across screen and stage and is the Creative Director of Brown Cabs. <http://browncabs.com/>

John is the director and co-producer of 'Kutch'a's Carpool Koorioke'. He wrote and directed the short drama 'Water' (MIFF, Adelaide FF, ImagineNative - Toronto). John is currently in post production on his second short drama Out Of Range (SBS / Film Victoria). He has directed two half hour documentaries for ABC TV – 'Light From The Shadows' and 'Menny and The Bundaroos'. He has directed several short form documentaries for NITV.

John produced the feature film 'Spear' (TIFF, Adelaide Film Festival). He was a producer on the ABC TV series 'The Warriors' (Arenamedia). He produced the chapter 'Sand' for the omnibus feature film 'The Turning' (Berlinale, MIFF) and has produced more than 6 Indigenous short films for screening at international film festivals and television broadcast.

In theatre, John wrote and produced the highly acclaimed and sold out season of 'Heart Is A Wasteland' (Malthouse Theatre, 2017). He produced 'My Lovers Bones' for the 2014 Melbourne International Arts Festival. He is the director of 'A Little Piece Of Heaven' (Orana Arts). He produced over a dozen new Indigenous works as the former General Manager of Ilbjerri Theatre including 'Jack Charles V The Crown' (Melbourne International Arts Festival).



Archie Roach with John Harvey

PRODUCER - ANNA GRIEVE

Anna co-produced 'Croker Island Exodus' and 'Carry The Flag' and is a Director, along with Danielle MacLean and Steven McGregor, of Tamarind Tree Pictures, an Indigenous production company based in Darwin. www.tamarindtreepictures.com

From 2001-09, Anna was Executive Producer at Film Australia responsible for an extensive slate of broadcast production including 14 content rich websites. 'Mabo – the Native Title Revolution Online' won the UN Peace Prize for best online production. She has worked in partnership with the National Museum, National Library, National Gallery of Australia, Australian National Maritime Museum and Monash University. Anna's producing credits range from major history documentaries like Logie winner 'Who Killed Dr Bogle & Mrs Chandler?' to the participatory multi platform site - 'Big Stories Small Towns' (www.bigstories.com.au), winner of Best Community Interactive at SxSWTexas and selected for IDFA DocLab.

Credits as Executive Producer include the multi-award-winning Sundance World Cinema finalist, 'Dhakiyarr vs the King', shot in Arnhem Land, 'Mobidocs' with the Canadian National Film Board, 'I, Spry' about ASIO's first director, and the Irish/Australian musical co-production about political convicts transported to Tasmania, 'Death or Liberty'. She produced Film Critics award winning feature documentary 'The Family' which screened at MIFF(2016) and sold to BBC, CBS, STARZ and many European countries. Anna has recently produced 'The Cult of The Family', an expanded 3 hour series that broadcast on the ABC.



Caleb Thaiday with Anna Grieve

CINEMATOGRAPHER MURRAY LUI

Murray was born on Thursday Island and raised on Poruma; a small community in the Torres Strait. A teenage interest in stills photography and video cameras led Murray Lui to what is now a full-time passion and profession. Most recently, Murray shot director Wayne Blair's new feature film 'Top End Wedding' for Goalpost Pictures. The script was written by Josh Tyler and Miranda Tapsell, who also starred in the film. 2018 also included Season 3 of Luke McGregor and Celia Pacquola's comedy 'Rosehaven' for the ABC. This show produced by Guesswork TV and directed by Jonathan Brough and Shaun Wilson is shot in beautiful Tasmania. He also shot Season 3 of the Scarlett Pictures/ABC skit comedy series 'Black Comedy'.

SOUND RECORDIST DAVID TRANTNER

David Tranter is Australia's leading Aboriginal sound recordist, with a career spanning more than 20 years. For his work on Warwick Thornton's Samson and Delilah (2009), he won an AFI Award, an Australian Screen Sound Award and was nominated for an IF Award. Since 2004, David has directed a number of documentaries and in 2011 he was awarded the inaugural Bob Plasto Screen Award for his contribution to film and television in the Northern Territory of Australia. In 2017, David won an AACTA award for Best Original Screenplay (with Steven McGregor) for the script of Warwick Thornton's feature, 'Sweet Country'. The film is inspired by a true story and is loosely based on stories told to David Tranter by his Grandfather.

EDITOR PATRICK McCABE

Patrick has edited many documentaries including 'Journey Beyond Fear', 'Green Light' and 'Paper Trails', that have broadcast and screened at international festivals. His TV drama and comedy work includes, 'How To Stay Married' for Network Ten and 'Deadlock' for ABC iView. In 2014 he was nominated for "Best Editing - Short Film" at the Australian Editors Guild Awards.



ABOUT WURUNDJERI COUNTRY - FITZROY AREA - THE DIRTY MILE

Like Redfern is to Sydney, Musgrave Park to Brisbane, Fitzroy is widely acknowledged as the birthplace of the Aboriginal civil rights movement in Victoria. It holds a unique place in Indigenous cultural and social identity; a place where people from all over Victoria, who had been forcibly removed from their families, came to find and reconnect with family. Despite the effects of colonisation, Aboriginal people and culture survived and the strong bonds between families and clans could not be broken. From the 1920s onwards, the Aboriginal community of Melbourne began to steadily increase with the wave of Aboriginal people coming straight from the missions such as Thomas James, Grace Brux, Margaret Tucker, Martha Nevin (Wandin, Wurundjeri women) and William Cooper, who moved to Fitzroy from Cummeragunja between 1920 and 1935. By the 1950s, Fitzroy supported a community of more than 300 Aboriginal people, with many more living in surrounding inner city suburbs. Fitzroy not only became the largest Aboriginal community in Victoria, it also became the social and political hub of Aboriginal Melbourne.

<https://walkingmaps.com.au/walk/183>



KUTCHA'S CARPOOL KOORIOKE

FEATURING:

ARCHIE ROACH, DAN SULTAN, UNCLE JACK CHARLES,
ALICE SKYE, EMILY WURRAMARA, BART WILLOUGHBY,
BUNNA LAWRIE AND ELAINE CROMBIE

EDITOR PATRICK MCCABE CINEMATOGRAPHER MURRAY LUI SOUND RECORDIST DAVID TRANTER
ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS KUTCHA EDWARDS, FIONA DEAN & DANIELLE MACLEAN
PRODUCER ANNA GRIEVE PRODUCER/DIRECTOR JOHN HARVEY

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