

## MUSIC THEATRE

# Megan Sarmardin and John Rogers

Present

## BLACKBIRD

In 1989 at the age of five, Megan made her public debut, singing at Mt Isa's Spinifex Country Music Club. Her mum's home video was screened as an element in Megan's performance in Queensland's high profile showcase 'Women In Voice' in 2006.

*Megan Sarmardin, who entered the stage as if she'd just got off the school bus...Her unassuming presence proved deceptive; Sarmardin has a voice and stage presence beyond her years. She's someone to watch."*

The Australian 23-05-2005

'Blackbird' is a new 80 minute music theatre performance that sings the stories of the women of Megan Sarmardin's family, as they confront challenges and celebrate family life. Their voices call clearly across one hundred years and six generations with just one degree of separation between first white contact near Butcher's Creek on the Atherton Tablelands and Megan's life in Mt Isa where she was born, has grown up and lives today.

In collaboration with Megan, 'Blackbird' has been written by John Rodgers, who recently composed music for the Geoffrey Rush and Susan Sarandon's production, 'Exit The King' in New York. John Rodgers bonded artistically with Megan in Mt Isa when she starred in 'Bob Cat Dancing' in 2003, and their unique collaboration has grown organically. 'Blackbird' will be directed by eminent Queensland director, Sean Mee.

*"When Megan walked into the 'Bob Cat Dancing' audition in 2003 she immediately reminded me of Deborah Mailman in her time at QUT."* (Sean Mee)

### Community activities:

**Type of activity:** Schools Performances

**Age activity best suited to:** High Schools

**Number of participants:** 60 – 300

**Requirements:** Theatre space; teaching notes

**Duration:** 110 minutes – with 30 min question time

**Cost:** \$1,000 + gst

### Colleague recommendation:

**Venue:** JUTE Theatre

**Contact:** Suellen Maunder

**Phone:** 0419 757 231

**Email:** [suellen@jute.com.au](mailto:suellen@jute.com.au)

Disclaimer: The performance fee range may change subject to the level of demand for the production.



### Artist contact details:

**Name:** Megan Sarmardin

**Phone:** Leah Cotterell 0423 414 964

**Email:** [leahcotterell@optusnet.com.au](mailto:leahcotterell@optusnet.com.au)

**You Tube:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FiZSmT4EcOY>

### Specifications and Requirements:

**Availability:** August 9<sup>th</sup> – September 5<sup>th</sup> 2010

**Target audience:** Indigenous communities, theatre and music fans, 18-25 year olds, general audience

**Running time:** 80 minutes

**Number in touring party:** 2 artists; 3 crew

**Bump in:** 6 hrs. **Bump out:** 3 hrs.

**Venue:** Indoor space with sufficient depth and lighting for LX design incorporating data projection.

**Critical issues:** Indigenous Protocols where relevant to communications

**Venue Technical requirements:** dressing rooms, quality professional sound system to suit voice and guitar, foldback, min 1 quality reverb unit, outside of LX equipped civic centres, colour wash of stage, focussed with AV in mind

**Marketing materials:** Photos, biographies, video clips, sound files, Background to the story of 'BLACKBIRD', In early 2010, an email 'Blackbird Bulletin' will be created for interested sponsors, partners and community.

**Performance fee:** \$1,000 to \$3,000

**Performance Royalties:** Will apply. TBA 21