



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 14 February 2003

Little Black Bastard

A journey from the autobiography by Noel C Tovey devised and narrated by the author

62 YEARS ON – THE CLOCK TURNS BACK AT THE CARLTON COURTHOUSE THEATRE

With the generosity of La Mama Theatre, Noel Tovey premieres **Little Black Bastard**, the autobiographical journey based on his childhood and formative years in Melbourne. From sexually abused foster child, street kid, jailbird, gay and black activist to a substantial career in both the Visual and Performing Arts in Europe and Australia. **It was at this courthouse that the magistrate signed the papers sending his father to gaol, and he, his sister, and brothers to the Royal Park Welfare Depot, setting Noel's life on this remarkable course.**

Little Black Bastard is a story of survival and achievement against all the odds.

This year Noel discovered that the stories his "mumma" told him about his grandfather were true. He was James Bohee, one half of the famous Royal Bohee Brothers now believed to be the first musicians of African American descent to have their music recorded.

**"No indigenous Australian has made a more admired contribution
to the theatrical and cultural life of our country"**

the Hon Bob Carr, MP, Premier of New South Wales and Minister for the Arts & Citizenship

Devised and Narrated by **Noel Tovey**, Directed by **Robina Beard**, Designed by **Richard Roberts**, Lighting Design by **Rachel Burke**, Soundscape Composed and Designed by **Sarah de Jong**.

Because Noel remembers so vividly the hardships he suffered as a street kid in Melbourne, and the kindness he was shown by the former Far West Children's Home, he is donating proceeds from both seasons to Open Family Australia, a non-profit organisation that supports street children, and the Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme, who provide medical and paramedical services to children from rural areas of New South Wales.

Melbourne season premieres March 19 at 6.30pm and runs until Saturday April 5, Thursday to Saturday at 7.30pm, Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday at 6.30pm. Carlton Courthouse Theatre, 349 Drummond Street, Carlton. Tickets: \$20.00 (\$15 concession). Bookings: (03) 9347 6142, (tickets at the door subject to availability).

Sydney season opens on April 23 at 7.30pm and runs until Saturday May 10, Tuesday to Saturday at 7.30pm, Sunday 5.30pm. Darlinghurst Theatre, 19 Greenknowe Ave, Potts Point. Tickets: \$25.00 (\$21.00 Concession). Bookings: (02) 83569987, <http://www.darlinghursttheatre.com> (tickets at the door subject to availability).

The mounting of this production has been made possible by the fellowship funds Noel received from the ATSIAB division of the Australia Council for the Arts together with his own personal contribution and the generosity of the Victorian College of the Arts.

Noel's autobiography will be published in 2003.

Further information on Noel C Tovey can be searched at <http://www.google.com>

Noel will be available for interview in Sydney until February 17, following which he will be in Melbourne from February 18 until April 9 before returning to Sydney for the Darlinghurst Theatre season.

Media enquiries and interviews for Melbourne season contact Maureen Hartley on (03) 9347 6948 or email maureen@lamama.com.au. For all other enquiries contact Cali Vandyk-Dunlevy on 0404 882 085 or email lbbmedia@iprimus.com.au