WINNER: INDIGENOUS ACT OF THE YEAR - 2013 WA Music Industry (WAMi) Awards

“Dripping with honeyed beauty and glowing with heartfelt warmth, this landmark album is a triumph. Singer-songwriter Gina Williams and guitarist Guy Ghouse have laid down an important stepping stone in what will hopefully be an irresistible and sustained renaissance in Noongar language and culture...But this is not only an important cultural document - it is a plain lovely musical gem...4.5 stars...”

- Stephen Bevis, Arts Editor
The West Australian

Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse

It’s a rare performer who is able to capture the hearts and imagination of an audience, to connect deeply through the power of song. You know when it happens, there’s that magical moment when a hush falls over the room; when the audience connect with the performer. You can feel it, and you know you know that it’s special. It’s even more special when it’s in a completely different language. Yet that’s exactly what Noongar singer-songwriter Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse have been doing with audiences all over the country. You don’t need to understand the words, we all know love, loss and joy, it all means the same thing in anyone’s language.

Gina is a Balladong daughter, one of the 14 clan groups which make up the Noongar nation of the south west corner of West Australia. She also has links, through her grandmother to the Kitja people of the East Kimberley region. Her grandmother was removed from Halls Creek and eventually brought down to Mogumber mission. She never returned to her homeland. Gina’s music is informed by an ancient culture and she has drawn from a deep well of recent West Australian and an even deeper personal history. By official records, Noongar language is critically endangered (there are very few fluent speakers left). Her mother and grandmother, both part of the stolen generations were never allowed to speak their languages. Gina wasn’t stolen, but was relinquished as a baby for adoption, and for her, writing and singing beautiful songs in Noongar language is a personal mission.

“I grew up not knowing anything about my true history. I’ve had to go back as an adult and learn. I don’t regret this, but it means I’ve had to claw territory back. I wanted to learn the language, to write songs so that I could teach my children. It’s an incredibly beautiful language – when I hear Noongar language I hear music, it literally sings to me.”

Gina and Guy bring a fresh, modern take on an ancient tradition; merging evocative sounds, natural acoustic instruments and that incredible, beautiful voice. The natural rhythms of the language are perfectly captured and represented in these songs. And there’s an onstage connection and charisma that comes from two people who’ve grown up with similar soundtracks and a deep friendship.

And there are few guitarists who connect to their music and perform without compromise like Guy Ghouse. With a musical pedigree which goes back all the way to the 1920’s, it seemed only natural that, at the tender age of eight, Guy would follow his parents and grandparents footsteps and pick up the guitar. Guy is best known for his performances with the insanely talented duo Desert Child.

“Society today has surrendered a lot of instinct to technology – and instead of relying on our instincts with music, we tend to look to machines to tell us whether something sounds right or not. I love that when we’re playing music together, we know in our hearts we’re onto a good thing,” said Guy.

Performing with the all-important blessings of her elders and her community, Gina and Guy will take you on a journey you will not get anywhere else in the world. And it will be one you are not likely to forget.

For more information, contact:
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W: www.ginawilliams.com.au
F: www.facebook.com/kalyakoorl

“...this music...this is where the ancient meets the contemporary...it’s beautiful...I love it...”

- Archie Roach, Singer-songwriter, national treasure

Kalyakoorl, ngalak warangka (Forever, we sing). Image: Gareth Andersen
Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse: at a glance

- Gina Williams & Guy Ghouse are based in Perth, Western Australia
- They perform primarily as a duo however there is a band option available with members comprising of some of WA's most talented and innovative musicians. If you are interested in a larger band format please advise!
- Gina Williams & Guy Ghouse have their own sound engineer and will be in contact with your AV/Sound technician upon confirmation of booking
- Gina Williams & Guy Ghouse are currently self-managed, their contact details are:
  
  E: desertchild@iinet.net.au  
  P: +61 417 776 033  
  W: www.ginawilliams.com.au  
  F: www.facebook.com/kalyakoorl

- Since last year, Gina and Guy have chalked up a number of career highlights, including:
  
  - Winner, Indigenous Act of the Year, 2013 West Australian Music Industry (WAMI) Awards  
  - Performing artist, Wesfarmers Centenary Celebration Concert (with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra)
  - Opening Act, 2014 National Folk Festival (Canberra)
  - Opening Act, 2014 Folkworld Fairbridge Festival
  - Headline Artist, 2013 Keela Dreaming Festival, Kellerberrin, WA
  - Opening Act, 2013 Perth International Jazz Festival (they’re not a jazz act)
  - Performing Artist, 2014 Nannup Music Festival (also booked for 2015)
  - Performing Artist, 2013 Nanga Music Festival (also booked for 2014)
  - Performing Artist, 2013/14 Support; Archie Roach (Quarry Amphitheatre, touring NSW, and Broome)
  - Headline Artist, 2014 Jazz by the Bay, Dunsborough
  - Headline Artist, Nurlu Jarlbingan (Broome, 2013 & 2014)
  - Performing Artist, NAIDOC Perth Awards
  - Winner, Artist of the Year, 2014 NAIDOC Perth Awards