

HELPMANN AWARDS 2019

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7 June 2019

Kevin Carmody announced as the recipient of the 2019 JC Williamson Award® Australia's most prestigious live performance industry accolade

Live Performance Australia (LPA) today announced that one of Australia's most celebrated musicians and singer songwriters **Kevin Carmody** will be the recipient of the **2019 JC Williamson Award®**. Kevin will be honoured in Melbourne at the **2019 Helpmann Awards Act II** ceremony on Monday 15 July.

The **2019 JC Williamson Award®** is the foremost honour that the Australian live entertainment industry can bestow. In awarding the **2019 JC Williamson Award®**, LPA recognises an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the Australian live entertainment and performing arts industry and shaped the future of our industry for the better. Past recipients include Dame Joan Sutherland OM AC DBE, Barry Humphries AO CBE, Kylie Minogue AO OBE, Dr Jimmy Little AO, John Bell AO OBE, Paul Kelly AO, Michael Gudinski AM, Stephen Page AO, David Williamson AO and Archie Roach AM to name but a few.

Kevin Carmody is one of Australia's pre-eminent wordsmiths whose politically charged, and socially aware lyrics have cemented him as one of our country's contemporary voices. Of Aboriginal and Irish heritage, both cultures famous for oral histories in song, Kevin was born to be a story-teller. His compositions include 'From Little Things Big Things Grow' with Paul Kelly which is based on the story of The Gurindji Strike and Vincent Lingiari in their struggle for indigenous land rights and reconciliation.

Kevin said "The artistic and creative prestige that the JC Williamson Award bestows upon me, in this case, is an acknowledgement of Our Ancient Indigenous oral musical and storytelling history. As this year's recipient I accept the award on behalf of this cultural recognition, with humility and gratitude Thank you."

Born in 1946, Carmody grew up on a cattle station in the Darling Downs area of south eastern Queensland. His family were drovers and stockmen who lived largely off the land, growing vegetables near the house and hunting. Around the stockmen's fire he learned his love for storytelling and music. When he was ten, Kevin Carmody and his brother were taken from their parents and sent to a 'Christian' school. Without completing his senior school years he returned to hard physical rural work for the next seventeen years.

His turning point came, when at the age of 33, Kevin enrolled in the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education to study geography, history and music, progressing through to PhD studies at Queensland University. To make Kevin more comfortable with the oral side of his studies, his lecturers allowed him to bring along his guitar to his first tutorial to allow him time to learn to write and construct an academic essay. Kevin had never been into a library before and had never read a book.

While at university Kevin Carmody also took the opportunity to acquaint himself with experimental music pioneers John Cage and Karlheinz Stockhausen. Although his music would reflect his own Murri culture, expressed in the social history song traditions of Woody Guthrie and Huddie Ledbetter, Kevin was never going to be an ordinary or traditional singer-songwriter. There's been musical imagination as well as lyrical passion.

He released his first album 'Pillars Of Society' in December 1987. Rolling Stone magazine described the album as "The best album ever released by an Aboriginal musician and arguably the best protest album ever made in Australia". Four studio albums followed: 'Eulogy (For A Black Person)' (Nov 90), 'Bloodlines' (Jul 93), 'Images And Illusions' (Sep 95) 'Mirrors' (May 04).

Evelyn Richardson, Chief Executive LPA said, "We are very proud to be presenting the 2019 JC Williamson Award to the legendary Kevin Carmody in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the live performance industry and Australian society and his profound influence on several generations of artists and musicians".

Kevin Carmody will be presented with the **2019 JC Williamson Award** at the 19th Annual Helpmann Awards.



HELPMANN AWARDS 2019

The Helpmann Awards are the premier celebration of Australia's vibrant live performance industry. The Awards recognise distinguished achievement and excellence in Australia's live performance sectors including musicals, contemporary music, comedy, opera and classical music, theatre, ballet, dance and physical theatre, presentation for children and young people, regional touring and cabaret.

The Australian live theatre and entertainment industry will come together for two remarkable nights at **Arts Centre Melbourne** on **Sunday 14 July** and **Monday 15 July** for the **2019 Helpmann Awards**.

The full list of 2019 Helpmann Awards Nominees will be announced on Tuesday 11 June.

For further information: www.helpmannawards.com.au

Tickets on Sale Now www.artscentremelbourne.com.au / www.ticketmaster.com.au

Helpmann Awards Act II Monday 15 July 2019 Arts Centre Melbourne

Gold Pass A Reserve Show Ticket plus Souvenir Programme plus After Party plus Souvenir Ticket \$189*

Silver Pass B Reserve Show Ticket plus Souvenir Programme Ticket \$69* (concession \$59*)

**Subject to availability. An additional handling fee of \$8.55 is applicable to all online bookings per transaction.*

Helpmann Awards Act I Sunday 14 July 2019 Arts Centre Melbourne

INDUSTRY ONLY EVENT

The Helpmann Awards are proudly supported by the Victorian Government, via its tourism marketing agency, Visit Victoria.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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