

PERTH FESTIVAL

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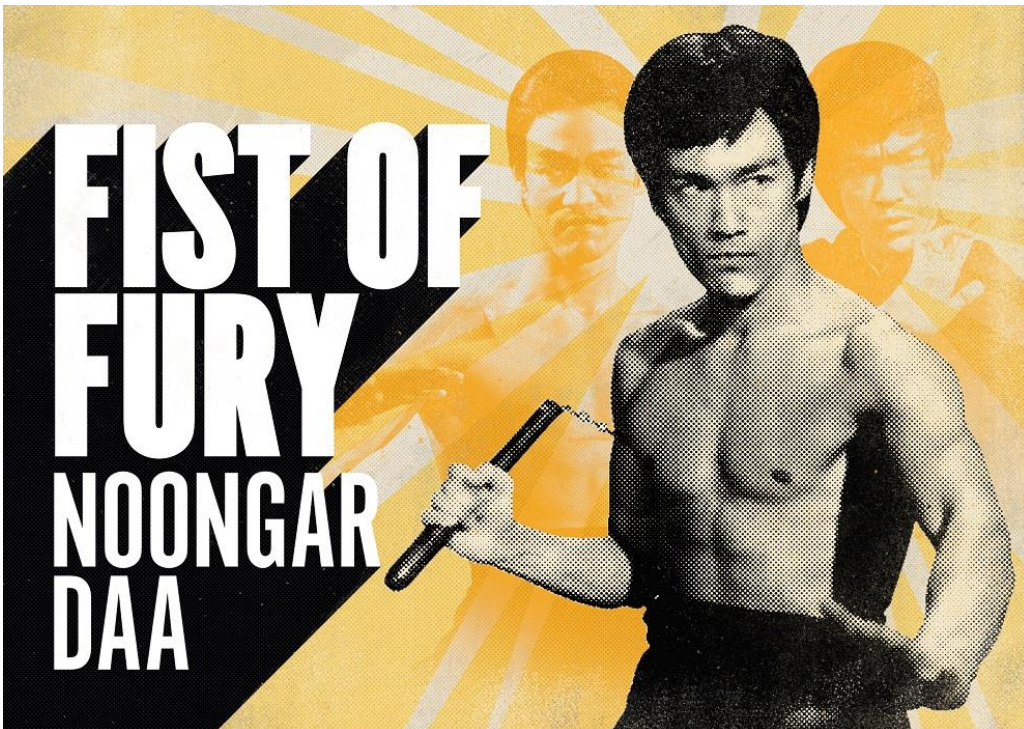
BRUCE LEE KICKS OFF PERTH FESTIVAL SEASON

Kung Fu classic goes Noongar-style for Lotterywest Films

The 1972 **Bruce Lee** film *Fist of Fury* is being redubbed for a new audience as ***Fist of Fury Noongar Daa***.

We are taking the Kung Fu classic and dubbing it in Noongar to make for a unique cinematic experience that will be essential viewing at **Perth Festival 2021**.

Noongar voice actors will dub (daa) the original Cantonese-Mandarin dialogue in director Lo Wei's Hong Kong martial arts film that made Lee into an international action hero. It will be the first film ever dubbed into Noongar.



The Noongar translation and language coaching is led by Perth Festival Artistic Associate **Kylie Bracknell (Kaarjilba Kaardn)**, who directed Perth Festival's 2020 landmark play *Hecate*, the Noongar version of *Macbeth* for Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company.

Fist of Fury Noongar Daa, complete with English subtitles, will screen at **Lotterywest Films** at the iconic **UWA Somerville** outdoor cinema in February.

Noongar and other First Nations culture is at the heart of Perth Festival, which celebrates an entirely Western Australian program in 2021.

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Bracknell and Perth Festival film programmer **Tom Vincent** came up with the idea for *Fist of Fury Noongar Daa* after being inspired by *Navajo Star Wars*, a 2013 Navajo-dubbed release of *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope*. That project was praised as a fun way to preserve a fading Native American language.

'We thought, what if we tried something similar with Noongar,' Bracknell says. 'This is an opportunity to further contribute to the survival and strength of Noongar as a living language.'

Bruce Lee, who was just 32 when he died the year after starring in *Fist of Fury*, is celebrated as a great martial artist, philosopher and emblem of non-white power fighting against oppression. He helped change the way Asians were represented in American films and became a hero for Asian-Americans, Afro-Americans and – in Australia – the Noongar and wider Indigenous community.

In the 1970s, only a few years after Aboriginal people were counted as citizens of their own country in Australia, Bruce Lee was a unique and pioneering challenge to the mainstream. His on-screen and off-screen character was strong and stood up against injustice and racism.

'Bruce Lee perfected Kung Fu and mastered life,' Bracknell says. 'He was a moorditj (solid) philosopher who led by example. Why not link the most prominent non-white film star – much more than an actor – of the 1970s with Noongar language? He's a legend, a credit to the human race, and our people respect his journey, his art and his legacy.'

Noongar artist and leader Barry McGuire describes Lee as 'like a superhero for us Noongar mob that grew up in that era, we all thought that we were Bruce Lee when we'd get into fights. Because of him, we grew up tough.'

A callout will be made soon for Noongar performers and other creatives to be involved in the making of *Fist of Fury Noongar Daa*. The Somerville Film season voucher packs are available now through perthfestival.com.au/packages and the full Perth Festival program will be announced in November.

Perth Festival runs 5-28 February 2021.

MORE INFO: perthfestival.com.au

For further information or interviews please contact:

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Perth Festival acknowledges the Noongar people who continue to practise their values, language, beliefs and knowledge on their kwobidak boodjar.

They remain the spiritual and cultural birdiyangara of this place and we honour and respect their caretakers and custodians and the vital role Noongar people play for our community and our Festival to flourish.

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Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, Perth Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 67 years, the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with hundreds of thousands of people each year.

Iain Grandage is the Artistic Director 2020 – 23.