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Biography

Yilila come from one of Australia's most remote Aboriginal communities in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, Australia. Yilila perform their own raw blend of high energy reggae and world music with displays of colorful traditional Red Flag dancing. Red Flag Songs and Dances belong to the band's Nundhirribala clan and have come from hundreds of years of contact with the Maccassan traders from Indonesia. Yilila's songs are rooted in traditional Aboriginal, reggae and rock music and from there they look to the rest of the world for inspiration and sounds. Yilila have previously collaborated/performed with artists like Zakir Hussein, Raka Mukherjee, Sultan Khan, John Butler and David Bridie.

Yilila's first CD "Manilamanila" won 2 awards at the 2005 Indigenous music awards for "best release" and "song of the year" and was nominated for "best artwork". The music is based on songs, dances and stories unheard and unseen by audiences. The CD was recorded at Melbourne's prestigious SingSing Recording Studios and mixed & master by Robin Mai (known for his work on "Sunrise Over Sea" John Butler Trio and also CDs by Joe Camilleri and Bomba) at Woodstock Studios, Melbourne.

Yilila stand alone as an exceptional group of musicians and dancers. Their live performances are filled with energy, culture and stunning singing. The lead singer/songwriter, Grant Nundhirribala, has had professional experience dancing and singing with Bangarra Dance Theatre, Australian Ballet Company and Yothu Yindi and members of Yilila performed at the opening ceremony of the 2000 Olympic Games. Grant's mixture of traditional and contemporary singing stands up against other vocal legends of the world music scene. Yilila sing powerful songs sung in Nunggubuyu, Anindilyakwa, Maccassan language and English.

Yilila are currently working on a collaborative music and dance project with the remote village of Watublapi on the island of Flores in Indonesia. Helping other remote and developing communities to use their traditional arts to build business and opportunities, is a focus of the band. Many of the mothers and fathers of the band members grew up and lived as Aboriginal people from their region had grown up from the beginning, in the bush with no contact with the outside world. Keeping their communities traditional culture alive is essential for the cultural health of their community.

Discography



CD Digipack album "Manilamanila"
 Independent release May 2005
 Winner of "Best CD Release" & "Song of the year"



Music DVD "Red Flag Jamajama"
 Independent Release December 2005
 Music Videos, Culture, traditional dancing DVD



CD Digipack EP "Aeroplane"
 Independent release August 2006
 Featuring Indian Classical Vocalist Raka Mukherjee
 and Slide Guitarist John Butler

Recent Performances/Credits

- 2002 GARMA Festival, Arnhem land NT, Australia
- 2004 WOMADelaide Festival, Adelaide, Australia
- 2004 Darwin Festival, Northern Territory, Australia
- 2004 Jabiru Mahbilil Festival, NT, Australia
- 2004 Alice Springs Festival, Australia
- 2004 Winner of "best new emerging act"
NT Indigenous Music Awards
- 2004 Katherine Flying Fox Festival
- 2005 Telstra Art Awards, Darwin Museum/Art Gallery
- 2005 Release CD "Manilamanila" Darwin Amphitheatre CD Launch
- 2005 Barunga Festival, Northern Territory, Australia
- 2005 Australian International Music Market, Brisbane.
- 2005 NAIDOC week headline Mindil Beach, Darwin
- 2005 Darwin Festival, Santos Concert, Darwin Esplanade
- 2005 Winner "Best CD Release" & "Song of the Year"
NT Indigenous Music Awards
- 2005 Cairns Festival, Queensland, Australia
- 2005 Released Music/Culture DVD "Red Flag Jamajama"
- 2006 Port Fairy Folk Festival, Victoria, Australia
- 2006 Collaboration with Classical Indian Singer Raka Mukherjee & John Butler
- 2006 Lead singer Grant Nundhiribala 2 month season as featured guest artist with
Bangarra Dance Theatre and the Australian Ballet Company at the Victorian State
Theatre and the Sydney Opera House.
- 2006 Release EP "Aeroplane" featuring classical Indian vocalist Raka Mukherjee and slide
guitarist John Butler
- 2006 Winners "Act of the Year" and "Best Male Musician" at 2006 NT Indigenous Music
Awards. Nominated for "Act of the Year" 2006 Deadlys.
- 2006 Darwin Festival, Star Shell, Darwin, Australia
- 2006 Headline Act, NT Indigenous Music Awards, Darwin Amphitheatre, Australia
- 2007 Headline Act – Festival of World Cultures in Ireland