

**NATIONAL MEDIA RELEASE — TINA: A TROPICAL LOVE STORY HITS THE ROAD IN 2026**  
*A high-energy fusion of drag, cabaret, and rock ‘n’ roll inspired by the Queen herself!*



**MISS ELLANEOUS RETURNS: ACCLAIMED FIRST NATIONS DRAG CABARET “TINA – A TROPICAL LOVE STORY” HITS THE ROAD IN 2026**

Following standing ovations in Darwin, Brisbane, and Sydney, including a sold-out engagement at the Darwin Festival, the acclaimed drag cabaret *TINA - A Tropical Love Story* will embark on a national tour in 2026, with scheduled stops in Nunawading, Bondi, and Tamworth.

Conceived, written, and performed by esteemed First Nations artist Ben Graetz, also known professionally as Miss Ellaneous, a respected figure with over 26 years’ experience influencing Australia’s arts sector, *TINA* seamlessly integrates elements of drag, cabaret, memoir, and the enduring spirit of Tina Turner to create an engaging and dynamic storytelling experience.

The production traces its origins to a pivotal moment in 1993 at the Darwin Amphitheatre, where a young Graetz was profoundly inspired by Tina Turner’s iconic performance under the stars. This formative experience catalysed a journey of personal discovery, now vividly portrayed through Graetz’s stage persona, Miss Ellaneous.

Audiences across the country have praised the work:

- *“A heartfelt & hilarious journey from the bush to the big smoke.” - Tony Albert*
- *“A dazzling, darling, debonair dish of a Darwinian Diva... Miss Ellaneous is simply the best.” - Steven Oliver*
- *“Standing ovations and dancing in the aisles, a highlight of MELT Festival!” - MELT Festival Brisbane*
- *“A real highlight of Darwin Festival 2024... full of heart, humour, great songs, and fabulous performers.” -Kate Fell, Artistic Director, Darwin Festival*

*TINA – A Tropical Love Story* weaves Miss Ellaneous’ Darwin upbringing, First Nations identity and the transformative power of Tina Turner’s legacy with high-camp drag, soulful storytelling, and guest performances from leading queer and First Nations artists.

Written, directed and performed by **Ben Graetz**, Choreography by **Sani Townson** & featuring guest First Nations and queer performers at each location.

**Tour Dates & Venues:**

**6 FEB 2026 - THE ROUND, KULIN NATIONS**

**12 | 13 | 14 FEB 2026 - BONDI PAVILLION, BIDIAGAL, BIRRABIRRAL, GADIGAL**

**20 FEB 2026 - TAMWORTH TOWN HALL, KAMILAROI**

### **About Ben Graetz (Miss Ellaneous):**

Born and raised on Larrakia Country, Darwin, **Ben Graetz** has cultural ties to Malak Malak, Kungarakan, Muran Clan (Iwaidja) & Torres Strait Islands (Badu Island).

With a career spanning over 26 years, Ben is recognised as one of Australia's most dynamic and influential First Nations arts leaders, working across performance, creative direction, producing, programming, writing, DJing, MCing and directing.

A respected community advocate, Ben was named LGBTI Person of the Year in 2018 and in 2024 was honoured as a Northern Territory finalist in the Australian of the Year Awards, which acknowledges his artistic excellence, cultural leadership and dedication to community.

Ben is currently the Creative Director for the National Indigenous Music Awards (NIMAS), The Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAS) and most recently the Co-Festival Creative Director for Sydney World Pride 2023, cementing his reputation as a significant member of the arts industry.

### **About Artback NT:**

Artback NT develops and presents creative works from across the Northern Territory – to and from some of Australia's most remote locations. We work collaboratively with artists and communities to create and present high quality arts and cultural experiences not readily available to regional, remote, and very remote communities who are often left off the touring map.

Our Performing Arts Development and Touring Program delivers dynamic theatre, music, and dance performances, as well as creative workshops to audiences around Australia.

Working primarily with NT based artists, producers, and companies, Artback NT is passionate about sharing the strong and unique stories of the Northern Territory and providing a lens into life.

For media inquiries and interviews, please contact:

#### **Juran Timu**

Communications Manager | [communications@artbacknt.com.au](mailto:communications@artbacknt.com.au) | +61 (08) 8941 1444

For touring inquiries, please contact:

#### **Jo Shearn**

Performing Arts Manager | [performing@artbacknt.com.au](mailto:performing@artbacknt.com.au) | +61 (08) 8941 1444

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