



Catherine Poulton Management

MARK COLES SMITH

With a gift for storytelling, Mark has worked across several performing arts' genres, first and foremost as an actor, and also as a writer, producer and sound designer.

In 2017, Mark won a Helpmann Award for Best Male Actor in a Play for his work on Leah Purcell's acclaimed adaptation of *The Drover's Wife*. He previously received a Best Supporting Actor AACTA nomination and a Best Supporting Actor win at the Film Critics' Circle of Australia awards for his work in the feature film *Last Cab to Darwin*. For *Pawno*, he received an AACTA nomination for Best Supporting Actor. Earlier in his career, Mark was awarded the Casting Guild of Australia's inaugural Sirius Award for New Talent of the Future.

In 2021, Mark played Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Adelaide Festival, directed by Neil Armfield. He recently toured with the immersive theatre piece *Black Ties* with Ilbjerri Theatre Company and New Zealand based Te Rehia Theatre. He will play Captain Wessex in the upcoming feature film *Occupation: Rainfall*, directed by Luke Sparke.

Most recently, he had guest roles on Channel Nine's *Halifax*, ABC's *Les Norton* and the hilarious Mad Kids series *KGB*. He regularly appears on *Shaun Micallef's Mad as Hell*, on ABC.

Mark presented the ABC documentary *Will Australia Ever Have a Black Prime Minister?*, from UpFront Films, and starred in Lucy Durack's 2019 writing debut *Lift*, which was nominated for several Melbourne WebFest Awards, including Best Supporting Actor for Mark.

In 2018, Mark voiced the character of Crash in the gaming world's long-awaited *Call of Duty Black Ops 4*, for PlayStation.

He works as a sound designer under the alias Kalaji, which is a Nyikina word for 'whirlwind', originating from the Mardoowarra River of far north Western Australia. His 2019 show *Night River* was his first major experimental work and played at the Yirramboi festival in Melbourne. He has produced across an array of genres and projects, including the sound for Ilbjerri Theatre Company's 2018 production of *Which Way Home*.

On stage, he recently played Jason in *Bottomless*, at FortyFiveDownstairs, and Joel in the Melbourne and Sydney seasons of *Bliss*, at Malthouse and Belvoir St theatres. Previous theatre credits include *Jandamarra*, under the direction of Phil Thompson, and *Wulamanayuwu and Seven Pamanuas*, directed by Noel Jordan for the Darwin Festival.

Previous screen credits include the short film *Miro*, directed by Victoria Wharfe McIntyre; *Picnic at Hanging Rock*; *Doctor Doctor*; US series *Hunters*, for the SyFy Network; *Old School*, opposite Bryan Brown and Sam Neill; *The Gods of Wheat Street*; a lead guest in the hit American comedy *Modern Family*; *Hard Rock Medical*, a co-production between SBS TV and Canada's TV Ontario; and *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*, among others.

Mark has a certificate in Aboriginal Theatre from WAAPA and a Bachelor in Indigenous Studies. He as worked under the guidance of Gary Crew as part of the Indigenous Mentorship Program for the Australian Society of Authors. In 2007 he won the Yvonne Cohen Award from the VCA Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts. In 2008 he took out a grant from ScreenWest for the short film *Layoordoo*, which he wrote, co-produced and directed, while also featuring in a supporting role. *Layoordoo* screened at Toronto's ImagiNATIVE Film Festival.

Mark is a regular voice artist for animation, documentary and audiobooks.

He is a proud Nyikina man.

March 2021