



Catherine Poulton Management

MARK COLES SMITH

Mark is a proud Nyikina man. With a gift for storytelling, he works across several performing arts' genres, as an actor, writer, producer and sound designer.

He will next be seen portraying the iconic role of Detective Jay Swann in *Mystery Road: Origin* for the ABC.

Regularly recognised for his compelling talent, 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. Mark was the recipient of the Casting Guild of Australia's inaugural Sirius Award for New Talent of the Future.

Stage work includes playing Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Adelaide Festival, directed by Neil Armfield. Other credits include immersive theatre piece *Black Ties* with Ilbijerri Theatre Company and Te Rehia Theatre and *Bliss* for the Malthouse and Belvoir.

Television credits include *Old School*, opposite Bryan Brown and Sam Neill, a lead guest in the hit American comedy *Modern Family*, *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, *Halifax*, *Les Norton*, Mad Kids' series *KGB*, *Doctor Doctor*, US series *Hunters* for the SyFy Network, *Gods of Wheat Street*, *Hard Rock Medical*, a co-production between SBS TV and Canada's TV Ontario, *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries* and many more. Mark also makes regular appearances on Shaun Micallef's *Mad as Hell* for the ABC.

Mark presented the ABC documentary *Will Australia Ever Have a Black Prime Minister?* from UpFront Films, and starred in Lucy Durack's *Lift*, which was nominated for several Melbourne WebFest Awards, including Best Supporting Actor for Mark. He is prolific in the voice over space, narrating for ABC Radio National Fictions series *Oz Gothic* and *UnTrue Crime*, Animation series *Big J and Little Cuz*, doco series *Outback Ringers* and game *Call of Duty: Black Ops 4*, being a few notable examples.

He works as a sound designer under the alias Kalaji, a Nyikina word for 'whirlwind', originating from the Mardoowarra River of far North Western Australia. His 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 design for Ilbijerri Theatre Company's 2018 production of *Which Way Home* and Declan Furber-Gillick's *Bighouse Dreaming*.

Mark has a certificate in Aboriginal Theatre from WAAPA and a Bachelor in Indigenous Studies. He has 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 and the following year 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.

With such a distinct talent set and compelling profile, Mark is an intelligent creative whose input of all types is in constant demand.

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