

CALYPSO SUMMER

An engaging coming of age story about identity, family and connection from the winner of the 2013 black&write! Indigenous Writing Fellowship

Cricket and traditional Aboriginal bush medicine may seem like an unlikely combination for a novel, but Adelaide author and playwright Jared Thomas has seamlessly blended the disparate topics into a Young Adult novel with a difference.

Written in contemporary, casual language that will connect with its teenage target audience, *Calypso Summer* follows the path of personal growth and discovery of Calypso, a dreadlocked young urban Nukunu man with little knowledge of – or connection to – his Indigenous background.

Fresh out of high school, the cricket-mad young Rastafarian starts work in a local health food store whose owner has a scheme to gather plants for natural remedies. Under pressure to help find traditional Indigenous remedies, Calypso finds his way to his unknown Nukunu family in the southern Flinders Ranges, and discovers a world steeped in cultural knowledge.

His journey from Rastafarian to finding his true self is assisted by the support of a sassy, smart young Ngadjuri girl whose passion for cricket rivals his own as he discovers that his people, their land and their culture are the perfect medicine.

Calypso Summer explores the universal theme of the multiple cultural influences bearing down on young people and the need to draw from the best of traditional and modern knowledge to address social issues.

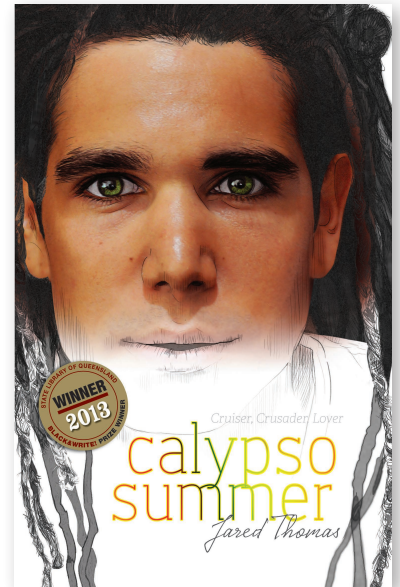
It also reflects on the way Aboriginal people aligned with people of the Caribbean through their cricketing prowess and reggae music, at a time when the Australian media was devoid of Aboriginal identities and role models.

About the author



Dr Jared Thomas is a Nukunu person of the Southern Flinders Ranges, and an award-winning author. He is on the frontline of South Australian Aboriginal arts, community and cultural development as co-Chairperson of the Nukunu Peoples Council, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Development Officer of Arts SA and Adjunct Lecturer at the University of South Australia David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education and Research.

His first creative work, the play *Flash Red Ford* was produced in Kenya and Uganda in 1999 and young adult novel, *Sweet Guy*, was shortlisted for the 2009 South Australian People's Choice Awards for Literature. Jared's writing explores the power of belonging and culture.



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Launched in 1987, Magabala Books is a not-for-profit publishing house that aims to promote, preserve and publish Indigenous Australian culture.

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