



Catherine Poulton Management

MARK COLES SMITH

Hailing from Broome, Mark has worked across several performing arts' genres, first and foremost as an actor, and also as a writer, producer and sound designer.

He recently had guest roles on ABC's *Les Norton* and the hilarious Mad Kids series *KGB* (Koondoola, Girrawheen, Balga), which follows two rookie detectives dealing with suspects who consistently turn out to be family.

Mark presented the television documentary *Will Australia Ever Have a Black Prime Minister?*, from UpFront Films, and starred in Lucy Durack's writing debut *Lift*, which is a bite-sized rom-com webseries produced by Mad Kids. It was nominated for several 2019 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. On stage, he played Jason in *Bottomless*, at FortyFiveDownstairs, and Joel in the Melbourne and Sydney seasons of *Bliss*, at Malthouse and Belvoir St theatres. On screen, he appeared in the reimagining of *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, for Foxtel.

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*. On television, he was in *Doctor Doctor* and *Shaun Micallef's Mad as Hell*. He also starred in short film *Miro* (directed by Victoria Wharfe McIntyre), which was celebrated at CinefestOz and MIFF.

Mark 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 show *Night River* is his first major experimental work and will be playing in the Yirramboi festival in Melbourne.

Mark 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*, opposite Jacki Weaver and Michael Caton, and was also honoured with a Best Supporting Actor AACTA nomination for the film *Pawno*.

His other screen credits include U.S. 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; the features *Around the Block* and *Beneath Hill 60*; *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*; *Blue Heelers*; *Dirt Game*; *The Circuit* and *Please Like Me*.

Previous theatre credits include *Jandamarra*, under the direction of Phil Thompson, and *Wulamanayuwi and Seven Pamanuas*, directed by Noel Jordan for the Darwin Festival.

With a gift for storytelling, Mark worked under the guidance of Gary Crew as part of the Indigenous Mentorship Program for the Australian Society of Authors. He has a certificate in Aboriginal Theatre from WAAPA and a Bachelor in Indigenous Studies. 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.

In recent years, Mark has pursued work in the field of audio production and sound design. He designed the sound for Ilbijerri's *Which Way Home* and he produces across an array of genres, including the debut album of Australian Hip Hop group 'Bare Minimum' and an electronica album under the alias 'Karate Surfing.' He is also a regular voice artist for animation, documentary and audiobooks.

Mark was awarded the Casting Guild of Australia's inaugural Sirius Award for New Talent of the Future.

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