

# LOCAL

## tales take to the stage



by Vivienne Ryan

THREE years of hard work paid off last week when Marrugeku's graceful dancers took their Buru performance to the stage.

Through traditional dance, hip hop, singing and show-stealing stilt choreography, Buru spoke of the relationship between young Broome people and the environment.

Inspired by the six Yawuru seasons and tales handed down from elders, the show's audio-visual inclusions and glittery, oversized costumes captivated audiences over

three nights. "One of the main aims of the project is to create a work that deals with the depth and complexity of the elders' knowledge of the environment and the seasons, but is accessible enough for young audiences," co-director Rachael Swain said.

Swain and co-director Dalisa Pigram spent time researching traditional stories with local elders for the performance. A story of two boss lizards, the custodians of the seasons, was given to Marrugeku by Aboriginal leader Patrick Dodson.

"(But) only after he watched the

company work in the community for five years and he could see that the form of theatre was a vehicle to carry this content forward, into a sustainable form of story telling," Ms Swain said.

The tale of Walmanyjun, the greedy turtle – another story with close links to Broome – was set on Cable Beach and the actor and his dance moves were a hit.

The contemporary scenes were funky and a change of pace with hip-hop dancing and rapping by Dazastah, of Downsyde fame, with a seamless transition into story telling

with singing by Emma Sibosado.

Defying gravity on stilts the performers, aged 10 to 21, floated effortlessly through their scenes, as the wind rustling through the trees and bats circled above the Broome Camp School.

A festival director from Canada attended the performances and Marrugeku hopes to set up a cultural exchange to take the show there.

"But what we would really like to do I take it into the Kimberley, that is the main aim for next year – to take it to young Indigenous communities," Ms Swain said.