

# Creative Statement for Barrumbi Kids

Excerpt written by Ambience Entertainment and Tamarind Tree Pictures

*Barrumbi Kids* is a timely, compelling and critical Australian children's story, inspired by the book series by Northern Territory author Leonie Norrington. The *Barrumbi Kids* series is a vivid and honest coming-of-age adventure based on Leonie's experience of growing up in a remote Aboriginal community. This is a striking and multilayered world with a real sense of place, culture and character. It gave us invaluable source material, allowing us to tell a distinctly Australian story with universal appeal.

Development for the series began in 2018. During development, we focussed on creating a series that told the story of children living in a dynamic Indigenous community in Arnhem Land in meaningful collaboration with the Beswick and Barrunga communities. These communities are made up of numerous tribes all living on Jawoyn Country.

It was essential to our team and our vision to ensure that the story and world were authentic. A story and perspective that Indigenous children can identify with and be proud of, and something that will excite and inspire children around the world.

As a team, we maintained constant dialogue with our local collaborators and held development and writer's rooms in Beswick. This immersed our creatives in the world and community, and ensured that the Beswick community had a real sense of what's required to create and deliver their story to a local and global audience.

In 2020, we received additional development funding that allowed us to shift the storyline to ensure gender balance and a more contemporary view of the story and world. Enabling us to tell the story through an Indigenous perspective elevated the community authenticity of the series.

The series was filmed on the lands of the Jawoyn, Dagoman, Wardaman and Mangarrayi peoples in 2021. Post-production for the series was completed in 2022.

Our team worked hard in hot, windy, stunningly beautiful locations to create a series that allowed our incredible young cast to share a story that explores how friendships change and grow; how our sense of self expands as outside influences creep in, and the pure bliss and mischief you can experience growing up on Country.

*Barrumbi Kids* is a drama with humour and heart. The episodes use innovative and contemporary story devices (such as direct narrative pieces to camera by Tomias, and expressive punch in freeze frames) to support stunning vibrant scenes on Country that integrate Indigenous languages and culture. All combined to reflect how children, especially Indigenous children, are exploring and creating their own narrative content.

