



Teaching Artist Statement

Della Rae Morrison



Who am I?

My name is **Della Rae Morrison**. I am a Bibbulman yok from the Bibbulmun Noongar Nation. This means I am a woman from the South West of Western Australia - from one of the largest Aboriginal groups in Australia.

I was born in Narrogin, grew up in Albany, South Hedland, and then moved to Perth. Since I was little I've always sung and loved to perform.

I became a professional singer when I was 20 and my acting and singing career have taken me across the country.

I am a musical director and co-founder of Madjitil Moorna, a community choir performing in Nyoongar language.

What does music and singing mean to you?

Music is universal. It's a safe environment to learn more about one another.

Singing is energising, uplifting and healing. When I started writing songs in my own language I felt like a whole person. It's amazing how people can share each other's culture through song in language.

What does it mean to be a Bibbulman yok?

A Bibbulman yok is an Aboriginal woman from the South West of Western Australia - from one of the largest matriarchal groups in Australia.



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Country

Country encompasses everything to me. It's my spirituality. Country makes me feel like a whole person. It's a sense of belonging. Healing of country connects me to my ancestors.

Community

Community is very important. My family is my community. My family is the most important thing to me. It's what motivates me the most. I'm always working on ways to make a better community. The work I do is healing community. I try to figure out ways to encourage my community to heal and overcome intergenerational trauma.

Language

Language is part of culture, it's our DNA, our ancestry. If children learn dance and language and ceremony they will soon find themselves – their whole selves.

Culture

Bibbuluman culture means my connection to country, it's my spirituality.

Della Rae's advice to students

Be proud and walk with you heads up high and be proud of yourselves.
Really find out about the land you are on and the people that come from there.

First Nations Languages

My generation of people and my mother's people weren't allowed to speak their language. Our own parents and grandparents weren't allowed to speak it.

This generation have the opportunity to learn their language and get it back. I encourage all young people to learn the language from the Country that they are on.

I am so happy and excited that children are learning First Nations native tongue languages today. It makes Aboriginal children proud and the other kids are curious.

The sound of our language resonates with anyone. It gives me hope for the kids in the future.

