



# Biography

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**Paul Taylor**



## PAUL "WALKING STICK" TAYLOR

**A**ustralian storyteller, didgeridoo player and traveler. He comes to the U.S. from Adelaide, South Australia, on the invitation of Bobby Bridger and the Adelaide-Austin, TX, sister city program. Bridger is a descendent of the legendary western pioneer, Jim Bridger. In 1986, Paul acted as guide for Bobby Bridger on an extensive tour of South Australia. Bridger performed his acclaimed one-man show "Ballad of the West," on a tour of the outback and to the Pitjantatjara Aboriginal community in the red heart of the country.

Becoming close friends, Bridger invited Paul to the U.S. to Texas and then travel with him to Wyoming to act as a "mountain man" in his company version of "Ballad of the West" performing at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming. Attending the Jackson Hole Centennial Rendezvous in 1990, Paul was initiated into the world of the mountain men and given the name of "Walking Stick."

Paul loved his initial visit to the U.S. so much that he decided to return in 1992 and commence an extensive walkabout of the U.S. He is currently based in Laramie, Wyoming - the heart of America's outback. Paul's performances highlight unique historical parallels of America's West with Australia's Outback.

Paul graduated from the University of South Australia with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work in 1980. His interest in the Aboriginal culture of his own country is born from time spent as a social worker among the Aboriginal people in outback Australia's Northern Territory in the early eighties. It was at this time he was introduced to the wonderful tradition of storytelling and the music of the didgeridoo, possibly one of the world's oldest musical traditions.

Paul is mentored by Yidumduma Bill Harney, custodian of the Wardaman culture in Australia's Northern Territory. Paul returns to Australia on sabbatical each year to spend time with family and Bill. Paul has been honored with his Wardaman name "Jalala". In the mid-eighties Paul trained as an actor at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, UK. He worked professionally as an actor and clown, joined a circus show and performed throughout England, Scotland and Wales. He returned to his homeland and worked for the Adelaide Festival of Arts and in regional theatres throughout Australia.

In the US, Paul has been endorsed by New York, South Carolina, United Arts NC, Texas, Wyoming, Utah, North Dakota, and South Dakota Art Councils as an outstanding artist. Paul has been honored for his work with Arts in Education by being awarded an Adjunct Professor in the College of Education at the University of Wyoming. He is Director of Wardaman Dreaming Project, committed to document and preserve the Wardaman Aboriginal culture.

Paul has produced 4 recordings Cooe, Walkabout, Matilda & the Dreamtime and Doo Bee Doo. Cooe! has won 6 National awards including NAPPA Gold Award, Parent's Choice Gold Award and Storytelling World. Paul's credits include: New Orleans Jazz Festival, Kerrville Folk Festival, Clearwater Revival Folk Festival, National Geographic, Festivale Internationale de Louisiane, Wyoming Symphony Orchestra, Exchange Place- National Storytelling Festival and Disney Music Center LA.