



BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE

SANDSONG

Stories from the Great Sandy Desert

Connecting people and enriching communities

“At BAI Communications, we’re dedicated to connecting communities.

The strength of our partnership with Bangarra is defined by our shared passion of connecting people in metropolitan, regional and remote communities. We are proud to be a Bangarra partner, helping to elevate our country’s rich national identity and inspire the next generation of Australians.”

PETER LAMBOURNE,
CEO, BAI COMMUNICATIONS
AUSTRALIA

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SANDSONG

Stories from the Great Sandy Desert

**SYDNEY
OPERA HOUSE**

30 Jun – 23 Jul 2022

**ARTS CENTRE
MELBOURNE**

24 Aug – 3 Sep 2022

**ULUMBARRA
THEATRE, BENDIGO**

9 – 10 Sep 2022

CREDITS

Choreographers

Stephen Page
Frances Rings
and the Dancers of
Bangarra Dance
Theatre

Cultural Consultants

Putuparri Tom
Lawford
Eva Nargoodah
Cultural Consultancy
Wangkatjungka
& Walmajarri Elders

Composer

Steve Francis
Set Designer
Jacob Nash

Costume Designer

Jennifer Irwin
Lighting Designer
Nick Schlieper
AV Designer
David Bergman
Rehearsal Director
Daniel Roberts
Aerial Movement
Consultant
Joshua Thomson
Rigging Consultant
David Jackson
Lighting Realiser
Chris Twyman
Sound Recordist
Brendon Boney

BANGARRA DANCERS

Beau Dean Riley
Smith
Rikki Mason
Glory Tuohy-Daniell
Ryan Pearson
Lillian Banks
Courtney Radford
Kallum Goolagong
Gusta Mara
Kiarn Doyle
Emily Flannery
Maddison Paluch
Daniel Mateo
Janaya Lamb
Jesse Murray
James Boyd
Chantelle Lee
Lockhart
Karra Nam

PRODUCTION CREW

Production Manager
Cat Studley
Company
Management
Coordinator
Lachlan Steel
Stage Manager
Stephanie Storr
Head Electrician
Marshall Bull
Head of Costume
Jessica Hodgkinson
Head Rigger & Head
Mechanist
Katie McDonagh
Sound & AV
Technician
Raine Paul (Sydney)
Eden Trickett
(Melbourne &
Bendigo)
Assistant Stage
Manager
Rose Jenkins
Production Trainee
Taneisha Madrill

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this program contains the name and images of someone who has passed away. Use of Ningali Lawford-Wolf’s image and name within this publication have been approved for use by Ms Lawford-Wolf’s family.

Bangarra Dance Theatre pays respect and acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which our Company calls home, where much of *SandSong* was created – the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation.

WELCOME TO SANDSONG

Following two years of substantive disruption, it is a joy to be back in front of audiences Australia-wide with two of our most lauded productions: *Terrain* and *SandSong*. In 2022 our national tour takes us to Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane, Bendigo and finally — after a three-year absence — Melbourne. We'll also be visiting Western Australia and the Northern Territory later in the year in what will be one of our most extensive regional tours.

Now in our fourth decade as Australia's first major Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performing arts company, we remain grounded in our history and the shared cultural knowledge that has been passed down from generation to generation. *SandSong* includes stories from one of the many brutal parts of Australia's recent colonial history, a history that is often white-washed and erased. It also tells the story of Community, of cultural resilience, and of maintaining and rebuilding culture and connection to Country. With this work, we pay respects to our friend and sister, proud Wangkatjungka woman, Ningali Lawford-Wolf. Ningali was a trail-blazing artist and activist, and her voice and spirit is woven throughout this work.

The company has undergone extraordinary efforts to present *SandSong* over the past two years. Following postponement in 2020, it premiered in Sydney in June 2021 only to close shortly after opening. The touring company made it to Canberra and then through Howard Springs quarantine for a season in Brisbane. We are thrilled to share this work again in Sydney and then with audiences in Melbourne and Bendigo. During the creation period, we were very fortunate to be able to safely make two visits to Fitzroy Crossing during

2020-2021, to spend time on Bunuba Country with Wangkatjungka and Walmajarri Cultural Knowledge Holders. Thank you to Cultural Consultants Putuparri Tom Lawford and Eva Nargoodah for their guidance, and to the Lawford and Nargoodah families for welcoming us and being so generous with their time. We look forward to returning *SandSong* to Country later this year, to share it with the Community who entrusted us with their stories and who granted us permission to share this story with you tonight.

After 32 years, this marks a pivotal time in Bangarra's history as Stephen passes the "precious coolamon" filled with our legacy of stories, community cultural relationship, administrators, and our many valuable supporters, to Frances as she embarks on leading the next chapter as Bangarra's Artistic Director from 2023.

Tonight's performance would not be possible without the continued support of the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts and the NSW Government through Create NSW. A special thank you to all our corporate partners and our many donors who have demonstrated their commitment to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures on and off the stage. We are indebted to you all, along with our audiences who we have not seen enough of in recent times. Thank you for joining us.



Stephen Page
Artistic Director



Lissa Twomey
Executive Director



SANDSONG

Choreographers Stephen Page and Frances Rings share the process of creation.

Shaped and sculpted, weathered and nourished; these qualities reflect our values and commitment to Land, our people and our communities. These values are embedded in Bangarra's cultural DNA and have been the core of our practice for past 32 years. At the heart of this sits a dynamic songline of relationships with extended families across remote communities that have believed in our vision and entrusted us with their stories.

SandSong is our way of honouring and paying respect to our sister Ningali, to her People and Country. Ningali Josephine Lawford-Wolf, a Wangkatjungka woman from the small Kimberley settlement of Christmas Creek, was a defining visionary who understood the important role Bangarra plays in changing perceptions of Indigenous Australia in mainstream society. Ningali joined NAISDA Dance College - then based in Glebe, Sydney - with dreams of a career in the performing arts. In 1988 this calling brought her to Sydney to fulfill her dream, and unknowingly propelled her into the political firestorm of the Bicentenary, a celebration of 200 years since British colonial occupation of unceded Aboriginal Land.

It was during this time that Ningali forged a lifelong friendship with us and Stephen's brothers David and Russell. As expected, Ningali's career accelerated rapidly, and she became a successful theatre and film actress. In 2002, Ningali guested in Bangarra's double bill of *Walkabout*, balancing her growing family commitments with bespoke theatre and film roles curated specifically for her.

In 2019 during Bangarra's production of *30 years of sixty five thousand* Ningali met with Stephen and discussed creating a new work together inspired by the Kimberley.

Only weeks later, news came through that Ningali was seriously ill in an Edinburgh hospital while on tour. Together we travelled with Ningali's family to Edinburgh to farewell and bring home our beautiful, irreplaceable friend Ningali. She passed peacefully, surrounded by family and friends, surrounded by love and spirit, surrounded by home, despite being far from Country.

Although we weren't able to realise our shared dream of creating this work together during her lifetime, with great care, we hope to pay



tribute to Ningali's incredible life and legacy. *SandSong* could not have been made without the belief and support of the Lawford Family, in particular Ningali's mother, Mayarn Julia Lawford, her siblings, Eva Nargoodah and Putuparri Tom Lawford, who took on the epic role of Cultural Consultants, and her children: Jaden Mellick, Rosie Lawford, Alexander Wolf, William Wolf and Florence Wolf. Bangarra would also like to pay respects and thank the Wangkatjungka and Walmajarri Elders and their Communities, Ngarralja Tommy May, Elsie Dickens, the Nargoodah family, Clinton Wolf, Lynley Nargoodah and Mangkaja Arts, Mckenzie Lawford, Gerard Lawford, Erica Lawford, the Kupartiya Community, Bunuba Elder Mary Aiken, Letisha Davies, the Kimberley Aboriginal Law & Cultural Centre (KALACC), Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation, and Goolarri Media for their time and trust.

We are so lucky to have worked together with such a collaborative creative clan: Steve Francis, Jacob Nash, Jennifer Irwin, Nick Schlieper, Dave Bergman, Joshua Thomson, David Jackson, together with Chris Twyman and Brendon Boney, and of course the extraordinary Bangarra Dancers. A special thank you to Legs on the Wall for their contribution and support, to our Rehearsal Director Daniel Roberts, Head of Artistic Operations Claudia Elder, and to our fearless Production team led by Director, Technical & Production, John Colvin.

Just as Ningali carried so many during her life, her voice will carry our beautiful Dancers throughout the performance this evening. Her legacy, and her spirit - her incredibly generous, creative, mischievous spirit - lives on. In turn, we will carry and honour her spirit now and always, into the future.





ABOUT SANDSONG

THE STORY

SandSong tells the unique story of the Kimberley and Great Sandy Desert regions, and the survival of its People.

Between the 1920s and 1960s, many Aboriginal people were removed from their Country and onto pastoral stations where they were forced into hard labour, usually for no wages and only minimal rations. Despite this displacement and cultural disruption, the Traditional Peoples of the Western Desert have maintained unbroken connection to Country – keeping songs, stories, kinship and lore strong.

This is the Country of Wangkatjunga woman Ningali Josie Lawford-Wolf (1967–2019), a close cultural collaborator of Bangarra, whose spirit, stories and artistic contributions have inspired a number of the company's works and enriched the broader arts landscape.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACE

The Kimberley is home to the Wangkatjunga and Walmajarri people, where the ancient knowledge of People and of Country is preserved through *Songlines* that have endured for hundreds of generations.

At the heart of this land is Jila – the Living Water – that resides in desert waterholes across the region and is the basis of cultural beliefs and practices.

INTERESTING FACTS

- Geological origins of the Kimberley region reach back nearly 2000 million years.
- The Wangkatjunga people have lived in the desert of Western Australia for over forty thousand years, living a nomadic life knowing they could always retreat to their sacred waterholes.
- There are 16 smoke machines in the show.
- 1 litre of Gold paint is used per show.
- It takes around 10 hours to handmake a coolamon skirt (used in the Act 2 Parranga).

MUSIC CREDITS

Music composed and performed by Steve Francis except:

Vocals on *Skin*
Vocals and words on *Coolamon, Labour, Homeland* and *Fringe*
Ningali Lawford-Wolf

Voice on *Spinifex*
Putuparri Tom Lawford

Voice and words on *Build Up / Walk Off*
Vincent Lingari

"Gurindji Blues"
Written by: E. Egan
Universal Mus. Publ. MGB Australia Pty L
Administered by: Universal Music Publishing Pty Ltd

Thank you to the Lingari Family and to the Gurindji Aboriginal Corporation.

Violin on *Fringe*
Véronique Serret

Excerpt of "Fitzroy Crossing" in *Fringe*
Warumpi Band: Neil Murray, Sammy Butcher

Written by: Sammy Butcher / Neil Murray
Universal Music Publishing Pty. Ltd.
Administered by: Universal Music Publishing Pty Ltd

Vocals on *Lore Time*
Rika Hamaguchi, Glory Tuohy-Daniell, Lillian Banks and Courtney Radford

Score also includes Traditional songs:

Marrjarrka: Men's Traditional Dance Story
Marrjarrka Ceremony Archival Footage –
Courtesy of Putuparri Tom Lawford
Belongs to Lawford Family, Tighe Family, Cox Family and James Family

Karnti: Women's Traditional Bush Potato Dance
Performers: Mayarn Julia Lawford, Eva Nargoodah, Jean Tighe, Jenet Spinks, Elsie Dickens, Doreen Button, Malachi Hobbs

Junta: Women's Traditional Bush Onion Dance
(Recording from 2002)

Performer: Mayarn Julia Lawford

Kurtal (Recording from 2020)
Performers: Tommy May, Mayarn Julia Lawford, Eva Nargoodah, Jean Tighe, Japeth Rangie, Jenet Spinks, Elsie Dickens, Doreen Button, Malachi Hobbs



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CREATIVE TEAM



STEPHEN PAGE
Artistic Director & Choreographer

Stephen is a Nunukul/Munaldjali man of the Yugambah Nation, South East Queensland. In 1991, Stephen was appointed Artistic Director (AD) of Bangarra. He directed the Indigenous sections for the 2000 Olympic Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies, and choreographed the 2018 Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony. Stephen has been involved in various film projects including directing *SPEAR* (2015). Awards include an Honorary Doctorate of Creative Arts (UTS, 2015), NAIDOC Lifetime Achievement (2016), and an Order of Australia (AO) (2017). This year he created *Wudjang* - a gift to his Father's Yugambah Country.



FRANCES RINGS
Associate Artistic Director & Co-Choreographer

Frances is a descendant of the Kokatha Tribe from the West Coast of South Australia. She was appointed Associate Artistic Director of Bangarra in 2019. Frances has created eight works for Bangarra: the *Rations* bill of *Walkabout*, *Bush* (2003, co-choreographed with Stephen Page), *Unaipon* (2004), *X300* (2007), *Artefact* (2010), *Terrain* (2012), *Sheoak* (2015), *SandSong* (2021, co-choreographed with Stephen Page). Her awards include: five Helpmanns, a Green Room and a Deadly Award. Frances will take on the role of Artistic Director in 2023.



PUTUPARRI TOM LAWFORD
Cultural Consultant

Putuparri Tom Lawford is a Wangkatjungka man living in Fitzroy Crossing. He grew up in Fitzroy Crossing as part of an activist family and was raised by the old people on a cattle station on the edge of the Great Sandy Desert. He learned spiritual and ceremonial traditions from his grandfather. Putuparri's people have lived in the desert of Western Australia for over forty thousand years. He works as a cultural officer for the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre and is also a cultural advisor, translator, workshop facilitator and artist.



JENNIFER IRWIN
Costume Designer

Jennifer's international career bridges film, opera, ballet, drama, musicals, dance and most notably, her thirty two-year association with Bangarra and Stephen Page. Commissions include SDC, Opera Australia, STC, MTC, Belvoir, The Sydney 2000 Olympic Ceremonies, *Dirty Dancing* among many others. She has been awarded multiple Helpmann, Green Room and Australian Production Design nomination and Awards. 'Service to Dance' at the Australian Dance Awards and Best Costume Design at the AACTA Awards.



NICK SCHLIEPER
Lighting Designer

Nick's many previous productions for Bangarra include *Unaipon*, *Bush*, *Patyegarang*, *Bennelong* and *Wudjang: Not the Past*. He has worked extensively with all of Australia's major performing companies. His long-standing association with Sydney Theatre Company has seen him light many productions including *Playing Beatie Bow*, *Wonnangatta*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Streetcar Named Desire*, *Big and Little* and *Waiting For Godot*. Overseas, his work has been seen on London's West End, on Broadway, at the Salzburg Festival and at numerous large European opera and theatre companies, as well as in Washington and New York.



DAVID BERGMAN
AV Designer

David is a leading video, music and sound designer for theatre, dance, opera, installation and film. For Sydney Theatre Company, David was video designer for *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Muriel's Wedding: The Musical*, *The Hanging*, *The Effect*, and *The Long Way Home*, sound designer for *Playing Beatie Bow*, video and sound designer for *A Cheery Soul* and *The Wharf Revue*. David has also worked with companies including Sydney Chamber Opera, Griffin Theatre, Belvoir, Bangarra, NIDA and ATYP. David is a NIDA graduate and now teaches NIDA's graduate and post graduate courses.



EVA NARGOODAH
Cultural Consultant

Born on Christmas Creek Station, Eva grew up with her parents until the age of six. Her dad was a stockman and her mother worked in the house. In 1965 they shifted to Cherrabun Station where she went to school and later she was a teacher at Christmas Creek School. In 1984 she was married and has nine children and nine grandchildren. She started painting after her kids grew up. She paints her grandmother's Country and what she has taught her. Today she lives at Jimbalakudunji Community, 120 km southwest of Fitzroy Crossing.



STEVE FRANCIS
Composer

SandSong was Steve's thirteenth score for Bangarra when it premiered in 2021. He has since composed the score for *Wudjang: Not the Past*. His work with Bangarra has received two Helpmann awards for Score and two for New Australian Work as well as two nominations for Sound Design. As composer and/or sound designer for theatre Steve has worked on over one hundred productions with Australia's leading theatre companies and received two Sydney Theatre Awards. Steve has scored music for a number of films and television, most recently *Firestarter*.



JACOB NASH
Set Designer

Jacob is a descendant of the Daly River people, West of Darwin and is Bangarra's Head of Design. In 2010, he designed the set for *of earth & sky* for Bangarra and received a Green Room Award. Jake was also awarded a Helpmann Award for *Bennelong* in 2018. In 2019 for Sydney Festival, Jacob created the work ALWAYS, a large-scale artwork that become the backdrop for *The Vigil* and the *Wugulora Ceremony*. He is a Board Director of Belvoir St Theatre and a Creative Artist in Residence at Sydney Festival.



DANIEL ROBERTS
Rehearsal Director

Daniel graduated from The Australian Ballet School in 2008 and accepted a contract with Singapore Dance Theatre where he danced for two years. He then joined the West Australian Ballet where he danced many Principal Roles and was promoted to Soloist in 2014. In 2015, Daniel joined Sydney Dance Company before returning to musical theatre in 2018 with The Production Company's *Oklahoma!* He joined Bangarra as Rehearsal Director in 2018.



JOSHUA THOMSON
Aerial Movement Consultant

Joshua was appointed Artistic Director of Legs on the Wall in 2017. His latest co-created work, *Highly Sprung*, outdoor trampoline activation, presented at Sydney Festival, Bleach Festival, Chile and continues to play around Australia. Tide, a work he co-created, won Best Physical and Visual Work at the 2018 Helpmann Awards. For the past 15 years he has worked with companies such as Tasdance, dancenorth, Perth Theatre Company, The Farm, PVC (Germany), Shaun Parker & Company, Stalker Stilt Theatre and Marrugeku. Joshua is one of the founding members of Gold Coast company The Farm.



DAVID JACKSON
Rigging Consultant

David is a performer, director, facilitator, and rigger with experience across a range of platforms including circus, theatre, physical theatre, dance, and visual arts. He is inspired by innovative storytelling and passionate about the role of art for cultural and social change. David has toured nationally and internationally with the likes of Sydney Festival, Vivid Sydney, LATT Children's Theatre (Seoul), Legs On The Wall, and several independent theatre productions. In addition to performing and directing, David has also worked as a movement consultant for theatre and circus, plus designed multiple sets/installations for live performance and events.

SANDSONG

80 minutes (no interval)

ACT 1 MAKURRA | COLD DRY SEASON

Poison

Time and space collide in a cloud of black collective consciousness, foreshadowing dark times ahead. But the Land is always present, the breathing womb of resilience.

No cast

AV Credits
Excerpts from report by Alexander Forrest regarding the expedition he led into the NW Kimberley in 1879. Published by WA Times on 23 September 1879 National Library of Australia

Group of prisoners in neck chains, Wyndham, Western Australia (1898) State Library Victoria

Operation "Buffalo" The Footage Company Australia / British Movietone

ABC News Report on Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Australian Broadcasting Corporation Library Sales

Dry

The vibrant energy of the seasons unfolds to reveal the enduring cycle that sustains life in the Great Sandy Desert.

Cast: Full ensemble

Skin

A young woman is guided through kinship and affirms her place amongst her skin group. She is given her name and told of her responsibilities to family, and to the women's business knowledge that she will inherit one day.

Cast: Lillian Banks, Glory Tuohy-Daniell, Courtney Radford, Emily Flannery, Maddison Paluch, Janaya Lamb, Chantelle Lee Lockhart, Karra Nam

Junta: Women's Traditional Bush Onion Dance

This traditional dance is about collecting the Junta Bush onions, cooking them, rubbing them together and finally winnowing them in the coolamon till they are clean and ready to eat and share with the family.

Cast: Lillian Banks, Glory Tuohy-Daniell, Courtney Radford, Emily Flannery, Maddison Paluch, Janaya Lamb, Chantelle Lee Lockhart, Karra Nam

Totem

The men are preparing a young man for Ceremony. Through the lens of male energy, ritual transformation connects the men to their totems. The totemic shapeshifters move through the space, evolving as they reaffirm story to place, and their responsibility to the maintenance of men's sites.

Cast: Beau Dean Riley Smith (Melbourne & Bendigo), Rikki Mason, Ryan Pearson, Kallum Goolagong, Gusta Mara, Kiarn Doyle, Daniel Mateo, Jesse Murray, James Boyd

Marjarrka: Men's Traditional Dance Story

This tells the true story of how Wurtuwaya (Yanpiyarti Ned Cox's grandfather) and Wirrali (Ningali Lawford-Wolf's great-grandfather) recovered their stolen Marjarrka totemic object from a group of men who had taken it and were using it to perform their own ceremony. Wurtuwaya and Wirrali managed to retrieve the sacred totemic object, and created this important ceremonial dance, which is performed by both senior and younger men.

This dance belongs to the Lawford Family, Tighe Family, Cox Family and James Family. Source: National Museum of Australia.

Cast: Beau Dean Riley Smith (Melbourne & Bendigo), Rikki Mason, Ryan Pearson, Kallum Goolagong, Gusta Mara, Kiarn Doyle, Daniel Mateo, Jesse Murray, James Boyd

ACT 2 PARRANGA, HOT DRY SEASON

Coolamon

The women hunt during cold weather time. This year is different though, it's dry and cold. The land is quiet and there is a drought, water and food are scarce. A meditation on fragility, survival, balance, knowledge, life and death.

Cast: Lillian Banks, Glory Tuohy-Daniell, Courtney Radford, Emily Flannery, Maddison Paluch, Janaya Lamb, Chantelle Lee Lockhart, Karra Nam

Spinifex

The men are carrying smoking spinifex to make a shelter. They are burning off, vaccinating, maintaining the health of Country. The old people are talking to Country, they can sense the change coming. The colonisers and their cattle have brought a dust storm with them which breaks the Land apart, displacing families.

Cast: Full ensemble

ACT 3 KARTIYA

Auction

The land has been interrupted. Mobs have left the desert, forced to leave the memories of bush life behind them. People begin their new life as laborers and domestics, in servitude to the pastoral industry, victim to the lawlessness of a new frontier and the whims of the station owners.

Cast: Full ensemble

Station Labour

The men toil from dawn to dusk in the stockyards, labouring in a relentless cycle, paid only in rations of food and clothing.

Cast: Beau Dean Riley Smith (Melbourne & Bendigo), Rikki Mason, Ryan Pearson, Kallum Goolagong, Gusta Mara, Kiarn Doyle, Daniel Mateo, Jesse Murray, James Boyd

Build Up / Walk Off

Wet season lies in the distance, reflecting the growing tensions of the people. A cyclone is brewing as the people stand up for their rights.

Vincent Lingiari's voice fills the space, stabilising the energy, awakening the memory of the proud desert men that they once were, and giving them the strength and solidarity to walk off the stations.

Cast: Full ensemble

ACT 4 YITILAL, WET SEASON

Fringe

A young boy is lost, an internal storm brewing, ready to explode from social trauma and intergenerational grief. Wet season reminds him of his grandfather and the resilience of the Lore Men who came before him. His sister steps out from the shadows of his fear, carrying the spirit to cleanse him.

Cast: Lillian Banks, Kiarn Doyle, Beau Dean Riley Smith (Melbourne & Bendigo), Kallum Goolagong, Daniel Mateo

Lore Time

Mobs come together for Ceremony and to begin the healing.

Cast: Rikki Mason, Glory Tuohy-Daniell, Lillian Banks, Ryan Pearson, Courtney Radford, Emily Flannery, Gusta Mara, Kiarn Doyle, Jesse Murray, Janaya Lamb, Chantelle Lee Lockhart, Karra Nam

Karnti: Women's Traditional Bush Potato Dance

This traditional dance is about looking for the Karnti bush potato. You look everywhere with your digging stick for the roots. You see a crack in the ground and that is where the Karnti is and you can dig it up.

Cast: Lillian Banks, Glory Tuohy-Daniell, Courtney Radford, Emily Flannery, Maddison Paluch, Janaya Lamb, Chantelle Lee Lockhart, Karra Nam

Painting Mob

Painting Country brings the people closer to their desert homeland, which they have not seen for forty years.

Art transports them back to their traditional lands, reconnecting and reaffirming ties to Country. This cultural awakening empowers and strengthens them to rebuild family, community and their future.

Cast: Full ensemble

Homeland

Through oppression, multiple displacements and decades of upheaval, the spirit of people and place endures to stand strong in their kinship and belonging. They come together in wet season for Lore time when everyone gathers for Ceremony. Unbroken, the cycle continues.

Cast: Full ensemble

Descriptions of traditional dances provided by Eva Nargoodah, Mayarn Julia Lawford and Putuparri Tom Lawford

GLOSSARY

Walmajarri language translations:

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Kartiya | White Person |
| Makurra | Cold Season |
| Parranga | Hot, Dry Season |
| Yitilal | Wet Season |
| Ngurti | Coolamon |
| Marjarrka | Men's Traditional Cone Dance |
| Karnti | Women's Traditional Bush Potato Dance |
| Junta | Bush Onion |

Qantas is proud
to be Airline Partner of
Bangarra Dance Theatre

Photographer, Daniel Boud

THE DANCERS



BEAU DEAN RILEY SMITH

Beau is an Aboriginal man from the Wiradjuri Nation of Central New South Wales and the Gamilaraay Nation of New South Wales. He joined Bangarra in 2013. His awards include a Helpmann (Best Male Dancer, 2018) for the title role in Bangarra's *Bennelong* (2017) and an Australian Dance Award (Outstanding Performance, 2018). He was also nominated for a Green Room Award (Best Male Dancer, 2018).



RIKKI MASON

Rikki is a descendant of the Kullilli people from South West Queensland and is from the country town of Inverell on the land of the Gamilaraay people. Since joining in 2014, Rikki has toured regionally, nationally and internationally. Performing On Country is always a highlight for Rikki as well as performing the solo *The Call (Walkabout, 2002)* on stages around the world. "Connecting and performing stories gifted to Bangarra is a great honour."



GLORY TUOHY-DANIELL

Glory is a descendant of Indjalandji Dhidhanu and Alyewarre Aboriginal tribes, in North West Queensland, and of English, Welsh, Chinese and Spanish heritage. Glory joined Bangarra in 2016 as part of the Russell Page Graduate Program. The experience that has made the biggest impact on Glory was attending a cultural residency, learning and performing cultural dance in community on Saibai and Moa Islands, in the Torres Strait and Elcho Island, North-East Arnhem Land.



KALLUM GOOLAGONG

Kallum is a proud Wiradjuri and Darkinjung man. He also has Mediterranean, Italian and Irish ancestry. He joined Bangarra in 2019 as part of the Russell Page Graduate Program. In 2018, Kallum graduated from NAISDA with a Certificate in Careers in Dance and a Diploma of Professional Dance Performance. Kallum is excited to learn more about himself and his culture through his journey with Bangarra.



GUSTA MARA

Gusta is an Angamudthi, Atembiya, Goba, Argun, Wagadagam and Kaurareg man from the tip of Queensland and the Western Islands of the Torres Strait. He joined Bangarra in 2019 as part of the Russell Page Graduate Program. Gusta started dancing at the age of 16 at the Graham Academy of Dance. Since joining Bangarra, he has toured around Australia as well as internationally to Canada and Chicago.



KIARN DOYLE

Born in Mullumbimby (Bundjalung Country) and raised in the Blue Mountains (Darug/ Gundungurra Country), Kiarn is an Aboriginal man from the Dunghutti Nation. Kiarn trained at PAWS and then pursued full-time dance training at NAISDA Dance College. Kiarn received awards in Certificate III and IV in dance performance and graduated in 2019 with a Diploma of Dance. Kiarn joined Bangarra in 2020 as the Russell Page Graduate recipient.



RYAN PEARSON

Ryan is of Biripi and Worimi descent on his mother's side and Minang, Goreng and Balardung on his father's side. He joined Bangarra in 2017 as part of the Russell Page Graduate Program. Ryan was nominated in the 2020 Australian Dance Awards for Most Outstanding Performance by a Male Dancer for his performance in Jiri Kylián's *Stamping Ground (2019 Production, 30 years of sixty five thousand)*.



LILLIAN BANKS

Lillian is a Yawuru woman from Broome, Western Australia. In 2013, Lillian left her hometown to study dance at NAISDA Dance College. She was applauded for her thoughtful contemporary solo in the college's graduation showcase and joined Bangarra in 2018 as part of the Russell Page Graduate Program. An opportunity Lillian will cherish forever is being part of the Cathy Freeman documentary, *FREEMAN*.



COURTNEY RADFORD

Courtney is a proud Balardong Noongar from Perth, Western Australia. She first found her passion for dance as a child in Port Hedland (Pilbara), WA. In 2016, she accepted a position with the West Australian Ballet and fulfilled her contract for two years. In 2019, Courtney joined Bangarra as a company dancer. Her biggest highlight so far was taking the *Spirit* to Canada and sharing Bangarra's stories with people around the world.



MADDISON PALUCH

Maddison is a Wiradjuri woman, born and raised on Dharug Country in Western Sydney and also comes from Polish descent. She is a graduate of Newtown High School of the Performing Arts and NAISDA Dance College. While at school, she was part of the NSW Public Schools Aboriginal Dance Company working with the Bangarra Youth Programs team. Maddison joined Bangarra in 2021 through the Russell Page Graduate Program.



DANIEL MATEO

Daniel is a descendant of the Gamilaroi people of Central Northern NSW as well as the Tongan people from the Pacifica region. Born and raised in Orange (Wiradjuri Country) and later moved to Newcastle (Awabakal land), he joined Bangarra in 2021 as one of two Russell Page Graduate Program recipients. Daniel started his dance studies at Catapult Dance in Newcastle before moving on to NAISDA Dance College in 2019.



EMILY FLANNERY

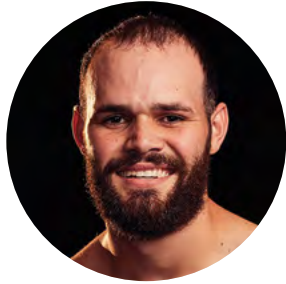
Emily is a proud Wiradjuri woman from Forbes in the Central West of NSW. She joined Bangarra in 2021. Emily studied at NAISDA Dance College and since graduating, has performed with companies such as Opera Australia, Phunktional Arts, Catapult Choreographic Hub and was the First Nations Intern with Lucy Guerin Inc. Emily's first choreographic work *Bulnuruwanha* has been commissioned by Sydney Opera House and will premiere this year.

THE DANCERS



JANAYA LAMB

Janaya is a proud young Wiradjuri woman, born on Bunjalung Country, grew up in Tamworth on Gamilaraay Country, and has Torres Strait connections in her ancestry. During her school years, she was part of the NSW Department of Education Aboriginal Dance Company before commencing her studies at NAISDA in 2018. Janaya has also performed in several independent and commercial projects. She joined the ensemble of company dancers in 2022.



JESSE MURRAY

Jesse is a proud Wiradjuri man from Cowra. Jesse was part of the NSW Department of Education Aboriginal Dance Company for three years before commencing his studies at NAISDA Dance College in 2018. While at NAISDA, he participated in cultural residencies in North East Arnhem Land and Moa Island. He has also worked with Legs on the Wall and Catapult Dance. Jesse joined Bangarra this year.



CHANTELLE LEE LOCKHART

Chantelle is a descendant of the Dharawal people as well as the people of the Eora Nation. She joined Bangarra in 2022. Attending local dance schools in her younger years, she then travelled to Salzburg, Austria in 2017 and spent four years of intensive training as she worked towards a fine arts degree in Dance at the Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance (SEAD).



JAMES BOYD

James is a proud Aboriginal man with connections to the Kunja and Muruwari people of SW Queensland, and Wakka Wakka Nation, SE Queensland. James studied at NAISDA until early 2022, completing an Advance Diploma in Dance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. He has also performed with the NT Dance Company and Moogahlin Performing Arts. He joined Bangarra this year as part of the Russell Page Graduate Program.



KARRA NAM

Karra is a proud young Kurna and Narungga woman from South Australia. She also has Chinese and Irish descent. Karra studied at The Australian Ballet School from 2014 to 2015 and is currently at Adelaide College of the Arts studying a Bachelor of Creative Arts majoring in Dance. She recently worked with Electric Fields in collaboration with Tjarutja Dance Collective and has worked with choreographers including Lee Brummer, Alison Currie and Tobiah Booth-Remmers. Karra is eager to learn and share culture throughout her journey with Bangarra.

ON COUNTRY

In May 2021 the company visited Fitzroy Crossing as part of its research for *SandSong*.



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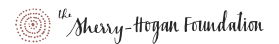
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