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NewsLetter

June

1996

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General

MANAGERS

Report



Artistic Director
Stephen Page

General Manager
Jan Irvine

Rehearsal Director
Bill Pengelly

Production Manager
Jo Mercurio

Stage Manager
John Colvin

Financial Controller
Jeanette Cheung

Admin Assistant
Roma Dainius

Welcome to our first issue for 1996. Much has happened since our last newsletter, and the best of the news is that Bangarra has been admitted into the Major Organisations Fund of The Australia Council. Bangarra is the first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island company to be admitted into MOF and credit must be given to all company and board members for their efforts in making this happen. At this point I would like to mention that Mary Jo Capps commenced work with Bangarra on a consultancy basis last year and will continue with us again this year. Thanks must go to her too for her contribution to our passage into MOF.

"Ochres" continues to move around the country and the world generating new Bangarra fans wherever we go. We finished a hectic 1995 with our Sydney season which I am pleased to say was a great success. I must thank all Bangarra Friends and supporters for making it one of the most successful seasons we have had yet.

1996 got off to a rapid start with a performance at "Survival 96" at La Perouse, followed closely by another successful season of "Ochres" at the Festival of Perth. From there the company tours to regional NSW, Queensland, Adelaide, regional South Australia, Melbourne, Hobart and regional Victoria. The second part of the year will see the company touring internationally once again.

Organising tours within Australia and internationally is always fraught with problems, primarily financial, and I must say that our program this year has been



greatly facilitated by Made to Move, Arts on Tour NSW, Playing Australia, the NSW Ministry for the Arts, the Australia Council and ATSIC.

An exciting development in the success of "Ochres" is that the ABC filmed the season at the Festival of Perth. The Festival provided an ideal setting, an outdoor venue - the Sunken Garden. Whilst "Ochres" will have toured extensively throughout Australia and the world by the end of this year, we are delighted that this very special production will be available to audiences everywhere, forever. Our dancers can then rest their weary bones, put the ochre away for a while, and let the television screens carry on the beauty of their work.

And finally I would like to report that plans for Bangarra to move into new premises at the Wharf (pier 4/5), adjacent to Sydney Dance Company, are proceeding well. The NSW Ministry is funding this project and we very much look forward to taking up residence there early next year.

Jan Irvine

COMPANY

Dancers

Albert David

Kathryn Dunn

Gary Lang

Marilyn Miller

Djakapurra
Munyarryun

Kirk Page

Russell Page

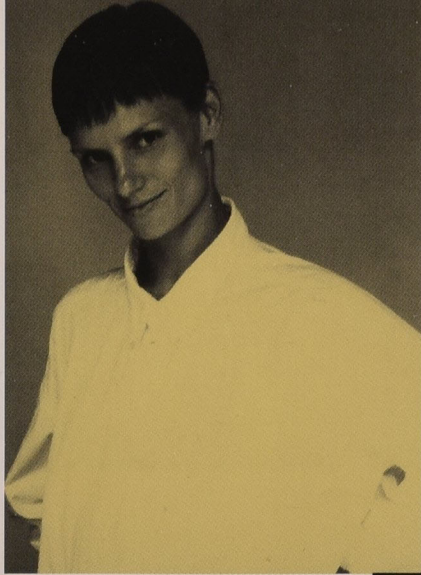
Frances Rings

Gina Rings

Cover photo: Gina Rings &
Djakapurra Munyarryun

photographer: Ashley de Prazer

photographer: Greg Barrett



Dancer Kathryn Dunn was born in Rockhampton, Queensland, and began dancing at the age of four. In 1983, at the age of sixteen, Kathryn achieved Honours in her R.A.D. Advanced, attained her Solo Seal and was awarded the R.A.D. Bursary which enabled her to study at the Royal Ballet School in London. Further to this in 1983, Kathryn won the silver medal in the Adeleine Genee competition in London.

At the end of 1985, following her graduation performance of Balanchine's "Serenade" at Covent Garden, Kathryn was offered a contract with the Royal Ballet Company, with whom she danced and toured for three years working with many famous choreographers including: Anthony Dowell, Sir Fredrick Ashton, Sir Kenneth Macmillan, David Bintley, Jerome Robbins and Ashley Page.

Kathryn was invited to join Sydney Dance Company in 1990 where she remained until the end of 1994. During her five years with Sydney Dance, Kathryn performed in all company productions including: Graeme Murphy's 'Poppy', 'Some Rooms', and 'Soft Bruising', Douglas Wright's 'Gloria', Paul Mercurio's 'Edgeing' and Gideon Obarzanek's 'Saccharin Suite'.

Last year, Kathryn joined the newly formed Chunky Move under the Artistic Direction of Gideon Obarzanek performing *Fast Idol* and *Spectre in the Covert Memory*.

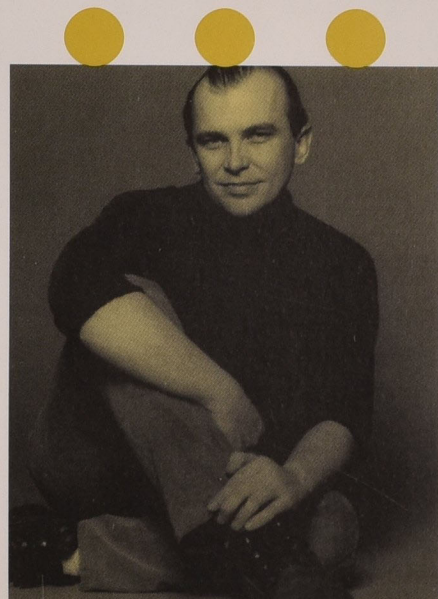
W E L C O M E

Bill Pengelly will be with Bangarra in 1996 as the Rehearsal Director. His experience in dance encompasses all aspects of performance, teaching, choreography, dance administration and tour co-ordination.

Bill's early years in dance saw him with the North Queensland Ballet Company and the Queensland Ballet.

Bill joined the Sydney Dance Company as a dancer in 1980 and performed roles in the premiere stagings of many works by Graeme Murphy, as well as performing in many of the works by guest choreographers including *Moograh* by Stephen Page. He was appointed as Dance Master to the Sydney Dance Company in 1986. In 1994, Bill choreographed his first work, *Birds of Passage*, for Sydney Dance Company's choreographic workshop, *Raw*. Bill remained with Sydney Dance for fifteen years and has taken a short break in 1996 to become part of the Bangarra family.

Throughout his professional career Bill has toured extensively, performing in countless productions as well as film and video clips. Bill has been guest teacher with numerous dance institutions including the Scottish Ballet, Nureyev and Friends Australian Tour, Western Australian Ballet and the Australian Dance Theatre.



photographer: Branco Gaica

L-R: Gary Lang, Russell Page,
Djakapurra Munyarryun, Kirk Page
photographer: Tanya Actypis



L - R: Russell Page, Kirk Page,
Djakapurra Munyarryun, Gary Lang
photographer: Tanya Actypis

Survival concert

The **Annual Invasion Day Concert**, celebrating the survival of Aboriginal culture through two centuries of European settlement, was held on January 26 at La Perouse oval. Thousands turned out to camp on the grass and experience an all-day festival of Aboriginal performances.

This was Bangarra's fourth appearance at the Survival Day concert. Bangarra marked the occasion by performing an extract from "Ochres", *Black*, featuring the male dancers of Bangarra.

The annual Survival Day concert tradition began in 1992, and is an initiative of NIAAA, the National Indigenous Arts Advocacy Association.



Djakapurra Munyarryun
photographer: Tanya Actypis

BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE 1996

January

Survival Concert

March

Festival of Perth

NSW Regional Tour:

Griffith Regional Theatre
Broken Hill Entertainment Centre
Dubbo Civic Centre
Moree Civic Centre
Armidale - Lazenby Hall
Newcastle - The Workers Club

April

Taree - Manning Ent. Centre
Lismore - Lismore City Hall

Queensland Regional Tour:

Mt. Isa Memorial Theatre
Townsville Civic Theatre

May

Cairns Civic Theatre

Made To Move

Hobart - Theatre Royal

June

Adelaide - Space Theatre

South Australian Regional Tour:

Mt. Gambier, Sir Robert Helpman
Theatre
Renmark, Chaffey Theatre

July

Port Pirie, Keith Mitchell Theatre
Whyalla, Middleback Theatre
Melbourne, Merlyn Theatre

August

Atlanta - Olympic Closing Ceremony
performance

Victorian Regional Tour:

Ballarat - Her Majesty's Theatre
Geelong Performing Arts Centre
Bendigo - Capital Theatre
Ararat - Perf. Arts Centre
Warrnambool Arts Centre
Warragul - West Gippsland Arts Centre

October

Indonesia Tour - Jakarta, Medan
India Tour - Delhi, Bombay, Madras

November

China Tour

STUDIO PIRIE

Bangarra Dance Theatre

Bangarra Dance Theatre is situated at 40 - 76 William St. Leichhardt, on level four of the old Cyclops Toys Factory. The entrance is on the corner of William and North Streets.

Bangarra Dance Theatre has a large studio which is available for hire when the company is away on tour. The studio is equipped with a sound system, barres (one fixed and two movable), fans and heating.

The studio dimensions are 12m x 30m

Rates:

Commercial

Per hour	Per day (9 - 6)	One week (Mon - Fri)
\$20	\$100	\$400

Industry

(arts organisations, dancers, students, pensioners, unwaged, community organisations)

Per hour	Per day (9 - 6)	One week (Mon - Fri)
\$15	\$80	\$300

For bookings and enquiries please contact Bangarra on ph: (02) 569 4555 or fax: (02) 569 4443

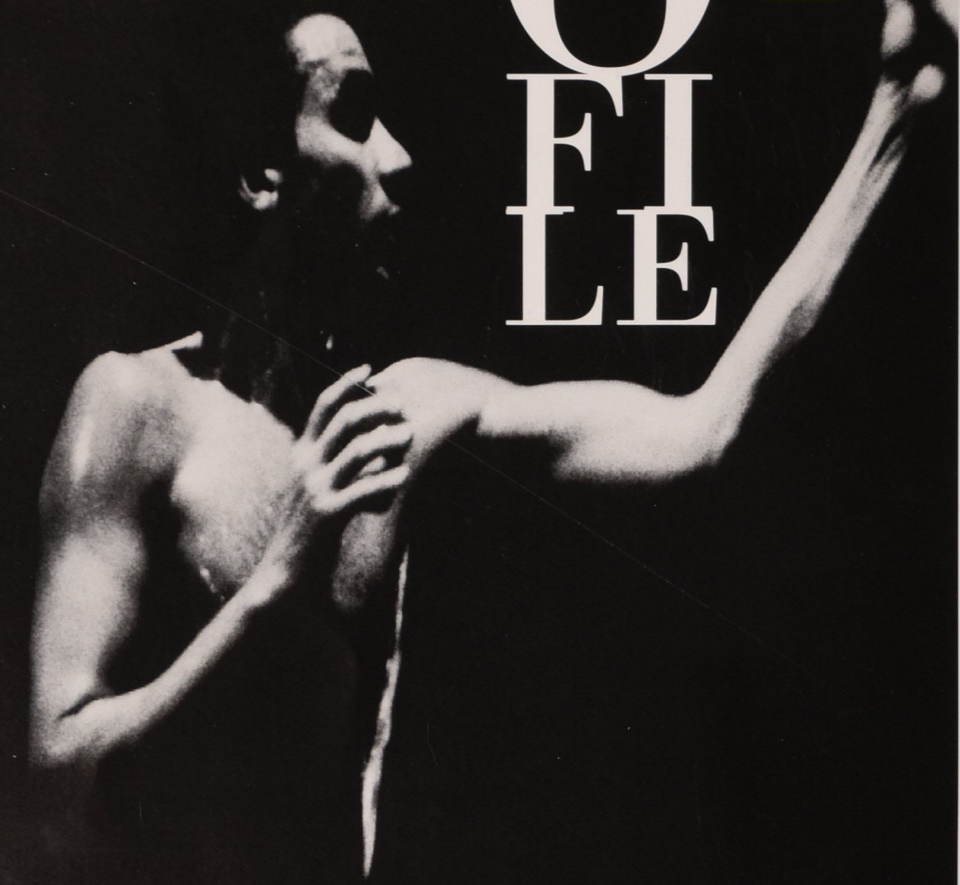
Bangarra

Now Accessible via

Bangarra now has its very own
E-mail address:
bangarra@ozemail.com.au

PR O F I L E

GARY LANG



Q: What did you do before you joined Bangarra?

My first profession was in Darwin, hairdressing. After my first year or so into my apprenticeship I needed some other form of creative outlet, so I joined NAISDA and AIDT. I'd heard about Bangarra when it had just begun, when I was graduating at NAISDA. I saw that Bangarra would give me greater professional levels to explore. Their was an opening with Bangarra in the middle of 1995. I felt like I needed to move on, needed to broaden my horizons, and Stephen asked me if I would join.

Q: Who have been your mentors and your major influences throughout your career?

I admire my Mum. She brought up two children on her own, and has done some remarkable things. Now she is in the process of publishing a book about our family tree. Also, Dr. Vin Salik (I call her Auntie, out of respect. She's been a family friend for ages) who is an

Adelaide woman who's got a doctorate from Harvard University. She was just a nurse and she wanted to better herself and now look where she is, a highly paid Professor at the Adelaide Uni. In dance, The Alvin Ailey Company gave me real dance inspiration. Such beautiful black dancers and dancing in his company - legs that go for days!

Q: When did you know you wanted to be a performer?

I've always been a performer. When I was only a little child growing up with my Mum, when there was only her and I, she used to put her wedding dress on, and we would dance around the kitchen table. I used to think she was a princess, I liked Cinderella and Snow White and fairy tales and children's stories. Mum used to dress up for me and I used to think "Oh she's so beautiful". This really inspired me, my imagination. I think of fairy tales and story telling as a good medium for people to get lost into and enchanted by.

photographer: Ashley de Prazer

Q: Was there any one event which inspired you to be a dancer?

I've always been interested in dance, and there has always been dance in our family. When I was in Singapore we used to watch the Indian TV channels.



photographer: Greg Barrett

We would watch all the Indian festivals. Just watching their dance was great. Naturally, I watched a great deal of Aboriginal traditional dance - at the Bagot Aboriginal festivals, in Darwin, where I'm from.

Q: If you could change anything at all in the world, what would you change?

People's fears - fear is the root to all evil. When people fear you because of your race or religion or culture. All the negative forms of fear are what I would wish to change. Everything that causes racism, war and hate.

Q: Have you learnt a lot about traditional Aboriginal dance through Bangarra?

I think that comes with the people who work with Bangarra, it's an unspoken thing which they bring with them. Last year Bangarra had a cultural exchange with the Yirrkala people in Eastern Arnhem Land. We performed contemporary dance and they performed traditional dance for us. It was a good exchange, a kind of cultural giving and taking.

Q: What do you consider to be your greatest achievement in your life?

For me it's about setting myself ambitions then doing things and accomplishing them. As with hairdressing and modelling and now dancing, having that ability to say "I want to do that" and then doing it. Enduring the pain of doing it and then coming out on top of it.

Q: How do you relax from the rigours of life as a dancer?

Paint! That's what I do, I paint, listen to music and go out and have a good time - but mostly I just paint.

Q: If you could choreograph a piece for yourself to any music which music would you choose?

At this point in my life I'd love to choreograph something for a group of women to some solo cello music. No particular piece - it's just more the sound and depth of the instrument which I love.

Q: If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you choose to live?

Right here in Australia. I've travelled

Bangarra Receives Major Organisations Fund Support

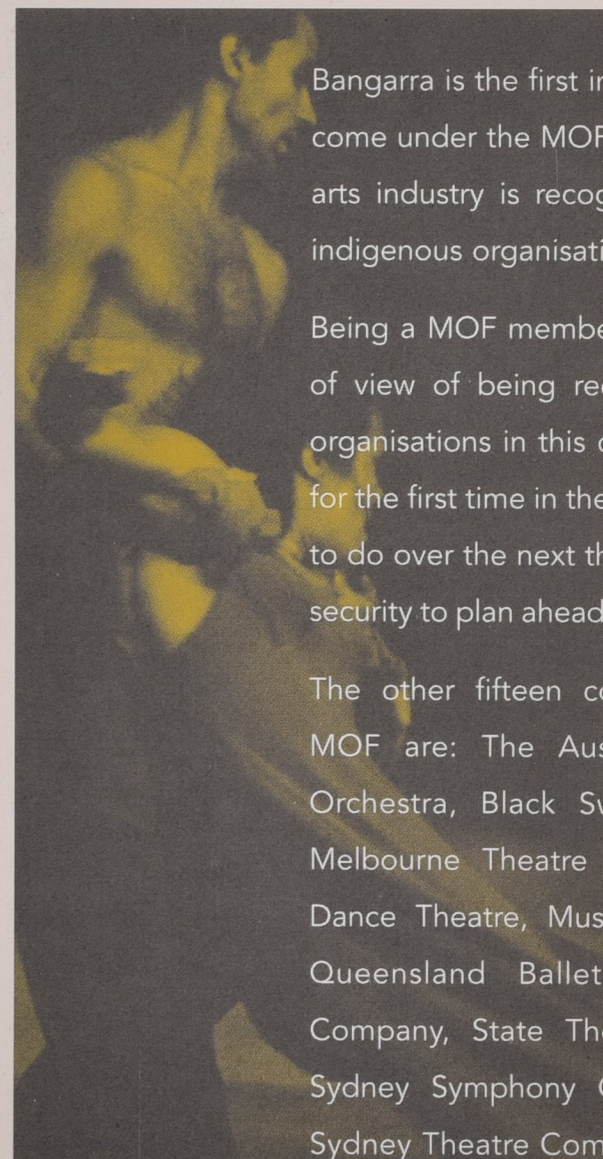
Bangarra will receive funding from the Australia Council's Major Organisations Fund beginning in 1996. The announcement was made in December 1995 and the funding will provide security and stability for the company to further develop.

The Major Organisations Fund was set up by Creative Nation as a way of providing stable funding to major performing arts organisations. In addition to offering financial support, the Fund will also work with the companies to develop industry and policy initiatives on audience development, sponsorship opportunities & management skills.

extensively, and there are places I'd love to go back to. But of all places I'd choose to live it would be Australia, my home, the Northern Territory. I'm a coastal person, a saltwater person.

Q: Have you got any advice for the younger Aboriginal generation?

Firstly, don't give up. Secondly, you've got to sacrifice to gain and finally, try to be a positive role model for the next generation of people.



Bangarra is the first indigenous performing arts company to come under the MOF umbrella, which shows that Australia's arts industry is recognising the importance of the role of indigenous organisations in this country's cultural life.

Being a MOF member is not only beneficial from the point of view of being recognised as one of the leading arts organisations in this country it also means financial security for the first time in the company's history. Bangarra has much to do over the next three years and beyond, and having the security to plan ahead is a large step in achieving these goals.

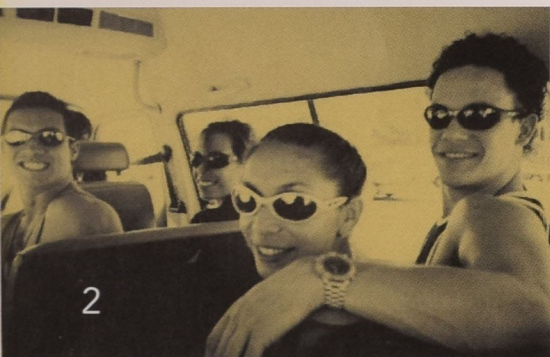
The other fifteen companies already supported by the MOF are: The Australian Ballet, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Black Swan Theatre Company, Circus Oz, Melbourne Theatre Company, Meryl Tankard Australian Dance Theatre, Musica Viva, Playbox Theatre Company, Queensland Ballet Company, Queensland Theatre Company, State Theatre Company of South Australia, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Dance Company, Sydney Theatre Company and the West Australian Ballet.



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BANGARRA

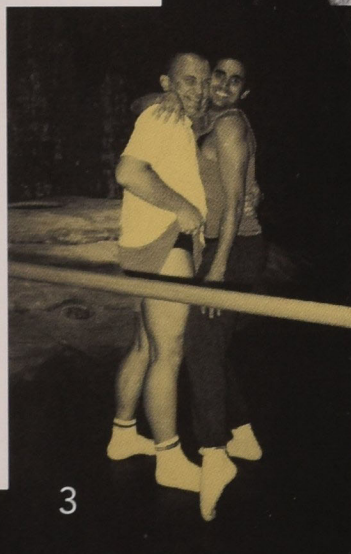
1996 is full of activity on the touring scene for the Bangarra company members. Bangarra's very own Marilyn Miller has become the official tour photographer. Thanks to her we have some happy snaps of the company while they toured to



2

Perth in March, where Bangarra performed at the Sunken Garden, and from the NSW Regional tour, where "Ochres" was performed in Griffith, Broken Hill, Dubbo, Moree, Armidale, Newcastle, Taree, and Lismore during March and April.

Bangarra would like to thank the Festival of Perth and Arts on Tour NSW for making the tours possible, and for their huge support during the tours. We'd also like to thank ATSIC and all of the sponsors who contributed to these touring seasons.



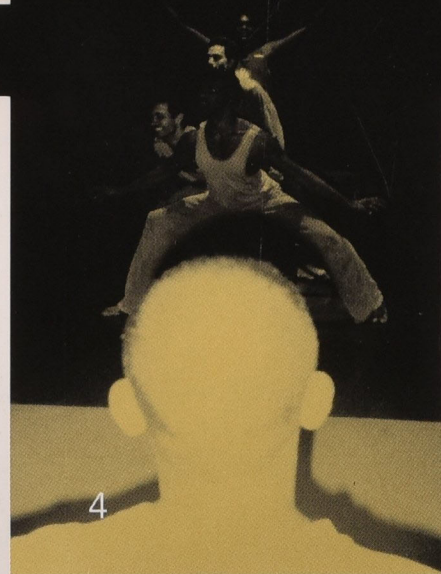
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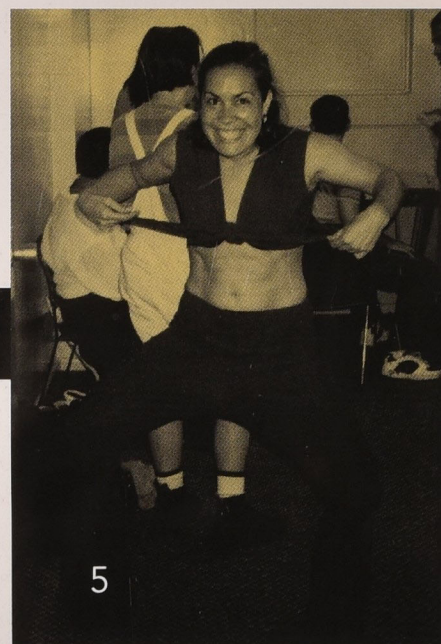
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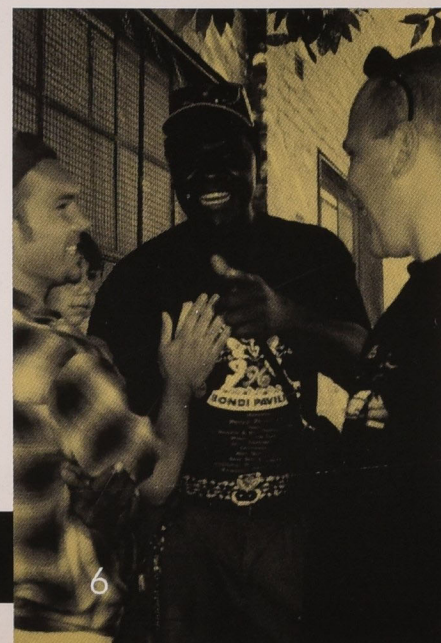
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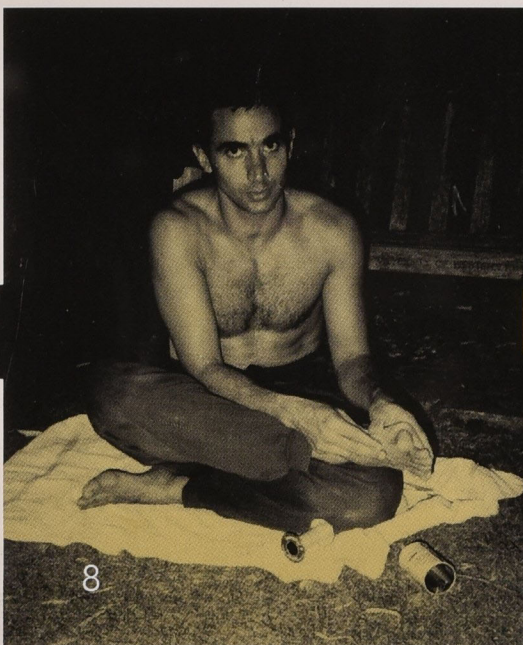
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1. Some of the Bangarra members preparing to depart on the first leg of the NSW Regional tour - L-R: Albert David, Bill Pengelly, Ikaika Farso, Frances Rings, Gary Lang, Djakapurra Munyarryun, Marilyn Miller, Gina Rings, Vicki Jones.

2. In the bus - L-R: Russell Page, Frances Rings, Gina Rings & Kirk Page.

3. Bill Pengelly & Gary Lang 'warming up'.

4. Rehearsal - Back to Front: Djakapurra Munyarryun, Gary Lang, Russell Page, Albert David, back of Bill Pengelly's head.

5. Marilyn Miller

6. Saying goodbye out the front of the Bangarra studio in Leichardt -L-R: Stephen Page, Hunter Page, Djakapurra Munyarryun & Bill Pengelly

7. Gina Rings & Albert David in Perth.

8. Gary Lang bandaging- up

9. Family reunion. The 5 "R's", Rhini, Russell, Rikarli, Rayma and Rininya in Griffith.

10. Girls (and one boy) in Perth - L-R: Frances Rings, Marilyn Miller, Kathryn Dunn & Gina Rings holding Ikaika Farso..

11. Girls behind the scenes on NSW regional tour Gwen Steele & Vicki Jones.

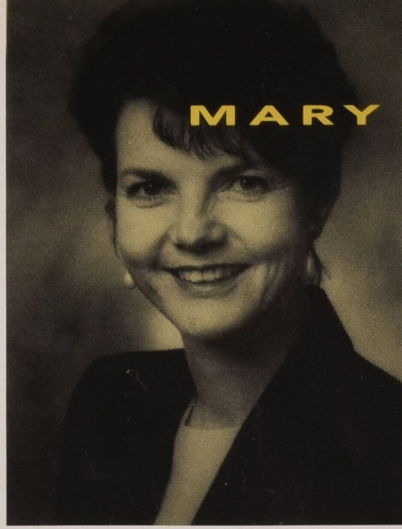
Photographer: Marilyn Miller

Festival of Perth 1996: Photographer: Ashley de Prazer



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Welcome to four new Board members to Bangarra whose variety of skills, experience and energy will be a great boost to the company. They are: Randall Harper (partner in legal firm, Harper Watson), Warwick Hoare (Director of Yann Campbell Hoare Wheeler - a market research firm), Fay Nelson, (recently of ATSIC and now at the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Arts Board at the Australia Council) and Natascha MacNamara (Centre for Indigenous Development Education & Research, Wollongong University).



MARY JO CAPPS

Mary Jo Capps (pictured) is a consultant in the area of arts fundraising, and has been working with Bangarra assisting with a range of management issues and sponsorship development. Her support and expertise is much appreciated by Bangarra

One of Bangarra's major goals this year is to secure major sponsorship, and we hope that in our next newsletter we will be able to report real progress in this area.

Our best wishes go to Terri Janke who recently resigned from the Board due to overwhelming commitments and an ever increasing demand on her time. Bangarra would like to thank her for the contribution which she has made and wishes her every success in the future.

Board Members

Back row - L-R:
Jeanette Cheung, Dawn Willis, Dulcie Flower, Lola Forester, Warwick Hoare, Jan Irvine.

Front seated - L-R: Randall Harper, Fay Nelson, Natascha MacNamara.



Stephen Page, Artistic Director of Bangarra, has won Best Director in the Category of Dance for his direction of "Ochres".

The Green Room awards are announced annually and are judged by leading figures in the performing arts industry in recognition of their peers outstanding achievement for works staged in Melbourne.

The winners of the 1995 awards were announced in February in recognition of excellence in the following categories: Opera, Dance, MusicTheatre, Drama and Fringe Theatre.

"Ochres" played the Victorian Arts Centre in March 1995.

Both Stephen Page and Jan Pinkerton have been nominated for Best Dancers in the Mo Awards for their performances in "Ochres" during 1995.

Your support makes a **big** difference.
Bangarra could not continue its success with out the support of its corporate and individual donors. Why not make a **difference** by sending your tax deductible donation to:

Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia fund
PO Box 224 Leichhardt NSW 2040
ph: (02) 569 4555 fax: (02) 569 4443

Do it before **30 June** and get your tax benefit for this year while **helping** Bangarra make it **big.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Phone: (W) _____ (H) _____

Enclosed is my cheque or money order for \$ _____

Please credit my:

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Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____ / _____

Name of cardholder: _____

Signature: _____

Individual and Corporate support is critical to our continuing success. If you would like to discuss sponsorship opportunities please contact Jan Irvine on (02) 569 4555 of fax: (02) 569 4443. All donations are tax deductible.

Bangarra would like to acknowledge the following organisations for their support...



The company is assisted by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.



This project has been made possible with assistance from the New South Wales Government through the Ministry For The Arts.

Soon you will be able to experience the magic and beauty of "Ochres" on video. The work which has toured nationally and internationally to critical acclaim has now been captured on video. The ABC recorded the full-length version of "Ochres" when it was performed at the Sunken Garden during the Festival of Perth in March this year. Copies of the video will soon be available at all ABC shops and selected outlets. More details will be available in the next issue of the newsletter.

Merchandise Order Form

To place your order, simply fill out this form and return with your payment to:
Bangarra, P.O. Box 224 Leichhardt 2040

Please select the items you would like from the list below.

To be eligible for friends discounts please include your membership number on the order form.

	FRIENDS	NON-MEMBER
OCHRES T-SHIRTS Large & X-large, black or white	\$18	\$20
BASEBALL CAPS - Bangarra motif, black & tan	\$13.50	\$15
"OCHRES" THE MUSIC, CD Soundtrack by David Page	\$25	\$28
"PRAYING MANTIS DREAMING" T-shirts adult sizes	\$12	\$12
"PRAYING MANTIS DREAMING" childrens T-shirt	\$5	\$5
"PRAYING MANTIS DREAMING" Cassettes	ONLY \$5.00 each	

Bangarra Friend M'ship No: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Phone: (W) _____ (H) _____

Enclosed is my cheque or money order for \$ _____

Please credit my:

Bankcard Mastercard Visa Amex

Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____ / _____

Name of cardholder: _____

Signature: _____

Bangarra Merchandise

Please make you cheque or money order payable to Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia.

MAIL ORDERS PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS A POSTAGE & PACKAGING FEE OF \$3.00 FOR PARCELS UP TO 250g. ADD \$5.00 FOR PARCELS OVER 250g.



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Dance

Theatre



photographer: Ashley de Prazer

MEMBERSHIP

Lets Be Friends

Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia wishes to extend to you an invitation to become a Friend. Like any fledgling enterprise, the dance company needs the support of it's friends. Every bit of support we get means we'll grow that much faster and that means more public performances. If you have any good fundraising ideas please let the Friends know, especially if you're willing to work to make them happen.

Benefits

- Discount tickets for all performances.
- Discount on items purchased.
- Social events.
- Your contribution to the growth & success of one of Australia's leading contemporary, indigenous dance theatres.

Designed by Chris Cason Design

Bangarra Friends Application Form

To join, simply fill out this form and return with your payment to:

Bangarra Friends P.O. Box 224 Leichhardt 2040

Membership is valid for one year from date of joining. Please select your membership choice below and indicate all names in Dual and Family Memberships. One membership will be issued in each name.

Single Adult Membership	\$25
Dual Membership	\$40
Family/House (4 persons)	\$60
Concession (Students/Pensioners)*	\$15
Life Membership	\$1,000

*Student/Pension No: _____

Name 1: _____

Name 2: _____

Name 3: _____

Name 4: _____

Address: _____

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Subscribe Now

Please make your cheque or money order payable to Bangarra Friends.

Any other support you can donate to help build this young, dynamic company would be appreciated.

Please indicate any skills or interests you are able to contribute.

The Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia Fund is included on the Register of Cultural Organisations under Sec 78 (1) (a) of the Income Tax Assessment Act (1936). For further information on donations please contact Jeanette Cheung our Financial Controller.