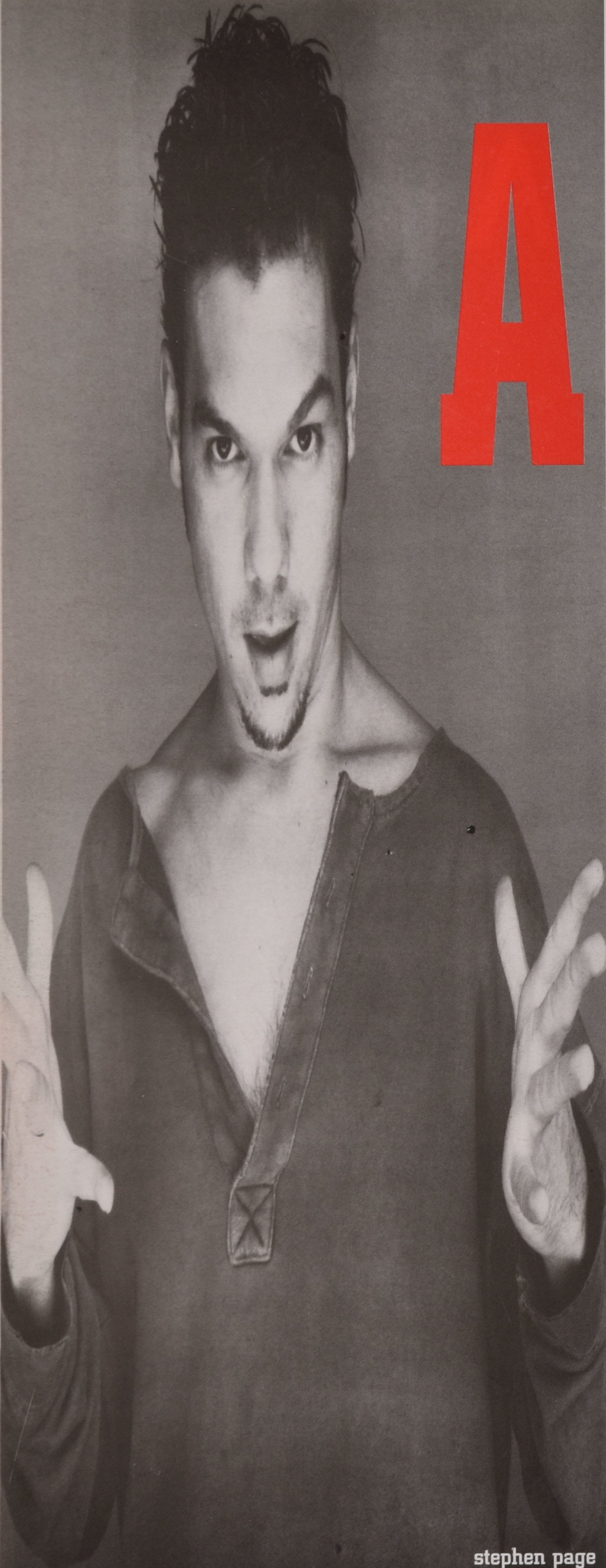


# BANGARRA

newsLetter Oct, '95





stephen page

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## Word from the Artistic Director

I was asked to speak at the 1995 National Aboriginal Dance Conference at the end of September. It was a fruitful space covering a lot of ground. I have summarised the speech I presented at the conference which I believe provides an insight into Bangarra and its role in dance and society.

Bangarra performs to many audiences around the country and the world. To mean something to each of these people in each of these places is a big responsibility. To be more than an artefact, a tourist attraction, a smoke screen covering the truth of our people's existence. To give them a sense of how human nature and experience is fundamentally the same for all peoples all over the world means I am more than an artist-I am an Aboriginal artist.

Bridging the three worlds is the central aim of our work with Bangarra. We hope to provide a link or bridge between mainstream society, Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. That's why I think my work is rather bitter sweet. Full of contrasts - optimistic, depressing, joyful, sad,

shocking and light-hearted. The years of developing close links with Bundak Marika, Djakapurra and Janet Munyarryun and their many families in Yirrkala with my own family, the Munaldjali Clan of the Yugambah Tribe means that our stories, dreaming, dance and song have been shared and preserved.

Our choreography is developing into a particular style - a Bangarra style - which is going to represent a new contemporary urban indigenous Australian dance form. It is a dance that when all Australians see it they see something special. They see something of what it means to be part of this land.

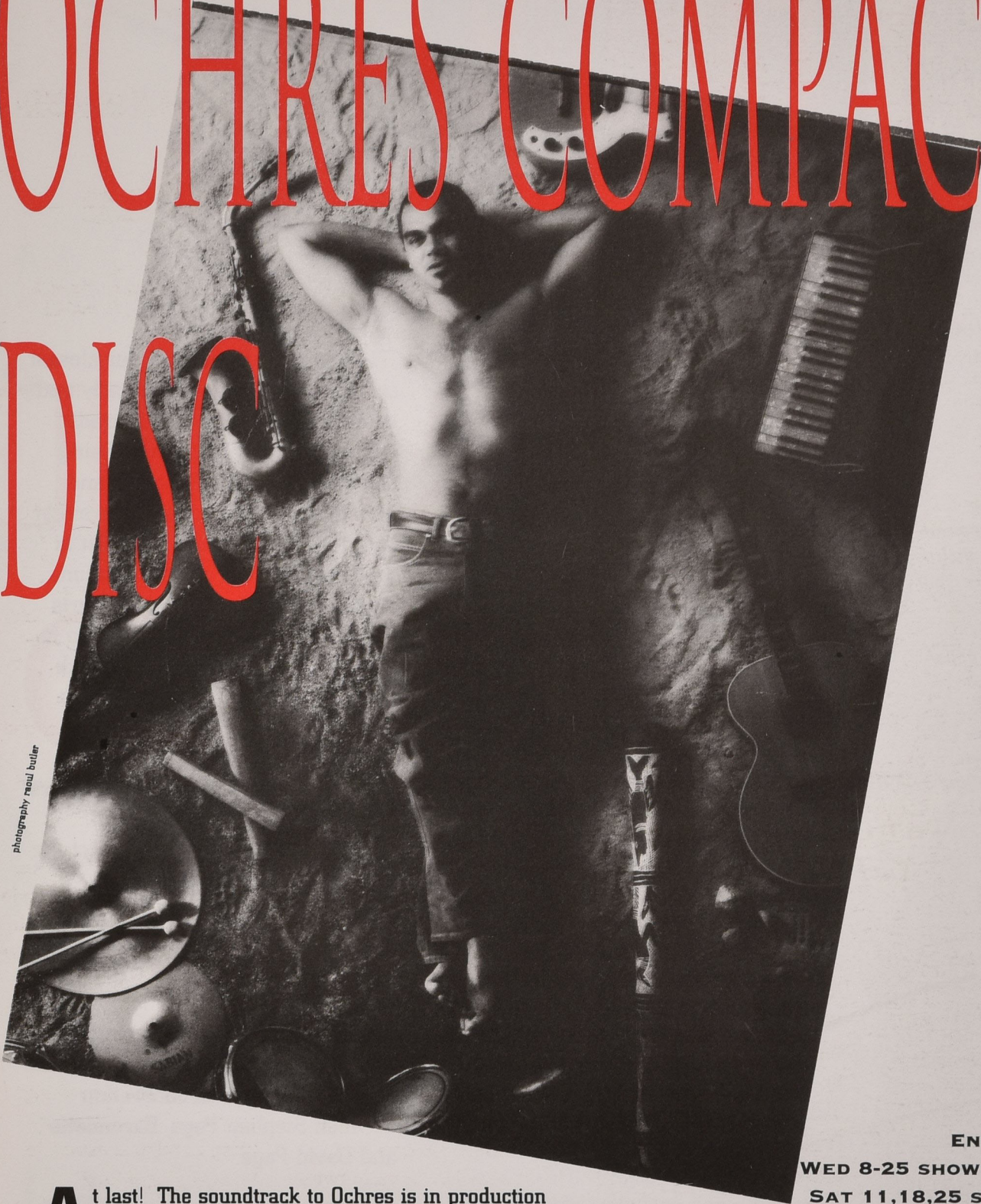
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cover photography tim webster  
editorial photography  
paul sweeney, jan irvine

# OCHRES COMPACT

# DISC

photography paul buller



Wow,  
NOVEMBER  
IS A BUSY  
MONTH FOR US.  
DON'T FORGET  
TO GET IN  
EARLY AND  
BOOK YOUR  
SEATS FOR  
OCHRES AT  
THE ENMORE  
THEATRE  
IN SYDNEY.

# Calendar

**A**t last! The soundtrack to Ochres is in production and will be launched in November to coincide with the Ochres season at the Enmore Theatre this year. Produced by Larrikin records, this is David Page's first full soundtrack on CD.

Drawing from traditional sounds and rhythms, David Page's original scores merges primal sounds and tribal chants with an electronically synthesised score.

NOVEMBER 8-25  
"OCHRES"  
ENMORE THEATRE SYDNEY  
WED 8-25 SHOWS COMMENCE AT 8.30PM  
SAT 11,18,25 SHOWS AT 2PM & 8.30PM  
TUES 14 & 21  
SCHOOL PERFORMANCES AT 2PM

MARCH 1996  
MARCH 1-9, "OCHRES", PERTH FESTIVAL  
THE SUNKEN GARDEN

MARCH 11-30  
OCHRES NSW REGIONAL TOUR:  
GRIFFITH, BROKEN HILL, DUBBO, MOREE,  
ARMIDALE, NEWCASTLE

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

MARCH

## Sponsors and Funding bodies.

The commercial partnerships Bangarra Dance Theatre has formed since our conception and the partnerships of the future are crucial to the continued success of our company.

We would like to acknowledge and extend our thanks to:

CRA, who will be our major sponsor for the Perth Festival Season.

SBS television, for generously agreeing to provide Bangarra with television advertising over the next 18 months. This will of course provide us with excellent coverage in promoting our extensive touring programme.

AAP, Bangarra's longest serving sponsor. In addition to direct sponsorship they will also be providing their resources and expertise to produce our newsletter for 1996.

Storm Communications and Incubator Studios, for producing our last newsletter (which generated an overwhelmingly positive response) and this one. We very much appreciate Amara and Paula's efforts in setting a new standard for our newsletters.

The Australia Council. On top of our general grant the Australia council has extended their support and we have received international touring funds from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board for our Berlin tour and from the Performing Arts Board for our Japan tour. The Japan tour was also supported by The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Elite Performances and Visual Arts Touring Program (EPVAT).

Playing Australia, for making our tour to Arnhem Land possible.

The NSW Ministry for the Arts. This year the Ministry increased their funding of Bangarra and also assisted with the setting up of our new studios in Leichhardt with a capital grant.

ATSIC also contributed to the facilities in our new studio by assisting us with the cost of heating and cooling and for the construction of the sound studio.

Regrettably ATSIC has not been able to continue general funding of Bangarra in 1995, but we look forward to an opportunity to develop our partnership further.

# Profile

Bernadette spent four weeks in Taipei participating in a choreographic workshop at the National Institute of the Arts. She was a member of a group of 6 choreographers from Australia, Japan and Taiwan who took part in the workshop. Her trip to Taipei gave Bernadette the opportunity to work closely with dance students and other choreographers. It was a time of intense creative workshopping, of breaking down communication barriers and re-evaluating one's motives and objectives.

Bernadette's participation in the workshops was made possible by the Performing Arts Board of the Australia Council.

Bernadette is the Assistant Artistic director of Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia. She graduated from NAISDA (National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association) in 1989 with an Associate Diploma in Dance and then went on to dance professionally with Dance North from 1990-1994. While performing with Dance North Bernadette has participated in many previous cultural exchanges in Shanghai, Japan and Vietnam.

"The Asian countries are our closest counterparts both economically and culturally. There are more trade and economic relationships being cultivated between Australia and Asia everyday. To create interest in the cultural arena and to assist in the breakdown of communications barriers, the promotion of the arts has a particularly important role to play, one with huge potential both culturally and economically," says Bernadette.

In 1994 Bernadette joined Bangarra Dance Theatre, in her current position, her role being to assist the Artistic Director and Resident Composer in developing and stabilising the creative vision of the company.

Ochres is Bangarra's most successful production to date and is the result of this new collaboration between Stephen Page, Bernadette and David Page.

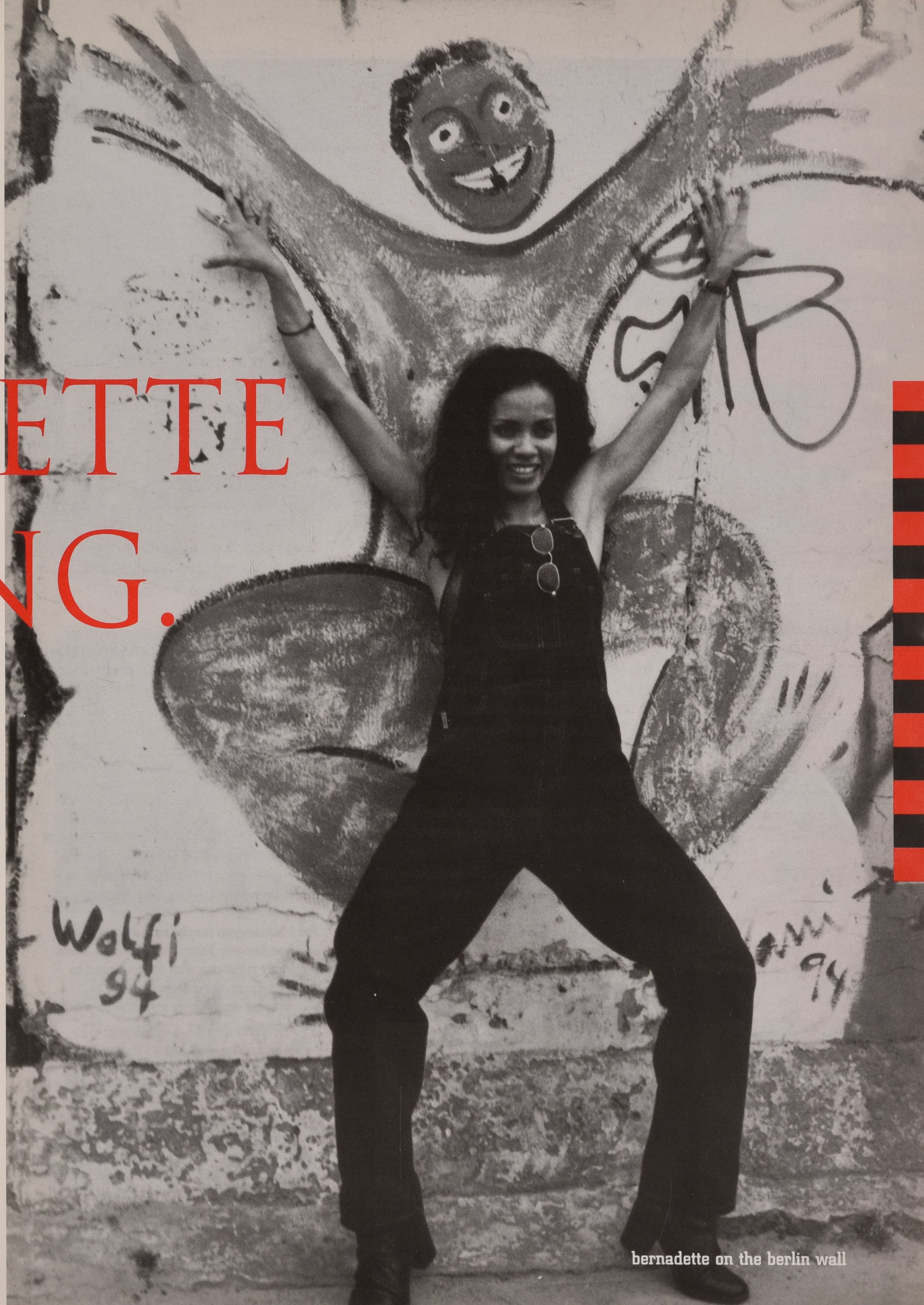


Graham Butler, Acting Head of Marketing SBS, Lola Forester, Chair person Bangarra, David Page Composer, Bangarra



Bernadette in Taiwan

# BERNADETTE WALONG.



bernadette on the berlin wall

# TORRES IN BERLIN



*The company on arrival at Berlin Airport*

**S**tarting in Berlin, followed by a tour to Arnhem Land, August proved to be a hectic month for the company. Performing to some of the largest dance audiences ever, at the House of World Cultures, Bangarra took Berlin by storm.

The fusion of contemporary dance with traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance techniques impressed many Germans. The combination of what might appear to be a dance dichotomy had critics enraptured. Interestingly, there was also another school of thought on this fusion. Some Germans perceived this cross-cultural technique as "meddling with pure culture". This concept provoked numerous discussions on culture and dance.

The dancers thoroughly enjoyed Berlin, making the most of German hospitality, food and beer. Our hosts at the House of World Cultures were also extremely helpful, friendly and most generous with their time and resources.

Hot on the heels of Berlin came the Arnhem Land tour. Bangarra toured Yirrkala, Dhalinybuy, Milingimbi and Galiwinku from August 23 until September 9.

The tour provided many challenges to the production team and dancers, performing in parks, basketball courts and football fields with lighting ranging from portable flood lights to car headlights.

The geographical isolation of these communities sometimes made travel a challenge. Access to Milingimbi and Galiwinku required charter flights and the use of local school and community vehicles. Despite initial scepticism about this mob from the city each community responded extremely positively to the company's performances and workshops.

The Munyarryun family, in particular, Janet and her parents, Johnny and Belinda, were extremely generous with their support in supplying everything from bedding to encouraging community members to attend the performances.

The accommodation was rudimentary but the experience of performing to these audiences was exhilarating. Given the initial reluctance, the response was tremendous. In Yirrkala, Djakapurra Munyarryun was hailed as a local star. In Dhalinybuy and Milingimbi, the audience even joined in the dance.

Company with Berlin teacher performer, Sabina Lenke



Albert David and Stephen Page



Bernadette Walong, Berlin



Djakapurra Munyarryun at the House of World Cultures, Berlin



Bernadette Walong, Taiwan



Arnhem Land Tour

The local councils and schools of Milingimbi and Galiwinku assisted Bangarra wherever they could.

This tour was a most challenging and enriching experience for all company members and we hope that we can continue contact with these communities in the future. They have much to teach us.

We are most grateful to Playing Australia for making this tour possible and we would also like to thank Show Travel for coordinating our rather complicated travel arrangements.

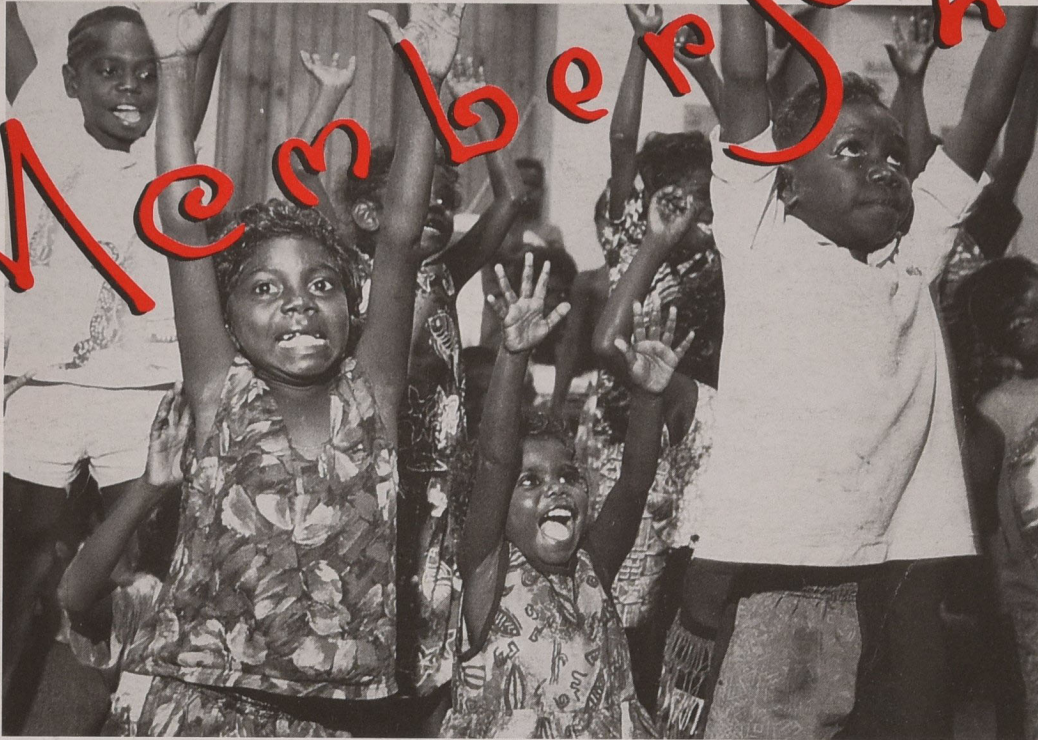


Arnhem Land Tour

# WARRIORS IN ACTION

# BANGARRA

# Membership



## LETS BE FRIENDS

**Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia** wishes to extend to you an invitation to become a Friend. Like any fledging enterprise, the dance company needs the support of its 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 OF MEMBERSHIP

- Discount tickets for all performances.
- Discount on items purchased.
- Invitation to meet the dancers.
- Your contribution to the growth and success of one of Australia's leading professional contemporary, indigenous dance theatres.

## SUBSCRIBE NOW

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

Name 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Name 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Name 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Name 4: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make you 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 below any skills or interests you are able to contribute.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_