

COMPANY PROFILE 2011

Bangarra is Australia's premier Indigenous performing arts company. Established in 1989, Bangarra produces distinctive dance theatre productions that tour each year to capital cities, regional towns and remote communities of Australia. As cultural ambassadors, Bangarra presents its truly Australian contemporary Indigenous theatrical experiences throughout the world.

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Stephen Page since 1991, Bangarra embraces, celebrates and respects Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their cultures. Always uplifting and deeply moving, Bangarra unifies the past and the present by connecting traditional Indigenous culture with our contemporary lives.

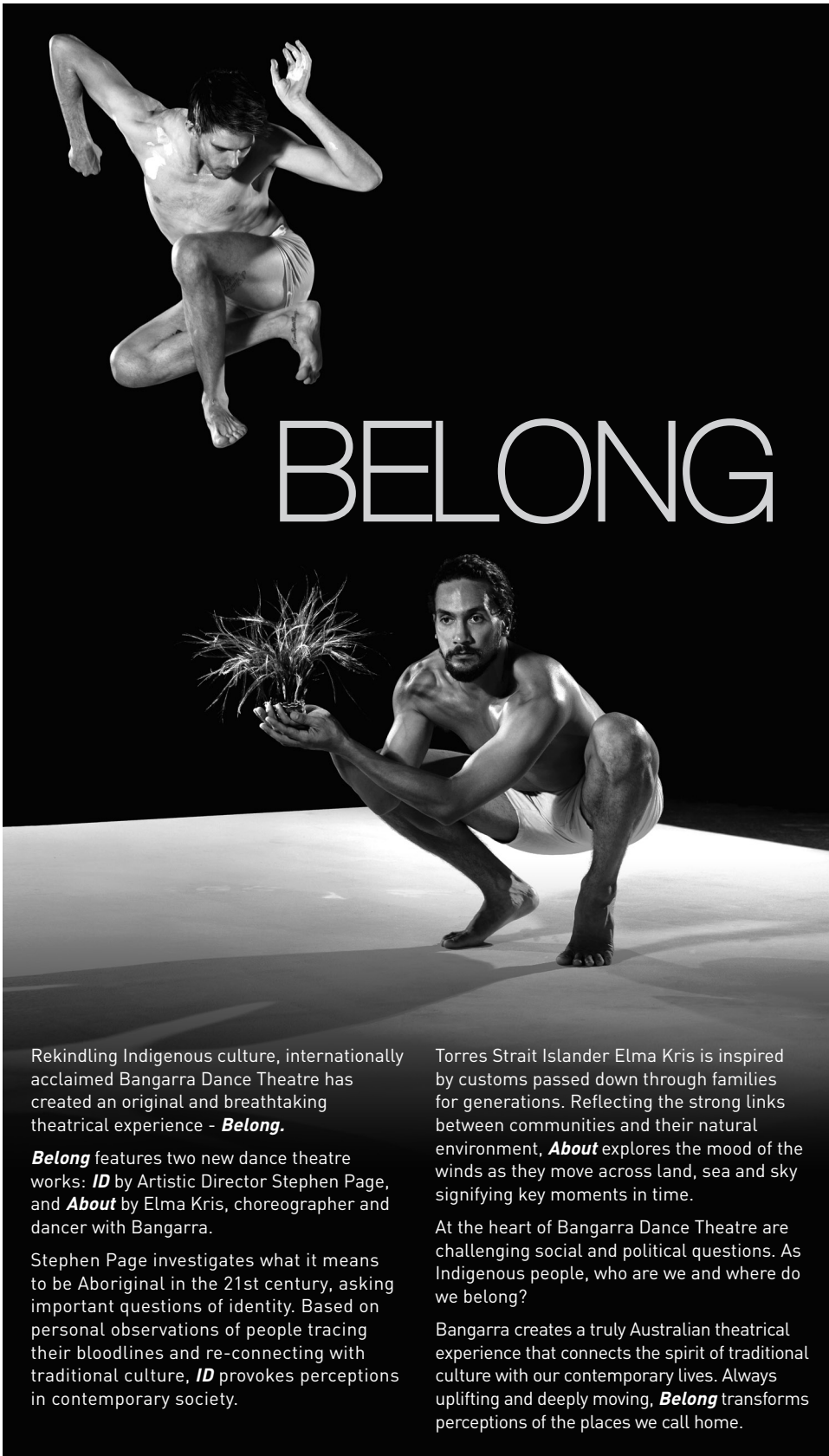
Bangarra has created an extraordinary signature body of work that has secured the company's national and international reputation. Stephen Page is committed to developing the next generation of Indigenous storytellers by mentoring creative artists and providing opportunities for Indigenous young people.

Four artists-in-residence have been appointed to Bangarra in 2011: Kathy Marika, Jacob Nash, David Page and Frances Rings. A new Indigenous trainee program has enabled three young Aboriginal theatre practitioners to join Bangarra for formal training and career development.

With studios based in the arts precinct at Walsh Bay in Sydney, the company has 15 dancers who come from all over Australia reflecting many Aboriginal and Torres Strait cultures. Bangarra is a significant Indigenous employer with 70% of its 34 full time staff being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent. The board is chaired by Larissa Behrendt who is a leading Aboriginal lawyer and academic.

Supported by our enthusiastic audiences, the Commonwealth and NSW Governments, a loyal cohort of corporate sponsors and a number of outstandingly generous private donors, Bangarra plays an important role in Australia's creative and cultural future.

Bangarra Dance Theatre would like to pay our respects and acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we gather. Bangarra also acknowledges the traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose customs and cultures inspire our work.



Rekindling Indigenous culture, internationally acclaimed Bangarra Dance Theatre has created an original and breathtaking theatrical experience - **Belong**.

Belong features two new dance theatre works: **ID** by Artistic Director Stephen Page, and **About** by Elma Kris, choreographer and dancer with Bangarra.

Stephen Page investigates what it means to be Aboriginal in the 21st century, asking important questions of identity. Based on personal observations of people tracing their bloodlines and re-connecting with traditional culture, **ID** provokes perceptions in contemporary society.

Torres Strait Islander Elma Kris is inspired by customs passed down through families for generations. Reflecting the strong links between communities and their natural environment, **About** explores the mood of the winds as they move across land, sea and sky signifying key moments in time.

At the heart of Bangarra Dance Theatre are challenging social and political questions. As Indigenous people, who are we and where do we belong?

Bangarra creates a truly Australian theatrical experience that connects the spirit of traditional culture with our contemporary lives. Always uplifting and deeply moving, **Belong** transforms perceptions of the places we call home.

Photo by: Jason Capobianco. Dancers: Daniel Riley McKinley and Waanganga Blanco

THANKS TO OUR
SUPPORTIVE
GOVERNMENT
FUNDERS
AT FEDERAL
AND STATE
LEVELS AND TO
OUR VALUED
SPONSORS



PROGRAM – 75 minutes plus 20 minutes interval

ABOUT by Elma Kris – 30 minutes

Storyteller Elma Kris

Zey *Wind Spirit* – Deborah Brown
Yolande Brown, Tara Gower, Ella Havelka,
Tara Robertson

Kuki *Wind Spirit* – Sidney Saltner
Full Ensemble

Naygay *Wind Spirits* – Yolande Brown and
Patrick Thaiday
Leonard Mickelo and Tara Gower
Jhuny-Boy Borja and Jasmin Sheppard
Travis de Vries and Tara Robertson

Sager

Wind Spirit – Waangenga Blanco
Elma Kris

Kaima Eso Full Ensemble

ID by Stephen Page – 45 minutes

Initiate Daniel Riley McKinley, Deborah
Brown and Ella Havelka, Waangenga
Blanco, Tara Gower, Leonard Mickelo

Caste

Butcher Travis de Vries

Part 1 – Fractions Sidney Saltner or Ella
Havelka, Patrick Thaiday, Yolande Brown,
Jasmin Sheppard, Tara Robertson

Part 2 - Class 7B Elma Kris, Deborah
Brown, Waangenga Blanco, Jhuny-Boy
Borja, Tara Gower, Leonard Mickelo,
Travis de Vries,

Totem

Cloud Yolande Brown, Jasmin Sheppard,
Ella Havelka, Tara Robertson,
Sidney Saltner, Patrick Thaiday

Bark Waangenga Blanco,
Leonard Mickelo, Jhuny-Boy Borja,
Kaine Sultan-Babij, Deborah Brown,
Tara Gower, Ella Havelka, Tara Robertson

Eucalypt Jasmin Sheppard, Sidney
Saltner, Leonard Mickelo, Jhuny-Boy
Borja, Travis de Vries, Kaine Sultan-Babij

Discriminate Patrick Thaiday or
Waangenga Blanco

Kinship Full Ensemble

Trio Jasmin Sheppard, Ella Havelka,
Tara Robertson

Duet Leonard Mickelo, Patrick Thaiday

Quartet/Trio Yolande Brown, Tara
Gower, Sidney Saltner, Jhuny-Boy
Borja, and Deborah Brown,
Waangenga Blanco, Travis de Vries

CREATIVE ARTISTS

Artistic Director	Stephen Page
Rehearsal Director	Catherine Goss
Choreographers	Stephen Page (ID) Elma Kris (About)
Cultural Advisors (ID)	Kathy Balngayngu Marika Djakapurra Munyarayun Peggy Misi
Cultural Advisor (About)	David Page
Composer (ID)	David Page
Composers (About)	Steve Francis
Set Designer	Jacob Nash
Costume Designer	Emma Howell
Lighting Designer	Matt Cox
AV Designer (ID)	Declan McMonagle
Cinematographer	Eric Murray Lui
Dramaturg Advisor (ID)	Alana Valentine

DANCE ENSEMBLE

Dancers	Sidney Saltner Elma Kris Yolande Brown Patrick Thaiday Deborah Brown Jhuny-Boy Borja Waangenga Blanco Tara Gower Leonard Mickelo Daniel Riley McKinley Jasmin Sheppard Ella Havelka Tara Robertson
Trainee Dancers	Travis De Vries Kaine Sultan-Babij

PRODUCTION

Production Manager	Phoebe Collier
Stage Manager	Kate Williams
Head Mechanist	Kayne Johnson
Head Electrician	Pdraig O Suilleabhain
ASM / Costume Supervisor	Emma Howell
ASM (Brisbane)	Millie Adams
Set Construction	Planet Engineering
Scenic Artists	Scenographic Studio
Costume Cutter	Ellen Doyle
Costume Makers	Brett Chamberlain Glenndon Casey Ruby Langton-Batty
Costume Art Finishing	Megan Venhoek
ASM Trainee	Louana Sainsbury

BELONG NATIONAL TOUR 2011

QPAC, Brisbane

1 – 9 July

Sydney Opera House

20 July – 20 August

State Theatre Centre, Perth

25 – 28 August

Canberra Theatre Centre

2 – 3 September

Merrigong Theatre Co, IPAC, Wollongong

8 – 10 September

The Arts Centre, Melbourne

16 – 24 September

Bangarra relies on the generosity of individual Australians to donate to secure our creative and cultural programs.

All donations over \$2 are fully tax deductible and a receipt will be issued for all contributions.

For details see www.bangarra.com.au or email belonging@bangarra.com.au

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