

ADELAIDE FESTIVAL
2 - 18 MARCH 2018



AF

Duration 1hr 15 min, no interval

DANCE / AUSTRALIA

Bennelong

Bangarra Dance Theatre

Thu 15 - Sun 18 Mar | Dunstan Playhouse



Create NSW
Arts, Screen & Culture



adelaidefestival.com.au

EXECUTIVE

Artistic Director
Executive Director

Stephen Page
Philippe Magid

DANCERS

Bennelong
Beau Dean Riley Smith

Elma Kris
Tara Gower
Daniel Riley
Jasmin Sheppard
Tara Robertson
Kaine Sultan-Babij
Luke Currie-Richardson
Rikki Mason

Yolanda Lowatta
Rika Hamaguchi
Tyrel Dulvaire
Glory Tuohy-Daniell
Baden Hitchcock
Ryan Pearson
Lillian Banks
Brad Smith

CREATIVES

Choreography
Set Design
Composer
Costume Design
Lighting Design
Associate Lighting Designer
Dramaturg
Cultural Consultant
Rehearsal Director

Stephen Page
and the Bangarra Dancers
Jacob Nash
Steve Francis
Jennifer Irwin
Nick Schlieper
Sian James-Holland
Alana Valentine
Matthew Doyle
Anton

PRODUCTION

Director, Technical & Production
Production Manager
Company Manager
Stage Manager
Head Electrician
Head of Wardrobe
Head of AV & Sound
Production Coordinator
Touring Show Electrician

John Colvin
Kayne Johnson
Lachlan Bell
Lillian Hannah U
Chris Donnelly
Monica Smith
Andy Lysle
Emjay Matthews
Steve Hendy

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CREATIVE NOTES

Stephen Page
Choreographer

"The remarkable story of Woollarawarre Bennelong is one that resonates deeply. He was a traditional man who was, against his initial will, shown a European way of life, and became an intermediary between his clan and the colonialists. It was a duality that cost him dearly on both sides. Never quite belonging to his new tribe, and earning suspicion from the old, Bennelong paid the price of first contact by being exiled from both communities."

Alana Valentine
Dramaturg

"As dramaturg on *Bennelong*, it has been my role to funnel both information and inspiration into Stephen's already vital flow of unique insights and creative energy. Stephen's genius as a theatre maker is to understand and acknowledge and draw from the historical record, but as with so many Bangarra productions, to use it as a point of departure from which to take off into his own experience and that of his remarkable dancers. To ask questions about the frustrations, joys, compromises, griefs and survival dimensions of contemporary life for First Nations people."

Steve Francis
Composer

"When Stephen and I had our first meeting, he told me he was interested in creating a work that not only honoured the amazing story of the man himself and those around him, but also one that spoke to the past and the present; A work that was both narrative and yet abstract; operatic one moment and intimate the next."

Jacob Nash
Set Designer

"As a traditional man, Bennelong's life changed forever through the arrival of the First Fleet. He faced challenges that no Aboriginal man had encountered before. For me, his legacy and spirit are ever present on this Country and I hope the design for *Bennelong* begins to reflect these ideas; sacred, contemporary and strong."

Jennifer Irwin
Costume Designer

"Bangarra costumes are designed knowing they will be layered with ochre night after night – they transform into living, moving works of art. Every dancer is so individual that their costumes can look completely different to how they started. I love this process as I'm inspired by texture and fabrics and seeing them evolve throughout the season, and it means each costume tells its own story."

Nick Schlieper
Lighting Designer

"Bennelong may be a far better known figure than Patyegarang, but it's amazing how much we don't know about him. Yet, he played such a central role in the first relations between black and white people in this country. Once again, it's left to Bangarra to do what they do so well: imaginatively fill in the gaps with their unique style of dance theatre."

CREATING *BENNELONG*

Bennelong tells the remarkable story of Woollarawarre Bennelong, a senior man of the Eora, from the Port Jackson area in Sydney. In 1789, he was captured and brought into the settlement at Sydney Cove by order of Governor Phillip, who wanted to learn about Australia's First Nations Peoples. He quickly learned English and found himself with a foot in both worlds, but not fully accepted by either. Through diplomacy, this conflicted man played a critical role in first contact and led his community to survival, until the tragic end of his life.


The question of how we move forward while still being connected to our culture and heritage has inspired much of my life's work. Bennelong is in all of us, as we navigate the ancient and the modern elements of our lives. More than two centuries after his death, telling his extraordinary story and sharing his journey is a powerful reminder that there is still a long way for us to go before we can say we're at a place of true equality.

I am indebted to the talents and generosity of Bangarra's dancers, who have helped me create this work. Their spirit makes Bangarra stronger. Thank you to Beau Dean Riley Smith for taking the journey of *Bennelong* with me, for his curiosity and commitment to discovering the many facets of this fascinating man. Thank you also to Daniel Riley and Elma Kris, who have brought a special energy to this creative process.

Thank you to Bangarra's creative clan for listening to the stories and ideas and bringing them to life – Set Designer Jacob Nash, Composer Steve Francis, Costume Designer Jennifer Irwin and Lighting Designer Nick Schlieper – and to our Production Manager Kayne Johnson and Rehearsal Director Anton.

There are two people who assisted me enormously in shaping *Bennelong*. Muruwari/Eora man and cultural consultant Matthew Doyle was invaluable in sharing his peoples' stories and re-awakening the song of *Bennelong*; and Dramaturg Alana Valentine, who was instrumental in drawing out and carefully curating the spirit and structure of this world and the characters who inhabit it.

It has been almost two years since my brother David passed away, and we all miss him dearly. His memory, his spirit and his legacy continues with every step we take on the stage.



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<p>Mayflower 45 King William St. <i>French Classic Australian</i></p> <p>FESTIVAL DEAL Chef Bethany Finn's recommended dinner menu of main and dessert with a glass of wine, \$59pp.</p>	<p>Jolleys Boathouse 1 Jolleys Lane, Adelaide <i>River Torrens Modern Australian</i></p> <p>FESTIVAL DEAL Enjoy a two-course dinner (entrée and main OR main & dessert) including a glass of wine for \$49pp.</p>	<p>Kaffana 27 Gilbert Place, Adelaide <i>Serbian Hearty Plates</i></p> <p>FESTIVAL DEAL Mention the "Festival Deal" and receive a free glass of wine with our Mixed Tapas Selection, \$24pp.</p>
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