

SPIRIT



Photo Greg Barrett

SPIRIT PROGRAM / DANCES

Wirrkul Manda / Creation

Kathy Balngayngu Marika & Female Ensemble

Creation story from North East Arnhem Land of two sisters birthing the land: 'they sang the songs and danced over the land...created all living things.'

OCHRES (excerpts)

BLACK

Daniel Riley McKinley, Jhuny-Boy Borja, Waangenga Blanco, Leonard Mickelo,

Men's business, and the initiation of young men, is witnessed at a distance. The painted ochre on skin is a symbol of spiritual and medicinal power, as boys become men and take their place in our contemporary world.

WHITE

Tara Gower, Jasmin Sheppard, Ella Havelka

There is a stillness to the natural environment; it is the moment of silence in which nature is reborn.

RED

Kaine Sultan Babij & Deborah Brown

About male and female relationships and the customs of many families within different clans, respecting each other's energies but maintaining a spiritual distance.

YELLOW

Yolande Brown, Jasmin Sheppard, Tara Gower, Ella Havelka, Tara Robertson

Young contemporary Aboriginal women connecting to Mother Earth reflecting the shape of the land which rejuvenates their spirits.

WARRANG / DINGO

Daniel Riley McKinley, Waangenga Blanco & Male Ensemble

Inspired by the initiation of boys to men, taking on the fearless nature of the dingo.

BLANKETS

Full Ensemble

Representing the hand-outs under colonial rule, the poison of infected blankets and the symbolism of Aboriginal culture being smothered.

DHUM DHUM / BUSH WALLABY

Kathy Balngayngu Marika and male ensemble

Energy of male performers mimicking the spirit of the bush wallaby.

DHUMAR / MOTH

Deborah Brown & Leonard Mickelo

As we watch the moth emerge and transform, we witness the human life cycle, the passing on of knowledge and the resilience of spirit.

NANOOK / STICK

Elma Kris, Waangenga Blanco, Kaine Sultan Babij, Jhuny-Boy Borja

Mimi spirits appear as messengers. They are mischievous, and bring a sign or warning of things to come. They teach us the rituals of hunting, gathering and ceremony.

CALL

Daniel Riley McKinley

Challenges of being Indigenous men in the contemporary world, calling on their connections to traditional land and culture to give them strength

PASSING

Womens Ensemble. Solo: Yolande Brown. Trio: Yolande Brown, Deborah Brown, Tara Gower

Women cleansing their bodies through a 'gapu' fresh water dance in preparation for ceremony.

GIFT

Mens Ensemble. Solo: Jhuny Boy Borja

Men surrendering their protective male energies to allow themselves to mourn.

CEREMONY

Kathy Balngayngu Marika and Ensemble

The ritual of completeness coming at the final stages of ceremony in the celebration of death and rebirth.

Credits

Artistic Director & Choreographer	Stephen Page
Co-choreographer	Frances Rings
Choreographer (Yellow)	Bernadette Walong-Sene
Composers	David Page & Steve Francis
Cultural Consultant	Kathy Balngayngu Marika
Set Designer	Peter England
Costume Designer	Jennifer Irwin
Lighting Designers	Nick Schlieper, Jo Mercurio, Trudy Dalglish and Karen Norris
Artistic Assistant & Rehearsal Director	Catherine Goss

Musical Collaborators

Sarah Blasko	Deborah Brown	Angela Johnson
Kathy Marika	Djakapurra Munyarryun	Peggy Misi
Ursula Yovich	Jamie Wanambe	Leon Wanambe

Dancers

Kathy Balngayngu Marika	Daniel Riley McKinley
Elma Kris	Jasmin Sheppard
Yolande Brown	Ella Havelka
Deborah Brown	Tara Robertson
Jhuny-Boy Borja	Travis De Vries
Waangenga Blanco	Kaine Sultan Babij
Tara Gower	Luke Currie-Richardson (Trainee Dancer)
Leonard Mickelo	

Bangarra Dance Theatre

MANAGEMENT

Artistic Director	Stephen Page
Executive Director	Catherine Baldwin
Manager, Finance & Operations	Ashwin Rathod
Business Manager	Michael O'Rourke
Manager, Marketing & Communications	Nathalie Vallejo
Cultural Program & Company Manager	Amy Hammond
Marketing & Communications Coordinator	Sarah Whelan
Digital & Media Coordinator	Carolyn Hammer
Marketing & Development Assistant	Ellen Watts
Administration Coordinator	Helen Anu
Workshop Leader	Sidney Saltner

ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

Kathy Balngayngu Marika
Jacob Nash
David Page
Hetti Perkins
Frances Rings

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Larissa Behrendt, Chair
Nicky Andrews
Tanya Hosch
Nicola Kaldor
Michael McDaniel
Stephen Page
Greg Phillips
Lynn Ralph
Paul Wand AM

Bangarra would like to pay our respects and acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land on which we gather. Bangarra also wishes to acknowledge the traditional Indigenous peoples whose customs and cultures inspire our work.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are advised that Spirit may contain images and voices of people who are deceased.

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