

BANGARRA

ivis DANCE THEATRE

Direct from smash hit
seasons at the
Edinburgh Festival &
The Festival of
the Dreaming

Enmore Theatre
4 to 29 March

Ticketek on line
9266 4800

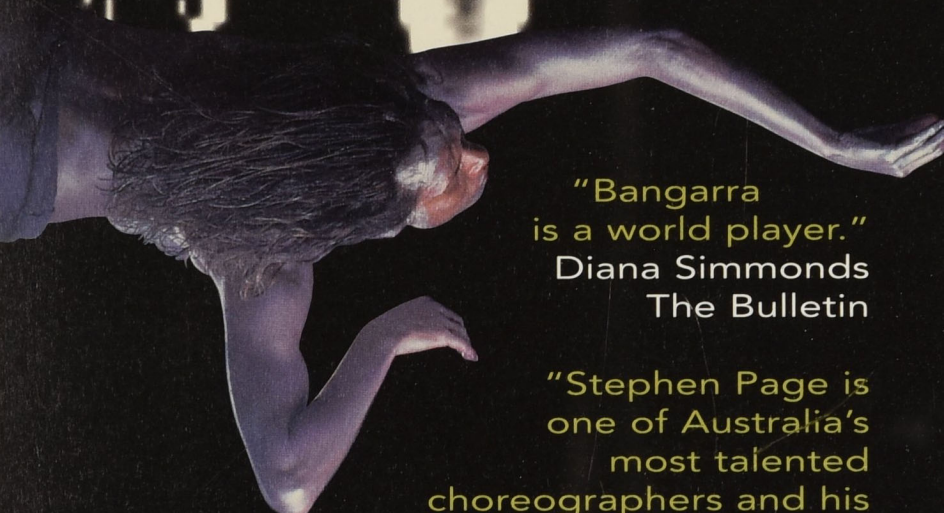
Media sponsor



WORLD NEWS AT NINE

ivis

fish

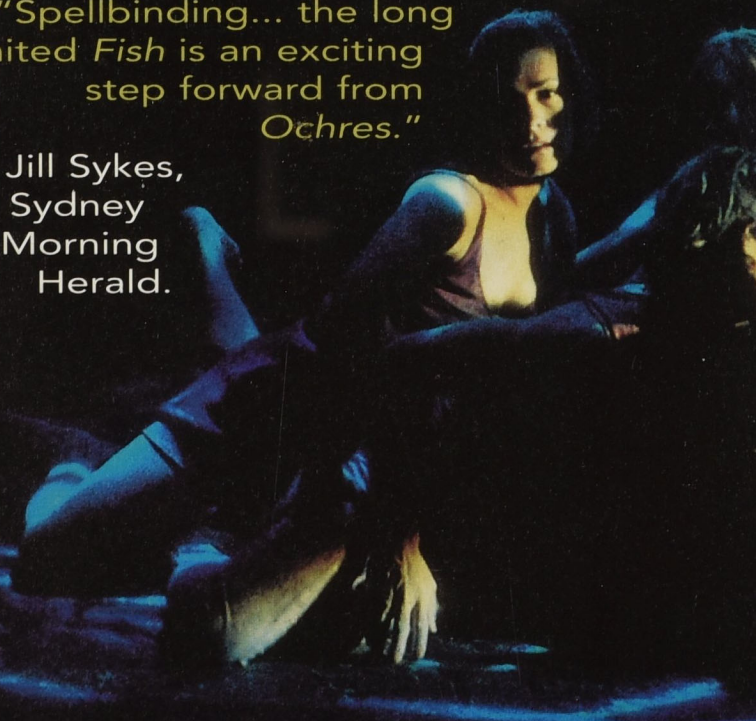


"Bangarra
is a world player."
Diana Simmonds
The Bulletin

"Stephen Page is
one of Australia's
most talented
choreographers and his
blend of dance styles,
traditional Aboriginal and
contemporary, is unique...a beautiful-
looking piece that deserves a wide
audience." Valerie Lawson
Australian Financial Review.

"Spellbinding... the long
awaited *Fish* is an exciting
step forward from
Ochres."

Jill Sykes,
Sydney
Morning
Herald.



BANGARRA

DANCE THEATRE



A journey through three worlds.

Director and choreographer **Stephen Page**

Composer **David Page**

Cultural design **Djakapurra Munyarryun**

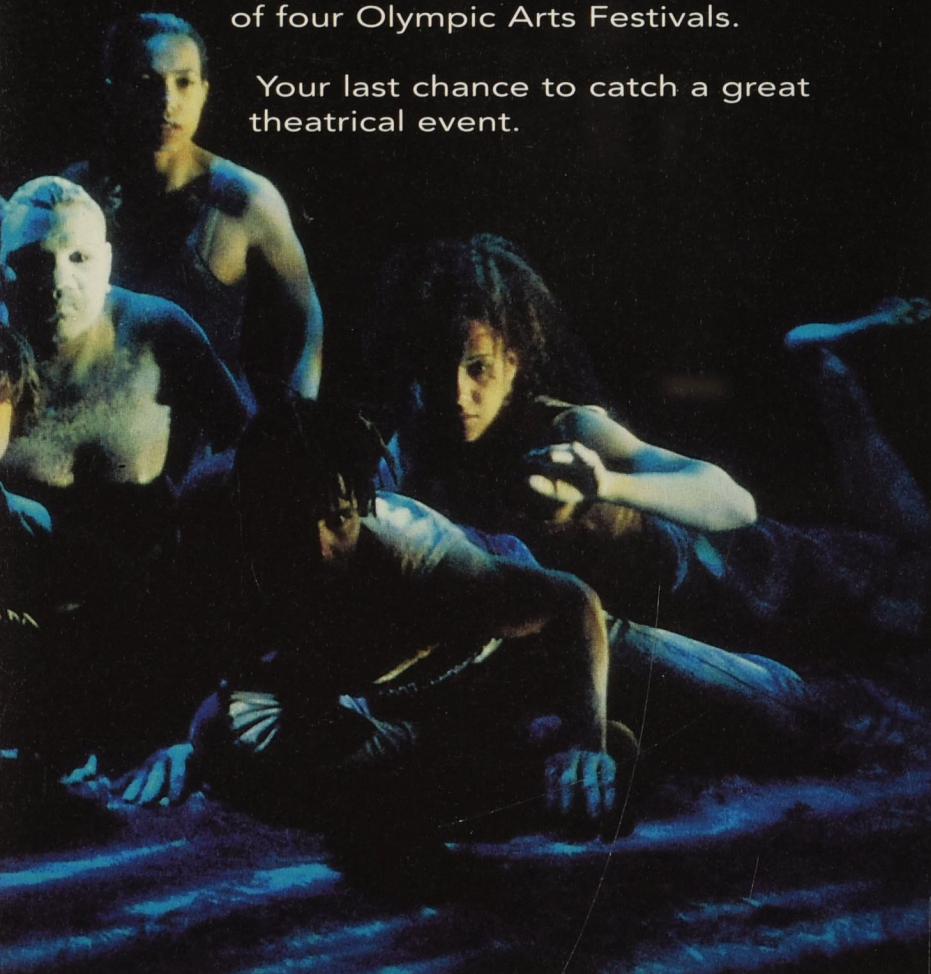
Set design **Peter England**

Costume design **Jennifer Irwin**

Lighting design **Mark Howett**

Bangarra's highly acclaimed *Ochres* explored the land and our relationship to it; *Fish* continues the story with its journey through three water worlds of Swamp, Traps and Reef. Premiered at the 1997 Edinburgh Festival, *Fish* played to sell-out houses during its Sydney Opera House season in The Festival of the Dreaming, the first of four Olympic Arts Festivals.

Your last chance to catch a great theatrical event.



BANGARRA

DANCE THEATRE

Enmore Theatre

In dance mode

118-132 Enmore Road, Newtown

Box Office

(02) 9550 3666

9am to 6pm Monday to Friday

10am to 4pm Saturday.

From 4 hours prior on Sundays

Ticketek on line 9266 4800

www.ticketek.com.au

(secure booking on the web)

Ticket prices

Tuesday to Thursday & Sunday

\$33/\$20 concession & full time students

Groups of 6+ \$28

School groups 20+ \$12

Friday & Saturday

\$38/\$28 concession & full time students

Groups of 6+ \$33

Prices subject to booking & transaction fees

Performance dates and times

Wednesday 4 March to Sunday 29 March

Tuesday to Saturday at 8pm

Sunday 5pm

Wednesday 18 & 25 March at 2pm

Running time

Approximately 65 minutes

Discounts

The concession price is available to pensioners, Seniors unemployed and full time students.

Proof of entitlement may be required at time of booking or collection of tickets. The group price is available to groups of six or more people.

Public transport

Buses

423, 426 & 428 (from Circular Quay & Central Station)

drop off minutes from theatre

Trains

Newtown Station is 2 blocks from the theatre

(2 stops from Central Station)

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WORLD NEWS AT NINE



Founding Sponsor



Fish



Run a business from up here?



Easy

Telstra

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Bangarra Dance Theatre

presents

Fish

Swamp, Traps, Reef

A work in three parts

A journey through three worlds

directed and choreographed by Stephen Page

Produced in association with the Olympic Arts' Festivals

Bangarra is proud to have as their patron-in-chief
His Excellency the Honourable Sir William Deane, AC, KBE
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Bangarra Dance Theatre

For many audiences, the impact of a Bangarra performance is both intense and indescribable. They are touched by the work in ways they cannot completely fathom, in ways they find moving and mysterious. To Bangarra, the energy is not so much mysterious as magical, and can be attributed to the strength of the artistic process they employ, the artistic kinship of the creative team. Drawing on the most ancient of cultures, Bangarra brings alive the essence of the old in starkly contemporary form.

From all over Australia, Bangarra's artists have come together to form a unique contemporary clan - a tribe that embraces both of Australia's Indigenous peoples and speaks in an astonishing new language of dance and of song. The uniqueness of the language lies in its hybridity: its ability to fuse stories and songs as timeless as the land from which they are drawn with the contemporary experiences and realities of the Aboriginal and Islander people who have made the cities their home. The injection of energy from the very core of the land that is provided by the Munyarryun Clan in Arnhemland acts to preserve Bangarra's artistic and cultural integrity even as it extends its value, and enhances its effect. Bangarra thus demonstrates the beauty, the sophistication and the ongoing evolution of Aboriginal and Islander cultures, embodying an energy that enlivens and inspires.

Creative Team

Director/Choreographer:	Stephen Page
Original score by:	David Page
Cultural design:	Djakapurra Munyarryun
Set design:	Peter England
Costume Design:	Jennifer Irwin
Lighting Design:	Mark Howett
Set Construction:	Diversion Production

Music produced and recorded at Timelock Studios by Stephen Francis and David Page.

Cast

Albert David
Lea Francis
Pinau Ghee
Gaven Iahipe
Rayma Johnson
Marilyn Miller
Djakapurra Munyarryun
Gina Rings
Sidney Saltner

NAISDA secondments

Renée Brooke
Elma Kris
Tessa Leahy

Fish premiered at the Edinburgh International Festival for the Arts in August 1997.



Fish

Swamp, Traps, Reef

Enmore Theatre

March 4 - March 29, 1998

Fish

It was with our last work, *Ochres*, that Bangarra cemented our position as one of Australia's most innovative contemporary dance companies. Drawing on the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the land, *Ochres* explored the mystical significance of the substance of ochre, inspired by its spiritual and medicinal power. *Fish* continues the story of the earth and the base power of the elements, taking the journey to the vast bodies of water. As disparate, as diverse as Aboriginal identity itself, *Fish* celebrates the seas, the rivers, the swamps, and the wealth of life and mystery they contain.

Swamp

The swamps and the mangroves are still waters, deep, murky and mystical, a site of great sacredness and spirituality. Drawing on stories and traditions from Dhulambouy, *Swamp* imagines the great swathes of life in the silent depths, fish as unborn souls - fearful of pain, ready for birth, awaiting their moment in the sun.

Traps

Traps juxtaposes Western ways with the ancient, challenging the notion of hooking and gutting with the slow lure and catch of the old. Inspired by the craft and the intricate workmanship of the grand fishing traps from Ramingining, this most contemporary of ballets traces the fishing cycle - the drawing of fish from the water, to the restoration of remains to the earth. Stark consequences flow from disruption to such a cycle, to traditions born in the time of the Dreaming. Without the ritual of return the soul is lost in time and place, grasping after stolen memories, no way of getting home.

Reef

Inspired by the Torres Strait, the vibrant blues, the rich purples, the deep dramatic greens of *Reef* evoke the clash and contrast of culture and colour found at the water's edge. The salt in the air and the strength in the waves, the breath of the wind and the beat of the earth merge into one majestic whole. The exhilaration and energy of life and love are blended in a rich simplicity, as Australia's two Indigenous peoples celebrate the windswept tenderness of the reef.



The Music

Swamp

gulmura
swamp mourning
bilthu
dry mud
dhulu
moondance
wangkayn mala
wirrmu
swamp mourning reprise

featuring:

yirritja language group

djakapurra munyarryun *vocal*, *bilma*,
yirrdaki
guypongura munyarryun *vocal*

yugambeh language group

david page *vocal*
kirk page *vocal*

stephen francis *guitar*

Traps

guttin
foil
lure
catch

featuring:

djakapurra munyarryun *vocal*
david page *vocal*
michelle doolan *vocal*
leroy cummins *vocal*
stephen francis *guitar*
mark overden *piano*
karella mitchell *cello*
milan svab *classical guitar*

Reef

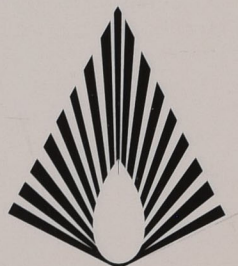
dreamfish
skool
terra'torial
the bottom
belong

featuring:

djakapurra munyarryun *vocal*
david page *vocal*
kirk page *vocal*

kalaw lagaw ya western islands language group

glenda aragu *vocal*
smila sinak *vocal*
helen anu *vocal*
agnus ware *vocal*
stephen francis *guitars*



Stephen Page



Artistic Director and Choreographer

Born in Brisbane, Stephen is a descendant of the Munaldjali Clan of the Yugambah tribe from south east Queensland. Stephen graduated from the National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association (NAISDA) in 1983.

He continued his dance career with Sydney Dance Company, performing in *After Venice*, *Wilderness*, *Nearly Beloved*, *Shining*, *Poppy*, *Cafe*, *soft bruising*, *Company Of Women*, and *King Roger*, touring with the company to Greece, Italy, Japan, Hong Kong and Korea. Graeme Murphy created the role of the Faun for Stephen in *Late Afternoon of a Faun*. In 1991, Stephen choreographed an original work, *Moograh*, for Sydney Dance Company's season *Shakespeare Dances*.

In 1988, he toured with the Aboriginal Islander Dance Theatre to Germany and Finland and was the Artistic Director for NAISDA's show, *Kayn Walu* in 1989. In December 1991, Stephen was commissioned to choreograph Sydney Theatre Company's *Trackers of Oxyrhyncus*. At the same time he choreographed a sextet for The Australian Opera's *Le Nozze Di Figaro*.

Stephen joined Bangarra Dance Theatre as Principal Choreographer in September 1991, choreographing *Up Until Now*. At the end of 1991 Stephen was appointed Artistic Director of Bangarra Dance Theatre. In 1992 he choreographed and directed Bangarra's first full-length work, *Praying Mantis Dreaming*, heralded by critics as "a milestone achievement". The works Stephen has created for Bangarra have toured nationally and internationally to Indonesia, China, Hong Kong, USA and Britain.

Choreographing/Directing Credits include: the dance theatre work *Niki Nali* for Australia Day at Expo '92 Seville, the cultural festival for the Olympic Games in Barcelona and a tour of

Darwin, Yirrkala, Central Australia and Adelaide; Australia's indigenous peoples' participation at the opening of the 1993 World Youth Soccer Championship at Sydney Football Stadium; the contemporary operatic film, *Black River*, winner of the Grand Prix Opera Screen '93 Prize in Paris; *Pride* (for ABC TV Choreographer's Series *Seven Deadly Sins*) selected as a finalist for the Banff Performing Arts Award Canada; choreographer and co-director of the half-time entertainment 1993 AFL Grand Final; directed *Black Vine*, Sydney City Council's celebration for the International Year of the World's Indigenous People performed by 80 Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander artists at the Sydney Town Hall; numerous Australian rock videos and choreographing *The Wedding Song* (NIDA) directed by Jim Sharman '94. The success of *Black Vine* in 1993 spawned *Black Vine II* in 1995, featuring Bangarra in conjunction with Christine Anu, and *Black Vine III* in 1997.

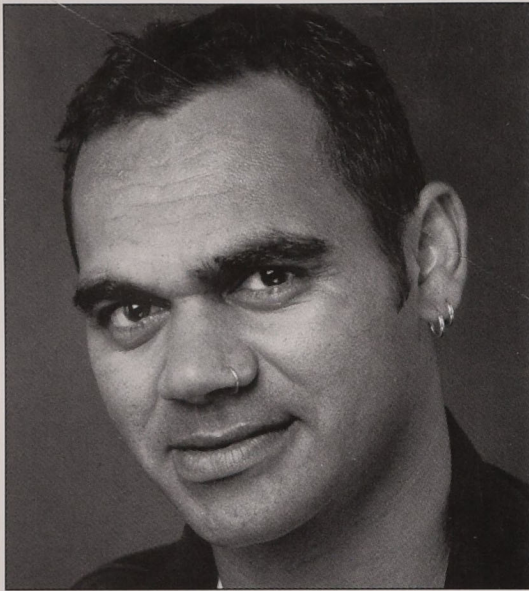
Stephen choreographed and directed Bangarra's second major work *Ninni*, featuring guest actor Rachael Maza. Following this production, Stephen collaborated with then Assistant Artistic Director Bernadette Walong to create *Ochres* which was presented for the first time in 1995. This piece achieved widespread critical and audience acclaim, and has travelled throughout Australia, as well as to Berlin, Tokyo, Noumea, Indonesia and India. His most recent creation, *Fish*, had its world premiere by invitation at Edinburgh Festival, and a sell-out season at the Sydney Opera House as part of the Festival of the Dreaming, the first of the Olympic cultural festivals in the lead-up to the Sydney 2000 Games.

In 1996, Stephen directed the Flag Handover Ceremony at the Closing Ceremony of the Atlanta Olympic Games, and made his debut with The Australian Ballet, choreographing *Alchemy*.

In 1997 Stephen directed the *Awakening Ceremony*, the opening of the landmark indigenous arts festival The Festival of the Dreaming, on the forecourt of the Opera House. He created two major new works during 1997, *Fish* for Bangarra which premiered at the Edinburgh Arts Festival; and then at the Festival of the Dreaming in Sydney, and *Rites* for The Australian Ballet which premiered at the Melbourne International Festival and was filmed for television by the ABC.

In 1993, Stephen received a Mo Award for Dance Performer of the Year, and under his artistic directorship Bangarra was voted joint winner of the prestigious Sidney Myer Performing Arts Award 1993. He was also a recipient of a Young Australian Creative Fellowship in 1995. He recently won the Green Room Award for Best Direction in Dance for *Rites*.

David Page



Composer

Born in Brisbane, David is a descendant of the Munaldjali Clan of the Yugambeh tribe, south east Queensland. At 13 his music career began as a solo singer, recording two singles under the direction of the W.E.A. Recording Company. He made appearances on shows such as *The Mike Walsh Show* and *Countdown*.

David pursued serious music studies in the eighties, enrolling at the Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music (CASM) at Adelaide University where he studied saxophone, voice, composition and song arrangement. He toured extensively with the performing ensemble of CASM, and went on to become musician and songwriter for *Azur*, an Aboriginal/Islander band. David sang, acted and danced in stage productions *Murras*, by Aboriginal playwright, Eva Johnson, and in Reg Livermore's *Big Sister*.

As a composer David teamed up with his brother, choreographer Stephen Page and created music works for *Kayn Walu* and *Djunba Women*, the annual productions for the NAISDA Student Ensemble, and *Mooggrah* for Sydney Dance Company's *Shakespeare Dances*.

In 1991 David joined Bangarra Dance Theatre as resident composer/performer where he has composed and performed in various productions including *Up Until Now*, *Gapan Sagnal* and *Black Vine*. In 1992 David composed the soundtrack for Bangarra's first full length work, *Praying Mantis Dreaming*. This has become one of his most applauded achievements. David also performed and composed for *Niki Nali* a dance theatre production that toured Expo '92 in Seville, the Cultural Festival for the Olympic Games in Barcelona, and through Central Australia.

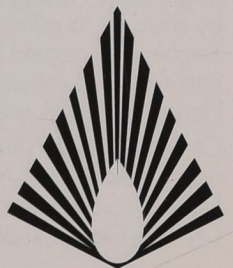
In 1994 David collaborated with guest composer La-Donna Hollingsworth to produce the powerful and gutsy soundtrack for Bangarra's second major work *Ninni*. David also collaborated with Stephen Page and Bernadette Walong in composing the soundtrack for *Ochres*, which Bangarra presented in 1995 and 1996 to great acclaim. Public demand saw the soundtrack released as a CD through Larrikin records, which then went on to win the 1995 Deadly Sounds Award for Best Soundtrack.

In 1996, David continued his successful artistic partnership with Stephen, co-composing the music for the Flag Handover Ceremony at the Closing Ceremony of the Atlanta Olympic Games. He also wrote the score for The Australian Ballet's *Alchemy*, the first Australian Ballet piece choreographed by an Indigenous artist, which premiered in Melbourne in September. This piece also garnered the 1996 Deadly Sounds Award for Best Soundtrack. In 1997 he composed the score for *Fish*, Bangarra's current work, choreographed by Stephen Page.

David has also created music for television including *Poison* for ABC TV's *Blackout* series, *Pride*, part of the ABC's *Seven Deadly Sins* Choreographers Series, *Songlines* and he composed the theme music for ABC TV series *Heartland*, for which he received a nomination for an APRA Award.

In 1997 David was engaged as music consultant and composer for the Powerhouse Museum for a new exhibition of Indigenous Australian music and dance as part of the Festival of the Dreaming. He composed an original soundtrack for Bangarra, *Fish*, the new work created by Stephen Page which premiered at the Edinburgh Arts Festival and the Festival of the Dreaming in Sydney. The soundtrack album has been released by David's music label Niki Nali.

During 1997 David composed film scores for a documentary on Indigenous copyright issues *Copy Rites* and for a short film *Passing Through* commissioned by the AFC.





Peter England



Mark Howett



Jennifer Irwin

Peter England

Set Designer

Peter England graduated from the University of New South Wales with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (Honours 1986) and from NIDA with a Bachelor of Performing Arts in Design (1994). He has worked for architectural firms in Sydney and Queensland and has been a finalist and award winner in national and international urban design competitions.

Since graduating from NIDA Peter has designed theatre and a variety of special event projects. His recent design credits include *Third World Blues* (Sydney Theatre Company), *Shirley Valentine* at Wharf II (Blue Sky Productions), the 1996 City of Sydney New Year's Eve celebrations; *Trocadero* (Sydney Theatre Company fundraiser); member of the design team for the Atlanta Olympics Flag Handover ceremony; *Richard III* (NIDA); *The Jungle* (Sydney Theatre Company); *Brazilian Blue* (Twelfth Night Theatre); *Mary Mackillop Place*, North Sydney.

In 1997, in addition to his work on *Fish*, Peter co-designed sets and costumes for Opera Australia's production of *Madama Butterfly*, and sets for The Australian Ballet's collaboration with Bangarra Dance Theatre, *Rites*.

He was the production designer for The City of Sydney New Year's Eve Celebrations 1997 and is currently designing the costumes for *After the Ball* (STC).

Mark Howett

Lighting Designer

Mark Howett gained his initial experience with Perth's National Theatre Company at the Playhouse between 1980 and 1984. During that time he toured the United States and the United Kingdom, with the aid of a Western Australian Arts Council Grant, studying lighting design at Yale University under Jennifer Tipton. He recently renewed his acquaintance with Jennifer for The Australian Ballet's collaboration with Bangarra Dance Theatre, *Rites*. He has

designed lighting for numerous Australian and overseas theatre, opera and dance companies, including Opera Australia, Queensland Theatre Company, West Australian Opera Company, The Aboriginal and Islander Dance Theatre (Hong Kong and Jakarta tours) and the Auckland Opera. Productions he remembers with affection include *Jonah Jones & Crow* for the State Theate Company of South Australia, *Sixteen Words for Water* and *Raindancers* for the Sydney Theatre Company.

Recent lighting designs include Black Swan Theatre Company's production of *Miss Bosnia*, *Corrugation Road*, *Bidenjarreh Pinjarra* for the Pinjarra Project and *Up the Road*, a joint production with Black Swan, Belvoir Street and Playbox. For Company B at Belvoir Street Mark has designed numerous productions including *Dead Heart*, *No Sugar*, *Buzz*, *The Popular Mechanicals*, *Pop Mechs 2* and Jim Sharman's *A Lie of the Mind*.

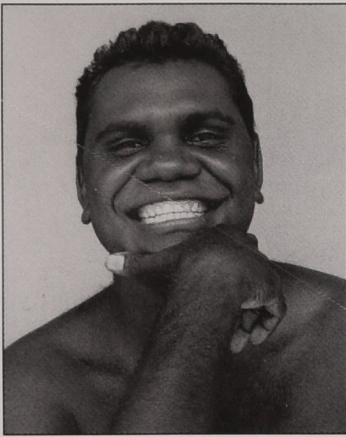
1997 was busy for Mark. As well as running the Lighting Course at the West Australian Academy of the Performing Arts in Perth, he learned to fly, gained a piece of paper saying he can breathe underwater and designed lighting for *Rites* by Stephen Page for The Australian Ballet and for *Cloudstreet*. This year he will be designing lighting for *Elixir of Love* (Donizetti) for Opera Queensland and *The Barber of Seville* for West Australian Opera.

Jennifer Irwin

Costume Designer

Jennifer Irwin works regularly with Australia's leading choreographers to design and construct costumes. In 1984 she was awarded an Australia Council grant to go to La Scala Opera, Milano, Italy.

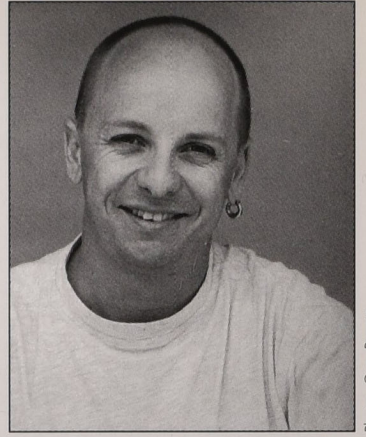
For 16 years she worked as resident costume designer and supervisor for the Sydney Dance Company. Jennifer has designed over 14 ballets for Graeme Murphy and SDC including *Synergy with Synergy*, *Piano Sonata*, *Kraannerg*, *Protecting Veil*, *soft bruising*, *Shining*, *Fornicon*, *Berlin*, *Shakespeare Dances*, *Sirens* and *Free Radicals*. In 1988 she designed Murphy's *Vast* for the Australian Bicentenary Celebrations



Djakapurra Munyarryun



Sam Baker



John Colvin

Photos: Greg Barrett

involving The West Australian Ballet, Australian Dance Theatre, Queensland Ballet and SDC.

She has designed *Arbos* for Ohad Naharin and *Saccharin Suite* for Gideon Obarzanek, *Praying Mantis Dreaming*, *Ochres*, *Mooggrah* and *Fish* for Stephen Page and Bangarra. She has also designed Stephen's *Alchemy* and *Rites* for The Australian Ballet.

Her dance film credits include the ABC's *sensing* and *Gluttony*. She designed costumes for The Awakening Ceremony for The Festival of the Dreaming and dance costumes for the Para Olympic handover ceremony in Atlanta.

Jennifer is presently working on the Hollywood film *Matrix*, starring Keanu Reeves.

Djakapurra Munyarryun

Cultural Designer

Born in Yirrkala, north-eastern Arnhem Land, Djakapurra's life has been steeped in traditional dance and ceremony. As a teenager he'd become so adept that he travelled Australia with elders from Yirrkala, teaching and conducting traditional dance and music workshops.

Djakapurra joined Bangarra Dance Theatre in 1991 as a traditional dancer and a virtuoso didjeridu player. A dynamic traditional dancer, Djakapurra shows great interest in the cross over of traditional and contemporary music and dance styles that are being created in the company. He has a major creative and cultural influence on Bangarra in his role as cultural consultant and is instrumental in the company's ability to fuse traditional myths and music with the experience of urban Aboriginal and Islander people.

Djakapurra danced lead roles in *Praying Mantis Dreaming* and *Ninni*. In *Ochres* Djakapurra recreated his own style of dance with great articulation. He has toured with *Ochres* throughout 1995-6 to Europe, Asia and all over Australia. He also performs in the company's new work, *Fish* which recently had its world premiere at the Edinburgh International Festival,

and a sell-out season at the Sydney Opera House as part of the Festival of The Dreaming, the first of the cultural festivals leading up to the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. He performs on the soundtrack for *Fish*, singing and playing bilma and yirrdaki (clap sticks and didjeridu).

Last year Djakapurra performed in *Rites*, a collaboration between Bangarra and The Australian Ballet for which Stephen Page has recently won the Green Room Award for Best Direction in Dance.

His major film work includes *Black River* which won the Grand Prix award in Paris for best feature film in 1993, playing the role of the water spirit, and *Breaking Through* - an Imax 3D film produced for Expo '93. He has also performed with Yothu Yindu whose music has been a popular breakthrough for Aboriginal performers and produced worldwide hits.

Sam Baker

Stage Manager

Fish is Sam's first production with Bangarra. She graduated from Victorian College of the Arts in 1992 to chase *Joseph's* technicolour coattails around Australia. Sam has enjoyed her time working with Sydney Dance Company, Opera Australia, Melbourne Theatre Company and MIFA. After leaving Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* Sam took a ten month break to recover only to return to the magical world of theatre for the opening season at the Pyrmont RSL. She is very glad to be working with Bangarra now.

John Colvin

Production Manager

This is John's second show with Bangarra, having joined the company in 1996 to work on *Ochres*. He has spent the last ten years being a theatrical bum working for anyone who would have him. Reckless employers have included the Sydney Festival, Sydney Dance Company, all of Melbourne's myriad theatrical classics and bottom of the barrel vaudeville.

He's still enjoying himself.

The Performers



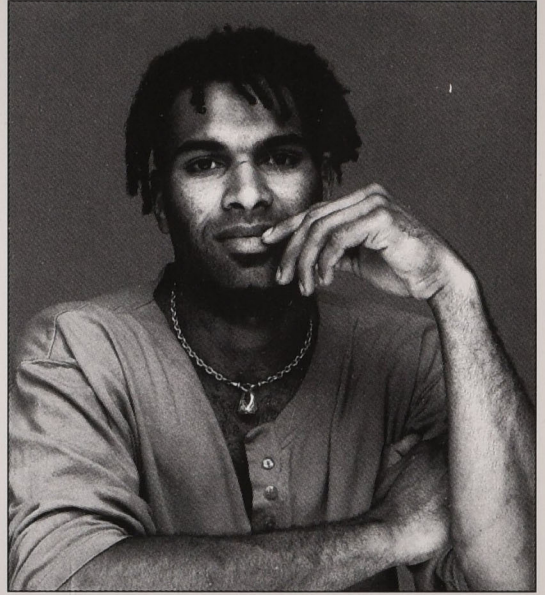
Renée Brooke

Renée has completed the final year of her studies at NAISDA and has joined Bangarra under their Aboriginal Dance Apprenticeship Professional Training (ADAPT) Program.

She has taught both traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance throughout Victoria, on Saibai and Bathurst Islands and in Sydney.

Renée performed in three end of year shows during her time at NAISDA: *Giai* in 1995, *Murra Kupini Yo Yi* in 1996, and *Mura Kaimel* in 1997.

In 1997 she also performed under the direction of Stephen Page in *The Awakening Ceremony*, which marked the opening of *The Festival of The Dreaming*, the first of four cultural festivals in the lead-up to the 2000 Olympics and a landmark occasion for Indigenous arts.



Albert David

Albert was born on Thursday Island, Torres Strait in 1971. In 1989 he was accepted into NAISDA and continued his studies until graduating in 1994.

During his time as a student he was offered work in videos and commercials including Coca-Cola. He has worked as a model for Balarinji designer outfits.

In 1991 Albert toured nationally with *Harold*, choreographed and directed by Kim Walker.

In 1995 Albert joined Bangarra and has toured extensively with *Ochres* throughout Europe, Asia and Australia.

He is also Christine Anu's choreographer and lead dancer. Albert has gathered valuable knowledge in teaching cultural awareness.

In November 1998, Albert will choreograph his first piece for Bangarra, to premiere as part of *DanceClan*.

The Performers



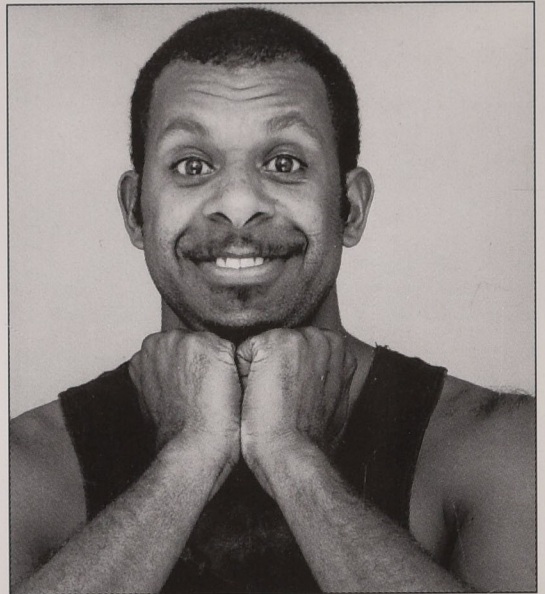
Lea Francis

New Zealand born Lea Francis studied dance with Bryan Lawrence and Janet Karin at the Bryan Lawrence School of Ballet in Canberra and joined Sydney Dance Company at the age of sixteen in January 1985.

In her first year at Sydney Dance Company, Lea danced in New York and on the company's historic tour to the People's Republic of China. Lea went on to dance with the company on twelve international tours and in seasons throughout Australia. Lea's career produced a long list of roles in the works of Graeme Murphy including those in *Poppy*, *Some Rooms*, *soft bruising*, *Piano Sonata* and *Berlin*.

During her time at Sydney Dance Company she worked with many guest choreographers from both Australia and abroad including Ohad Naharin, Ralph Lemon, Louis Falco, Stephen Page, Kim Walker, Paul Mercurio and Gideon Obarzanek.

After nearly twelve years with Sydney Dance Company, Lea recently embarked on a career as a freelance artist performing works by Garry Stewart and Kim Walker. Most recently she joined Gideon Obarzanek's "Chunky Move" for their season at the National Theatre Festival in Canberra.



Pinau Ghee

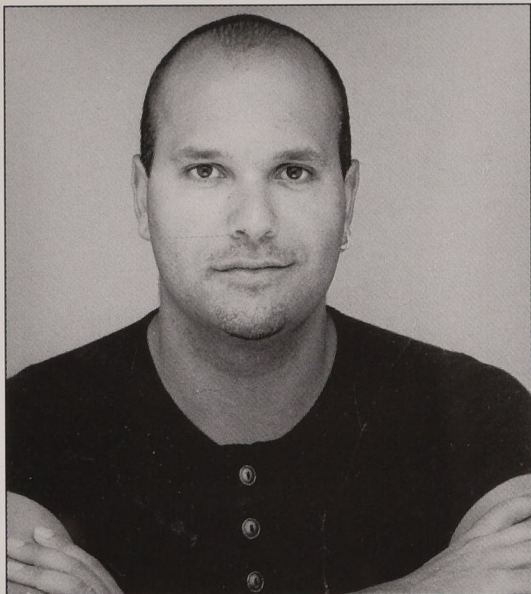
Pinau was raised on Murray Island in the Torres Strait where dance played an important part in his life. Pinau completed a traineeship with The Queensland Ballet Company before graduating from NAISDA in 1988. Following NAISDA he toured northern Europe with the Aboriginal Islander Dance Theatre (AIDT).

In 1991 Pinau joined Bangarra and toured with the company to Indonesia, Hong Kong, China, and the USA appearing in *Praying Mantis Dreaming*, *Ninni* and *Ochres*. Pinau has also appeared in the Tracey Moffatt movie *Bedevil* and *Seven Deadly Sins* for ABC television.

Pinau rejoined AIDT in 1995 to dance in *Waxy* and *Moving On* and to take a lead role in Paul Saliba's *Sanctum* which toured to Denmark, Papua New Guinea, The Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Northern Ireland.

He was also an integral part of the AIDT production *Drums of Mer* acting as co-traditional consultant and dancer. In 1997 Pinau continued with AIDT for their season with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, *Edge of the Sacred* as part of the Festival of The Dreaming.

The Performers



Gaven Iahipe

Born in Lismore, Gaven is an Australian South Sea Islander of Midjungbal heritage. After successfully auditioning for NAISDA College in 1991, he went on to become the final graduate to finish the whole five year course, departing with a Diploma in Dance. During his time with NAISDA, Gaven taught and performed extensively throughout Australia in Ernabella, Mutitjulu, Fregon, Kenmore Park, Boigu and Moa Islands, Yirrkala, Nhulunbuy, Ceduna, Yalata, Perth and Melbourne.

In 1997 after receiving an Australia Council grant, Gaven studied at Sylvia Glasser's *Moving Into Dance*, Johannesburg, South Africa, receiving a Diploma in Community Dance Teaching. While at *Moving Into Dance*, Gaven was able to work with Vincent Mantsoe, Sylvia Glasser and Jackie Semela from Soweto Dance Theatre.

Gaven also performed in a two week 'outreach' programme which reached 10,000 township school children.

This will be Gaven's first year with Bangarra.



Rayma Johnson

Born in Griffith, NSW, Rayma is a descendant of the Wiradjuri nation.

Rayma began her dance training with Redfern Dance Theatre in 1987. In 1993 she was accepted into NAISDA. During her time at NAISDA Rayma visited the remote communities of Boigu and Moa Islands in the Torres Strait and Yirrkala in the Northern Territory. She also performed and choreographed for the end of year productions, *Koey Surum* and *Gurrutumi Mala*.

Rayma performed in the Opening Ceremony of the World Youth Soccer Championships and the AFL Grand Final in 1993, directed by Stephen Page.

During 1995 and 1996 Rayma performed with Aboriginal & Islander Dance Theatre (AIDT) at schools and functions throughout Sydney. Her highlight in 1996 was performing at the Atlanta Olympic Games Handover Ceremony.

In 1997 Rayma performed in the production of *Wirid Jiribin – The Lyre Bird* directed by Matthew Doyle & Aku Kadogo for the Festival of the Dreaming. She also danced in the Awakening Ceremony, the opening of the Festival of the Dreaming directed by Stephen Page.

1998 will be Rayma's first year with Bangarra.

The Performers



Elma Kris

Elma was born on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait. After completing arts courses in Cairns and on Thursday Island she was accepted into NAISDA in 1994.

During her time at NAISDA Elma performed both traditional and contemporary dance, choreographing and dancing in *Bupau Ipikazil* I and II as well as *Bupau Mabigal*.

Elma joined Ngaru Dance Company for two years, performing traditional and contemporary dance at a wide variety of performances including the opening of the film *Dead Heart*, *Flamenco Dreaming*, and *To India With Love* at Sydney Town Hall.

Elma has appeared in the films *Oscar and Lucinda*, *Reef Dreaming* and also performed in the ABC radio broadcast *Not Your Mob Next Door*.

Elma is with Bangarra under NAISDA'S ADAPT program.



Tessa Leahy

Tessa is in the final year of her studies at NAISDA, gaining knowledge of jazz, ballet, modern and traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance. She has joined Bangarra under NAISDA'S ADAPT program.

She has taught dance workshops in the Northern Territory, Queensland, Victoria and in Sydney at The Powerhouse Museum.

She appeared in the Sand to Celluloid festival in the short film *Two Bob Mermaid*, the winner of the Best Short Film in a New Zealand festival and nominated for the Venice Film Festival.

Tessa danced in *Club Bub - Exposure*, choreographed by David Page at Belvoir St and has done vocal recordings for *Rak Niwili* (Aboriginal Education Unit).

Last year as part of The Festival of The Dreaming she performed in the Sydney Theatre Company production, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The Performers



Marilyn Miller

Marilyn started dancing at the age of five, and has trained in Classical Ballet, various traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance styles, tap and modern dance techniques, including Martha Graham, Lester Horton and Limone.

Marilyn has performed and taught extensively throughout Australia, and her overseas touring has taken her to New

Zealand, Hong Kong, Berlin, Tokyo and Britain.

She has been a guest artist with The Queensland Ballet, Bangarra, and was a founding member and soloist with Aboriginal Islander Dance Theatre - the Company. Whilst with AIDT - the Company she choreographed *Blue* and *Purple* for their full length work *Colours*. She has also choreographed and acted in works for Theatre, such as *Cockroach Opera*, *Dancing in the Snow* and *The Cherry Pickers*.

Marilyn returned to dance after taking a break in Brisbane to pursue training in acting and choreographing. Marilyn has toured with *Ochres* to Berlin, Arnhem Land, Tokyo, Noumea and Canberra.

Last year Marilyn performed *Fish* with the company at The Edinburgh Festival and The Festival of The Dreaming, and also performed in *Rites*, a collaboration between Bangarra and The Australian Ballet for which Stephen Page has recently won the Green Room Award for best direction in dance.



The Performers



Gina Rings

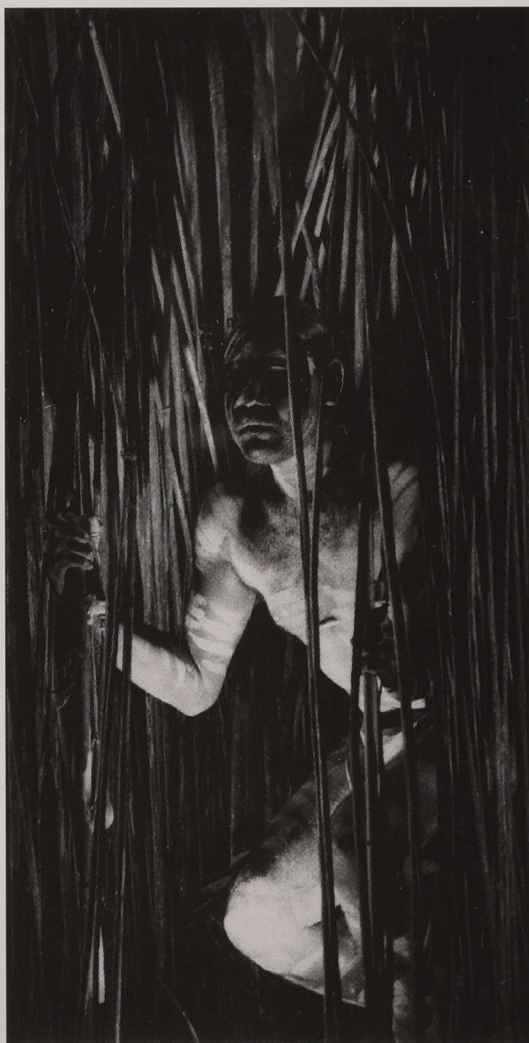
Born in Port Augusta, South Australia, Gina spent most of her childhood in Murray Bridge and Port Maclay, a small reserve in S.A. Gina began her dance training during her final years of high school. After completing Year 12, she then went on to The Performing Arts School in Adelaide, studying dance and drama for two years.

In 1993 Gina was accepted into NAISDA where she was introduced to traditional dance and culture. As a dance student, travelling to the traditional communities of the Torres Strait Islands was the highlight of her training and growth at NAISDA, where she studied for one year.

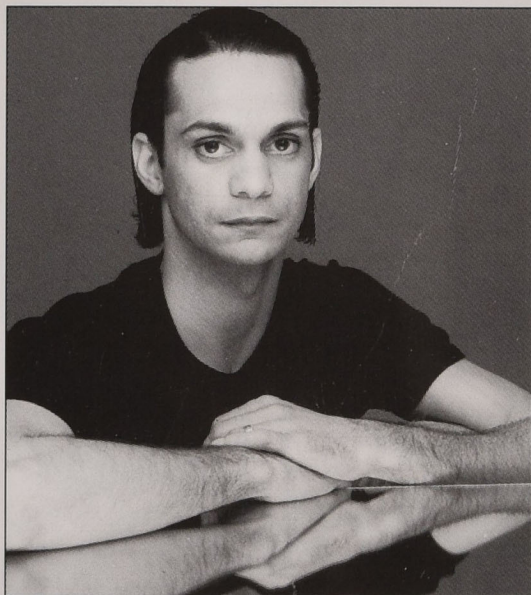
In 1994 Gina was offered an apprenticeship with Bangarra Dance Theatre. During that year she toured with the company to the Adelaide Festival, and performed with the company in its major Sydney season *Ninni* at the Enmore Theatre.

Gina was part of the original cast of *Ochres* when presented as a work in progress during the 1994 Nambundah Festival at Belvoir Street Theatre. She toured with the production to Berlin, Tokyo, Noumea, and Canberra.

Last year Gina performed *Fish* with the company at The Edinburgh Festival and The Festival of The Dreaming, and also performed in *Rites*, a collaboration between Bangarra and The Australian Ballet for which Stephen Page has recently won the Green Room Award for best direction in dance



The Performers



Sidney Saltner

Sidney graduated from NAISDA College in 1991 with an Associate Diploma in Dance. Whilst studying, Sidney performed and taught extensively throughout Australia. During his final year of studies, he undertook his apprenticeship programme with the Australian Dance Theatre. He then toured to Hong Kong, and performed in Kim Walker's *Harold*.

Sidney joined the Aboriginal and Islander Dance Theatre (AIDT) as a full time member in April, 1992. He has danced major roles with AIDT in such productions as *Maralji*,

Colours, *Gelam*, *Asik* and *Drums of Mer*.

With AIDT Sidney has toured extensively throughout Australia, as well as internationally to Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Seoul, Taiwan, New Zealand, South America, the Pacific Islands, Papua New Guinea, Northern Ireland, France and The Netherlands. He has also choreographed for the company, contributing to their *Asik* season in Indonesia, and AIDT's 1994 Schools' season.

Sidney has done extensive film and television work, appearing in various commercials, and most recently in *Billie's Holiday*. During the 1996 Contemporary Performance Week, he worked with Bernadette Walong on the piece *River Woman*, and on its opening at the Newtown Performance Space.

Last year Sidney performed *Fish* with the company at The Edinburgh Festival and The Festival of The Dreaming, and also performed in *Rites*, a collaboration between Bangarra and The Australian Ballet for which Stephen Page has recently won the Green Room Award for best direction in dance.

Recently he played a starring role in the 1998 Mardi Gras Festival production *Senesino*.

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Company list

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General Manager:	Jo Dyer
Development Manager:	Fiona Taylor
Administrator:	Carla Theunissen
Financial Controller:	David Lloyd
Production Manager:	John Colvin
Stage Manager:	Sam Baker
Production Trainee:	Ebony Williams

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