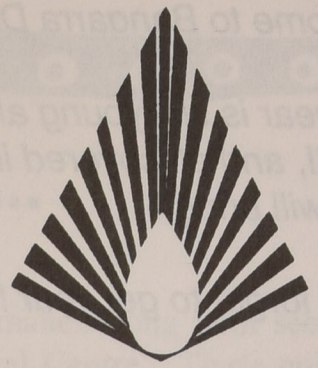


BANGARRA



DANCE THEATRE



BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE PRESENTS *Ninni*

ENMORE THEATRE 12-22 MAY 8PM
BOOKINGS : 550 3666 OR TICKETEK 266 4800

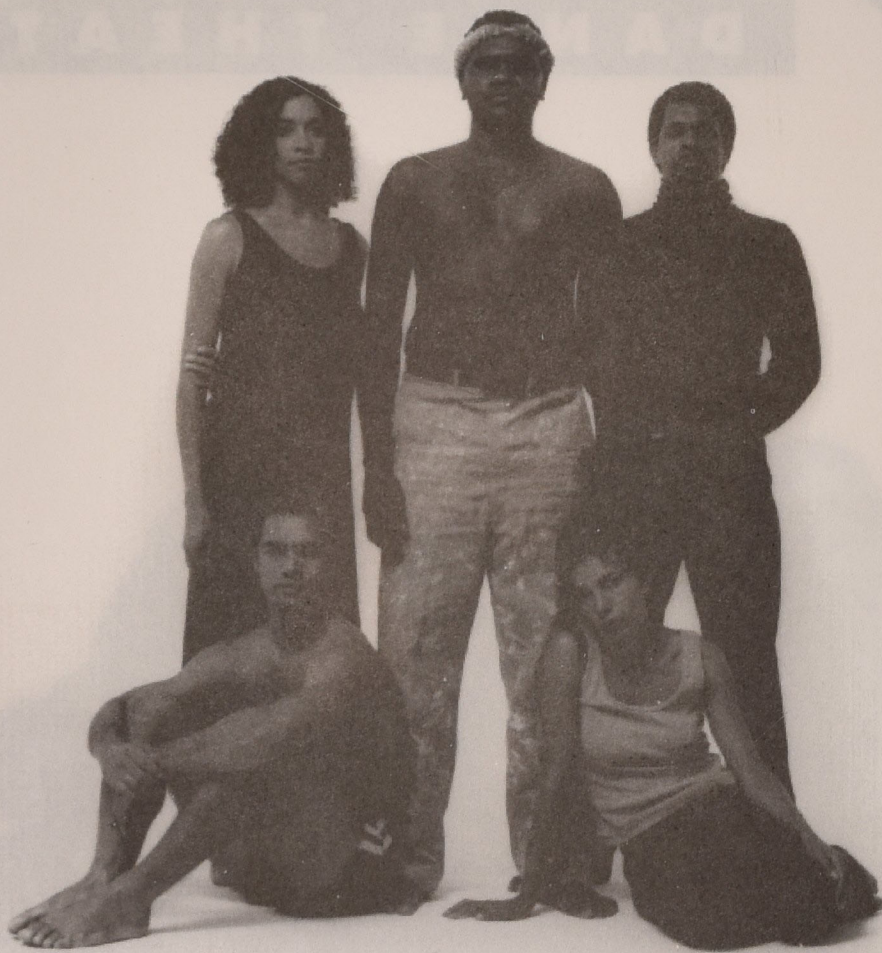
NEWSLETTER
NUMBER ONE
1994

Welcome to Bangarra Dance Theatre's 1994 Newsletter!

The year is still young and Bangarra has been all around the country, all into the new production, NINNI, and all covered in major Awards. We've done well and are looking forward to what else the year will bring.

Don't forget to get your friends along to NINNI - it's going to be fabulous.

ABOUT NINNI



Monica Stevens, one of Bangarra's founding members plays the role of the mother, Ruby in NiNNI.

NINNI Leads
L-R standing, Rachael Maza,
Djakapurra Munyarryun, Lama
Pinau Ghee. Sitting, Russell Page
and Frances Rings.
*Photos by Paul Sweeney

NINNI is a dance drama about a family's search for their common cultural identity in the face of social, political and historic issues that confront Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today.

NINNI is also a woman's story. The story telling is related by Moira, played by Rachael Maza, fresh from her leading roles in Louis Nowra's "Radiance" and ABC TV's "Heartland". Moira is the elder daughter of a family torn apart by the long term effects of colonisation. She is determined to find her estranged sister and two brothers, restoring not only the family bonds but also each member's own spiritual and personal identity. Moira is a young woman with an old soul. She is the Ninni who challenges each of her brothers and her sister to come to terms with their identity and feelings. A Ninni is a stirring, organic spirit who creates situations between people, causing them to confront their life's history, journey and purpose.

This is the story of the rite of passage of each member of the family and their journey of spiritual renewal - a significant story in the Year of the Family.

NINNI is dance drama with edge - stylish, racy, risk taking and relevant. It reflects the youth and energy of Bangarra's dancers, the power of its story telling, the company's growth and artistic richness.

Be sure you don't miss out on this spectacular new Bangarra production at the Enmore Theatre.

Season: 12-22 May 8pm

Matinees: Saturdays 14 & 21 May 2pm

Twilight Shows: Sundays 15 & 22 May 4pm

Special School Performances: Wed 18 & Thurs 19 May 1pm

Admission \$24.80
Concession \$16.80
Group (10+) \$21.80

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Update on our new Cultural Centre

by Robin Bryant

Bangarra may have a new home, just 10 minutes walk from the famous Sydney Rocks area! The prestige of The Rocks area and its accessibility (attracting millions of tourists annually) is bound to present sponsorship and unlimited marketing opportunities.

The proposed Indigenous Cultural Centre, located on Sydney's tourist belt, will also house other indigenous companies including Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Black Books, Black Fella Films and Aboriginal Artists Management Association. A centre that reflects the indigenous cultures of Australia is long overdue in Sydney and will provide long term stability for the above major indigenous art organisations. The

otherwise we have no permanent long term security in which to develop a Cultural Centre". These comments came during the recent visit of Prince Charles to the proposed site in January.

The current proposal limits the number of businesses that can operate within the complex. With the natural growth of the mentioned organisations, the proposed site at MSB Bond Store 3 may not be adequate.

It's now thought that the proposed site should be extended, making use of the two adjoining warehouses. Warehouse MSB Bond Store 4 provides access to Hickson Road, Walsh Bay and MSB Bond Store 2 access to public transport via ferries through Piers 8 and 9.

Ferries travel past them regularly enroute between Circular Quay and Darling Harbour.

"The indigenous cultures of our country are a major asset for all people and should be promoted in a proper manner. This recognition, embodied by the proposed site, is long overdue", says Rob. Indeed, such a plan would provide long term employment opportunities and a physical identity for major indigenous art organisations in New South Wales.

Imagine travelling up the Parramatta River, or driving across the Harbour Bridge and seeing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island flags flying proudly and defiantly above the Indigenous Cultural Centre.

Rob also said in his speech during the visit by Prince Charles. "Sydney and Australia will be richer, culturally and financially, if the proposed Cultural Centre is given the necessary support at the highest levels by NSW and Federal governments".

With the Olympic 2000 preparations well underway, Sydney needs a cultural icon with an AUTHENTIC indigenous flavour; Bangarra and the above indigenous art organisations needs a permanent HOME!!

***** STOP PRESS - A twenty year lease has now been mentioned in the NSW Parliament, being recorded by Hansard!!**



Bangarra dancers & Prince Charles **WOW** the world's media at the proposed Cultural Centre

idea has been conceived and developed at all stages by Aboriginal people, and undertaken on the premise that the Centre be controlled by indigenous Australians.

The lease offered by the NSW Government had been downgraded from short term lease of 10 years to a shorter 7 years lease, giving the Cultural Centre tenure only until the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

"Considering we have been here for over 40,000 years, seven years is but a split second in our history", said Rob Bryant, General Manager of Bangarra, and Chairperson of the Cultural Centre Executive Committee. "We would like to propose freehold title, or at least a 99 year lease,

Bangarra knows it has your support for this vital project and asks you to write to your Local Member encouraging their support too.

YOTHU YINDI TRIBAL VOICE

The Ritz-Carlton Double Bay was the venue for Mushroom Pictures' launch of Yothu Yindi's documentary film "Tribal Voice". The film focused on the band and family members within a historical perspective. Included were interviews, live concert material and rare footage of ceremonies. The film is narrated by Australian of the Year, Mandawuy Yunupingu.

Present at the event were Galarwuy Yunupingu, Chairman of the Northern Lands Council, and members of the band, Mandawuy Yunupingu, Witiyana Marika, and Makuma Yunupingu along with a throng of Rock industry people. The fifty minute film went to air on ABC-TV January 25.

WHAT'S HAPPENED

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS Year of the Dog

To celebrate the 1994 Chinese New Year the Chinese community of Australia staged the largest Chinese entertainment spectacular this country has seen on January 29 at the Sydney Entertainment Centre. Taking part in the event were four of the biggest stars from China; Ms Lui Xiao Qing China's leading box office actress, Ms Zhou Jie the highly acclaimed Queen of Dance, Ms Zhu Ming Ying the number one Pop Singer of China and Ma Ji China's most famous comedian. Hundreds of local Chinese performers took centre stage with one of the largest dragon and lion dances seen at the Entertainment Centre. Also participating in this enormous event were the Shanghai Dance Company, Bangarra Dance Theatre, The Janice Breen Showgroup, The Barbara Lynch Dance Studio and a large line up of top local performers.

SURVIVAL '94

Survival '94, the annual festival celebrating the survival of indigenous peoples of Australia held at Sydney's La Perouse, was another success on record. Produced and directed by Aboriginal Artists Management Association (AAMA) this years event catered for the family, with performances being varied and constant throughout the day. MCs were Lydia Miller and Stephen Page and the program was opened by ATSIC Deputy Chairman Sol Bellear. Headliners included Toni Janke, Coloured Stone, Brenda Webb, Mixed Relations, Bangarra Dance Theatre, Amunda, Arrente Desert Posse, Roger Knox and Vic Simms. This year a second stage was set up featuring storytellers, comics, poets and drama, as well as an extended range of food, books, arts and craft stalls. At this great family day celebrating survival and revival, the audience numbered around 16,000 people. Congratulations to AMMA and all concerned.

LAUNCH OF ABC TV's 'HEARTLAND'

Bangarra was invited to perform an "after-BBQ" show of traditional dances at the launch of ABC TV's highly acclaimed TV series, "Heartland". "Heartland" deals with the mystery surrounding the death of a local Aboriginal girl in a small coastal town and the doubts surrounding the guilt of her boyfriend who is charged with the murder.

Present at the launch were the show's stars Ernie Dingo and Cate Blanchett as well as Bob Maza, Justine Saunders, Rachael Maza and Lillian Crombie and a host of well-known local faces. Auriel Andrews performed before the well-attended gathering and the production got a proud rave review from ABC TV's Managing Director David Hill.

You can see "Heartland", and hear the haunting theme music composed by David Page with didgeridoo playing by Djakapurra Munyarryan, on ABC TV Thursday nights at 8.30 up until the end of June.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE FUNDING BODIES

Backyard Tour:
Western Australia &
Northern Territory

Playing Australia
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Arts
ATSIC—IYWIP Secretariate

International Tour:
Los Angeles, New York
& London

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Arts
South Bank - London

Black Vine:
Sydney Town Hall

Sydney County Council
NSW Ministry for the Arts
Office of Aboriginal Affairs
Department of School Education
Department of Community Services &
Aboriginal Affairs
Board of Studies

Praying Mantis Dreaming:

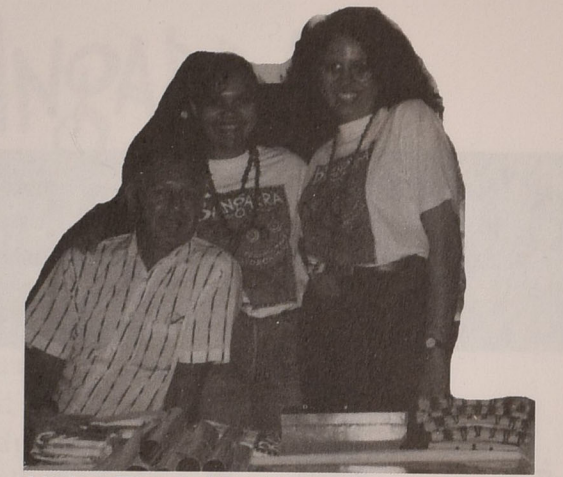
Enmore Theatre

Performing Arts Board

Praying Mantis Dreaming:

Cairns

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Arts
Performing Arts Board

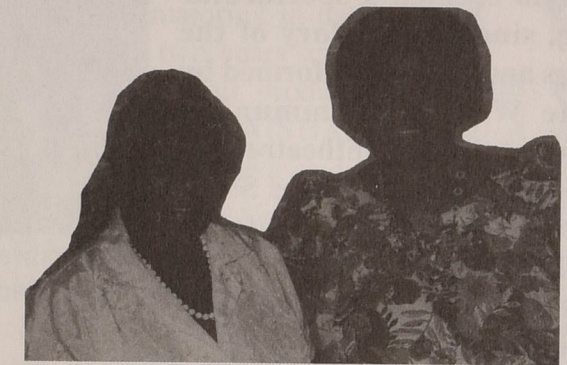


Vivian Tim (left) with local volunteer merchandise sellers, Tracey McCarthy & Katherine Scott.

Praying Mantis Dreaming in Cairns

The last stop for Praying Mantis Dreaming was the Cairns Civic Centre December '93. This was Bangarra's introduction to far north Queensland. For many of our company members this was a chance to showcase their talents to their home communities, and were they surprised. Boopa Werem Kindy, Diga Meta Nursing Home, Bama Healing, Yarrabah Rehab and Yarrabah Nursing Home were some of Bangarra's guest at our special matinee show. Opening night saw one of the largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island audiences gather at the Cairns Civic Centre. Audiences travelled from afar as Townsville, Ingham, Yarrabah, Innisfail and Mareeba to witness a show they'd heard so much about.

When asked if she enjoyed the show an elderly woman from Ingham replied, "It was wonderful probably something I'll never again see in my lifetime."



Elders of the Torres Strait Island community, L-R, Mrs Angela Morrison & Mrs Anima Ghee.

"The audiences that came along for those magical three nights at the Civic Centre were lucky enough to see a dance experience that all Australians should be proud of."

Joel Becker, Cairns Voice Magazine.

Bangarra would like to thank the following people for their support: Donald Bate of DCOP Productions, Cathy Morgan, Cairns High School, Justice Entertainment Lounge, Tyrrells Wines, our fabulous merchandise sellers: Katherine Scott, Tracey McCarthy, Lynora Tim, Tonia Lenoy, Hayley Mazzoni & Wilma Togo, also to the many families and friends who gave their time, energy and help. Thank You.



Page brothers, Stephen, Russell & David with Grandma Pitt of Innisfail.



L-R, Hans Henning, Joe McGuiness (Cairns & district ATSIC Regional Council) & Ruth Wallace (Cairns & district Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island Corporation for Women).

Seen at Opening Night in Cairns

ADELAIDE FESTIVAL

Bangarra Dance Theatre took part in the opening of the 1994 Adelaide Festival on 25 February. First the men from the Warlpiri Tribe of Yuendumu created a spectacular Ground Painting, singing the story of the painting with songs and dances performed by women from the Warlpiri community. Bangarra then opened the Amphitheatre program which included Yirrkala, Torres Strait Island and contemporary dances. Watched by about 700 Festival goers, this very popular show was the first of twelve Bangarra performances during the Festival.

We then joined many other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups in a follow-on celebration organised by Tandanya Aboriginal Centre at the Open Roof.

During the following week we took part in the Open Roof program, along with other indigenous groups from Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Cook Islands, Western Samoa, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia and Korea.

We also did some school shows during the Festival and our dancers took the opportunity to see performances by international companies such as the Frankfurt Ballet, the Wuhan Acrobatic Circus from China, Hakutoba, a Bhuto company from Japan and The Mark Morris Dance Company from New York. The Festival Fringe Club was right next to our accomodation so company members were able to catch all sorts of alternative entertainment too.

Tandanya Aboriginal Centre hosted a picnic in Rymil Park for visiting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and some of the Company met the South Australian Governor, Dame Roma Mitchell, at a luncheon at given at Government House during the Festival. She was later introduced to all of the company after attending our final performance in the Amphitheatre.

Festivals like this give Bangarra a chance to not only see other compans' work but also to join in their classes. Cynthia Lochard took part in a class with the Frankfurt Ballet, with some of our dancers in attendance and Frances Rings attended a class with the Mark Morris Dance Company from New York.



Djakapurra Munyarryun with a member of the Kanak Dance group of Wetr, New Caledonia, playing reed flutes.



Big smiles from Bangarra Dance Theatre & the Western Samoa National Dance Theatre.

introducing new dancers to

BANGARRA

DANCE THEATRE

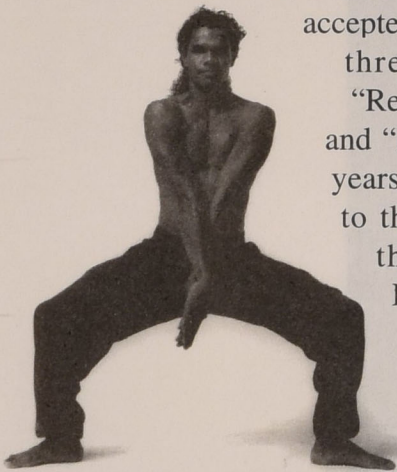
Sean Choolburra

Born in Townsville, North Queensland into a family of twelve children, Sean belongs to the Djiru, Kalkadoon and Bwcoloman people. During his years of growing up in Townsville, Sean had always been associated with dance in some form, ranging from rap dance to modelling and working in TV commercials. In 1991 Sean was accepted into NAISDA, performing in three annual productions: "Reflections, Myths and Legends" and "Koey Surum". During his three years with NAISDA Sean travelled to the traditional communities of the Torres Strait Islands and Ernabella in South Australia.

In 1993 Sean completed his Certificate in Dance, and in 1994 was offered an apprenticeship with Bangarra Dance Theatre.

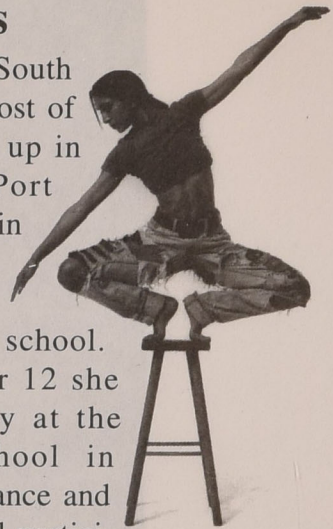
He recently performed with the company at the 1994 Adelaide Festival.

For Sean, working with Bangarra is exciting. "I'm training and working professionally at the same time. I love it, the challenge. Bangarra has made their own style and that's what really bought me here. Bangarra to me means awareness and promoting of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island culture."



Gina Rings

Born in Port Augusta, South Australia, Gina spent most of her childhood growing up 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 study at the Performing Arts School in Adelaide, majoring in dance and drama for two years and participating in various productions. In 1993 Gina was accepted into NAISDA and entered into third year because of her previous dance training. During this time Gina was exposed to traditional dance and culture. Travelling to the traditional communities of the Torres Strait Islands was an important part of her training and growth. After her year with NAISDA Gina decided it was time for her to move on to the next step in her career as a dancer. In 1994 she was offered an apprenticeship with Bangarra Dance Theatre and recently performed with the company at the 1994 Adelaide Festival. Gina's aim is to one day choreograph and direct.



*Photos by Paul Sweeney

Guest dancers for Bangarra's NINNI season are Roula Kantarzoglou and Bernadette Walong.

Bangarra Friends' Application Form

Complete the details below and return to:

Bangarra Friends
PO BOX 875
STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012

I am an existing Friend signing up a new member

Name:

Membership No:

OR

I would like to become a new Friend

Membership is valid for one year from the date of joining. Please select your membership choice and indicate all names in Dual and Family memberships. One membership will be issued in each name.

Single — \$25

Dual Membership — \$40

Family/Household (4 people) — \$60

Concession (Students/Pensioners) * — \$15

Life membership — \$1000

Corporate membership — \$2000

* Student/Pensioner No:

Name 1:

Name 2:

Name 3:

Name 4:

Address:

Postcode:

Phone(h): Business:

Enclosed is my cheque or money order for \$.....

OR

Please credit my:

Bankcard Mastercard

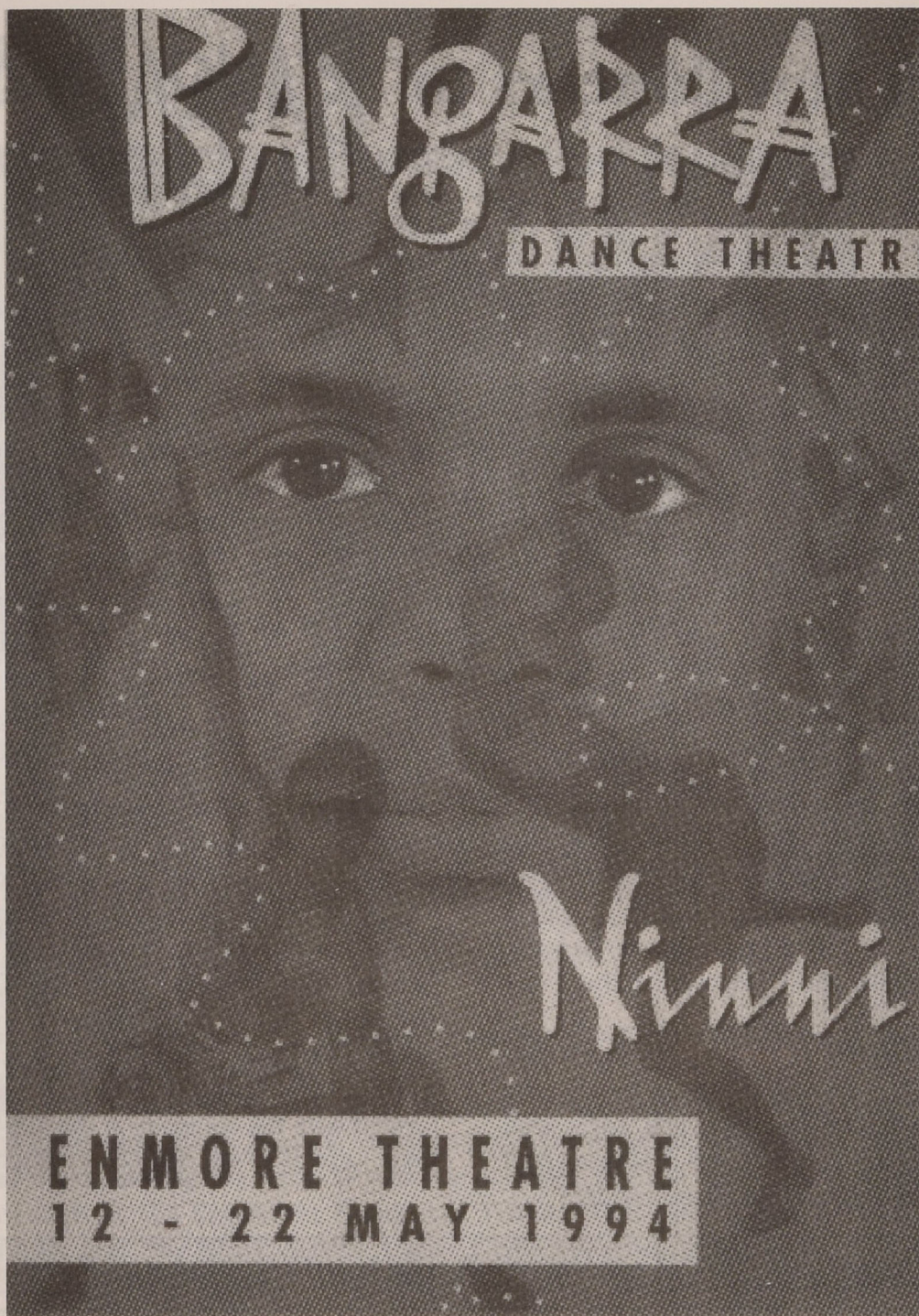
Visa Amex

Card Number:

Expiry date:/.....

Signature:

Name of Card Holder:



BANGARRA
DANCE THEATRE

NEWS

AUSTRALIAN ENTERTAINMENT "MO" AWARDS

This sure is a big year for Bangarra and awards! The "MO" Awards are Australia's annual awards for excellence in live entertainment.

Two of Bangarra's wonderful dancers, Stephen and Russell Page, have been nominated at this year's 19th "MO" Award in the Dance Performed of the Year category.

The Awards will be presented at Her Majesty's Theatre on June 14.

Good luck to our two nominees.

Jo-Anne Miley joins Bangarra as Marketing Consultant. She's happy to be back from the Big Apple. Welcome aboard Jo-Anne.

Illoma Tim who has danced with the company for four years leaves us to have a child. You'll be missed 'Lom but I'm sure we'll see you around.

SIDNEY MYER PERFORMING ARTS AWARD


Bangarra Dance Theatre has been nominated as a Joint Group Winner for 1993 of the prestigious Sidney Myer Award.

The Awards are designed to bring national attention to the work of a group who is making a distinctive contribution to the Australian performing arts and who shows promise of even greater achievement. They are Awards which are given to groups who have also shown themselves to be fine, original artists, capable of initiative and daring in their work and who take a wide, generous view of their profession.

The Tenth Anniversary Sidney Myer Performing Arts Awards was presented by David Williamson in Melbourne on April 15. Bangarra splits the \$34,000 with Doppio Teatro, Australia's most highly regarded bilingual (Italo-Australian) theatre company. Geoffrey Rush won the Individual Award, and Marguerite Pepper the Facilitator's Award.

The Award says Bangarra "under the artistic direction of Stephen Page, has rapidly become widely recognised both nationally and internationally for its highly distinctive combination of traditional and contemporary dance and music. This unique fusion has brought a new dimension to Australian dance and choreography".


Congratulations Bangarra!!!


This project has been made possible
with assistance from the
New South Wales Government
through the Ministry for the Arts


Australia Council
for the Arts


ATSIIC

Principle sponsor


THE AAP GROUP

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