



**PRAYING  
MANTIS  
DREAMING**

**BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE AUSTRALIA LTD.**



IN THE FOREFRONT OF  
BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE'S

SPONSORSHIP ARE 2 DYNAMIC COMPANIES:

# ARTHUR ANDERSEN



T H E A A P G R O U P  
N E W S • I N F O R M A T I O N  
C O M M U N I C A T I O N S

OUR SPONSORS KEEP

THE FLAME BURNING BY

SUPPORTING THE ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE OF

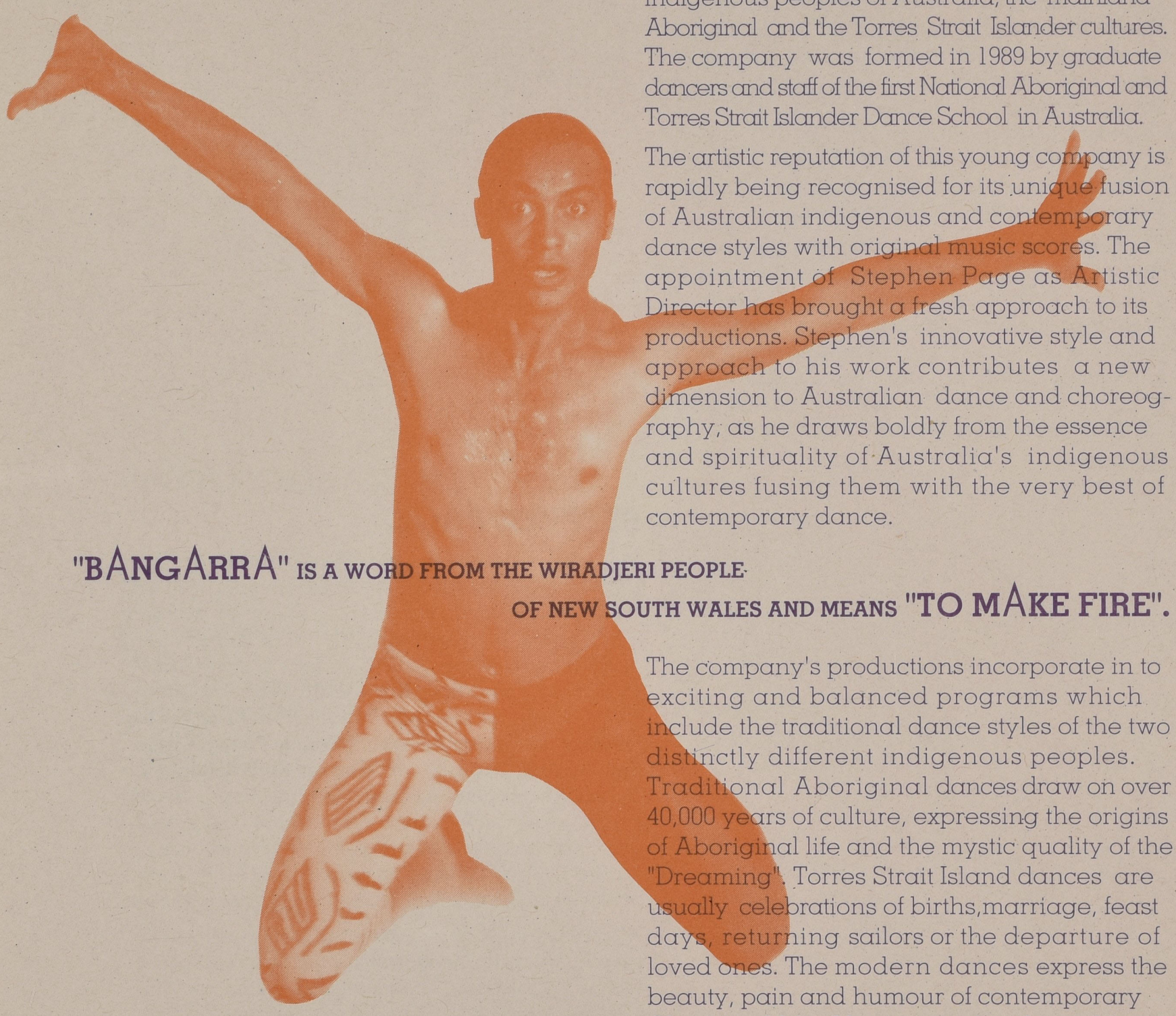


This project was assisted by the Performing Arts Board and the Aboriginal Arts Unit of the Australia Council, the Federal Government's arts funding and advisory body.



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

This project receives financial assistance from the Queensland Government through the Minister for the Arts.



## BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE

Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia Limited is a full-time professional dance company that respectfully embraces the cultures of both indigenous peoples of Australia, the mainland Aboriginal and the Torres Strait Islander cultures. The company was formed in 1989 by graduate dancers and staff of the first National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dance School in Australia.

The artistic reputation of this young company is rapidly being recognised for its unique fusion of Australian indigenous and contemporary dance styles with original music scores. The appointment of Stephen Page as Artistic Director has brought a fresh approach to its productions. Stephen's innovative style and approach to his work contributes a new dimension to Australian dance and choreography, as he draws boldly from the essence and spirituality of Australia's indigenous cultures fusing them with the very best of contemporary dance.

**"BANGARRA" IS A WORD FROM THE WIRADJERI PEOPLE**

**OF NEW SOUTH WALES AND MEANS "TO MAKE FIRE".**

The company's productions incorporate in to exciting and balanced programs which include the traditional dance styles of the two distinctly different indigenous peoples. Traditional Aboriginal dances draw on over 40,000 years of culture, expressing the origins of Aboriginal life and the mystic quality of the "Dreaming". Torres Strait Island dances are usually celebrations of births, marriage, feast days, returning sailors or the departure of loved ones. The modern dances express the beauty, pain and humour of contemporary Aboriginal life. Also invested in these dances is the sophistication of contemporary society, the hopes for the future and pride in the expression of a strong national Aboriginal/ Islander identity.

RUSSEL PAGE  
Photo: George Serras

**AUSTRALIA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE.**



We give a very special thanks to **Peter D. Walker & Co.** (Auditors)

## CREATING

### PRAYING MANTIS DREAMING

The inspiration and knowledge to do this work comes predominately from the Yirkala people of North East Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. **Praying Mantis Dreaming** is based around the dreaming of a woman whose mother is Aboriginal and whose father was of European ancestry. She inherits the Praying Mantis totem from her mother. The Spirit of the Praying Mantis watches over her and guides her through her dreams. After 17 years of living in a Western Society she learns about her traditional roots through the Praying Mantis Spirit.

This production is significant in that it gave me the opportunity to merge 3 distinct and different styles of dance - Traditional Aboriginal, Torres Strait Island and contemporary dance. Having an original musical score written to compliment the dance and musical styles of these indigenous cultures has given me the incentive to create a work that shows the breadth of the companies artistic richness.

**STEPHEN PAGE**  
Artistic Director

### STEPHEN PAGE

Stephen graduated from the National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association in 1983 and then joined the Sydney Dance Company for two and a half years. He toured with AIDT in 1988 to Germany and Finland and was Artistic Director of the NAISDA 1989 End of Year Show **Kayn Walu**. While at Sydney Dance Company, Stephen performed in **After Venice, Wilderness, Nearly Beloved, Shining, Poppy, Cafe, Soft Brusing, Company of Women, King Roger, and In Late Afternoon of a Faun**, Graeme Murphy created an important role for him in Faun where he danced alongside premier dancers- Garth Welch and Graeme Murphy. Many of these productions included tours overseas to Greece, Italy, Japan, Hong Kong and Korea.

A highlight in Stephen's career was choreographing an original work, **Mooggrah**, for the Sydney Dance Company's season 'Shakespeare Dances', in 1991. Stephen joined Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia as Principal Choreographer in September 1991 and choreographed **Up Until Now**, which was presented to Sydney audiences at Side Track Theatre, the NSW North Coast and Brisbane.

In December 1991 Stephen was commissioned to choreograph Sydney Theatre Company's latest work **Trackers of Oxyrhincus**, at the same time choreographing a sextet for The Australian Opera's season **Nozze di Figaro**.

Stephen accepted the position of Artistic Director with Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia Limited in December 1991.

# CHARACTERS & CAST

Praying Mantis Spirit  
Father Charlie  
Mother Lili  
Daughter  
Brother  
Lover  
Young Girl  
Young Boy  
The Spirits of the Aboriginal  
Torres Strait Island  
& Non-Aboriginal communities

RUSSELL PAGE  
STEPHEN PAGE  
MONICA STEVENS  
PATRICIA HANDY  
DJAKAPURRA MUNYARRYUN  
PINAU GHEE  
MEDIKA WILLIAMS  
TO BE ANNOUNCED \*  
YAPUMA GURRUWIWI  
BANULA MARIKA  
JENSEN WARUSAM  
ILLONA TIM  
LEWIS LAMPTON  
MADONNA HEARL  
SUE-ANN WILLIAMS  
DAVID PAGE

# PRODUCTION TEAM

Choreography & Production  
Music Composer/Arranger/Programmer  
Lighting Designer  
Costume Designer/Seamstress  
Set Designer  
Production/Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Manager  
Sound Technician Assistant  
Script Consultant

STEPHEN PAGE  
DAVID PAGE  
SHANE STEVENS  
LINDA BOBONGIE  
JOE HURST  
JIM MANN  
BRENDAN READ  
PATRICIA MORTON-THOMAS  
GERRY BOSTOCK

\*As this production will be travelling to many states in Australia, it is envisaged that this role will always be given to a promising local talent, thereby continuing to inspire and encourage our younger generation.

# THE COMPANY

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

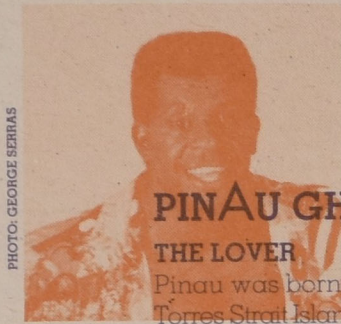


PHOTO: GEORGE SERRAS

## PINAU GHEE

### THE LOVER

Pinau was born and raised on Murry Island in the Torres Strait Islands where dance played an important part of his life. Before graduating from Natinal Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association (NAISDA) in 1988 Pinau was fortunate to do a brief traineeship with the Queensland Ballet Company as part of his course. During his apprenticeship with A.I.D.T he travelled to Germany & Finland. In 1991, he joined Bangarra and toured with them to Indonesia as well as appearing in the production UP UNTIL NOW.

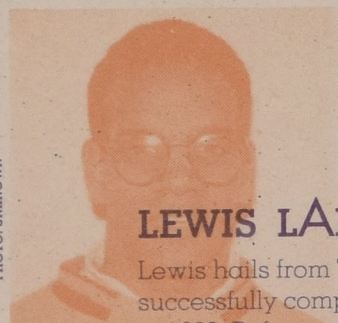


PHOTO: UNKNOWN

## LEWIS LAMPTON

Lewis hails from Townsville, Queensland, and successfully completed a 5 year course at NAISDA in 1990. Before graduating he spent a three month professional traineeship working with Tasdance and attending a cultural festival in Papua New Guinea. In 1991 Lewis performed with Aboriginal Islander Dance Theatre-The Company. In his most recent performance, Lewis danced the lead role of Harold Blair, in "HAROLD".

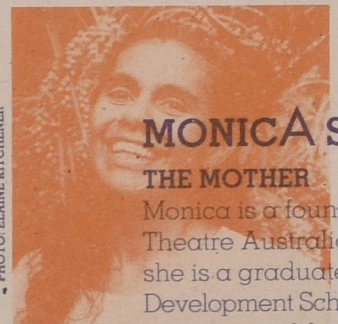


PHOTO: ELAINE MITCHENER

## MONICA STEVENS

### THE MOTHER

Monica is a founding member of Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia. Born in Gordonvale, North Qld., she is a graduate of the Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Scheme. Her experience includes many television and theatre appearances, such as the Sydney Opera House production for the First Australians, the Royal Bicentennial Gala Performance, the opening of the New Parliament House in Canberra, and Sydney's Olympic Bid. Her tours have taken her to the USA, Germany, Finland, Japan, New Guinea, Indonesia and New Zealand.

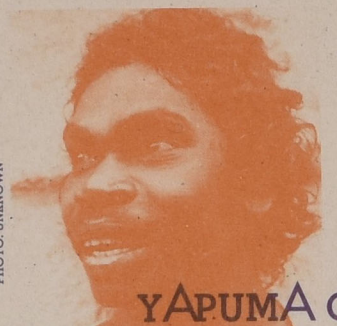


PHOTO: UNKNOWN

## YAPUMA GURRUWIWI

Yapuma is from Elcho Island in the Northern Territory where he began learning dance as a child. In 1988 he came to AIDT PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING GROUP via a special course for traditional dancers. In the same year he toured Germany and Finland as well as performing in the Spoleto-Melbourne Festival. In 1990 he was in ONE EXTRA DANCE COMPANY'S production of OHELLO which toured Indonesia. Yapuma joined Bangarra in 1989, and went to Japan and New Zealand with the company.

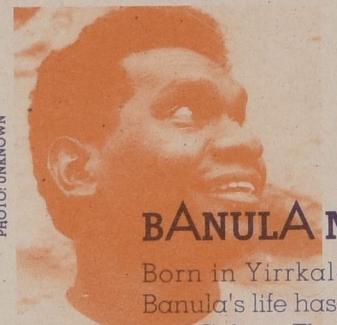


PHOTO: UNKNOWN

## BANULA MARIKA

Born in Yirrkala North East Arnhem Land, NT. Banula's life has been steeped in Traditional Dance and Culture. Throughout Australia he has played a very important role as teacher and performer of his traditional culture. In 1988 he toured with A.I.D.T to Germany and Finland. Banula joined Bangarra in 1990 and performed in the production UP UNTIL NOW. A highlight in 1991 was his performance of Sydney's Olympic Bid at Sydney Opera House.



PHOTO: GEORGE SERRAS

## ILLONA TIM

Born in Cairns, Queensland, Illona started her dance training at NAISDA, graduating in 1988. During her apprenticeship with Aboriginal Islander Dance Theatre she toured Germany and Finland and also performed at the Spoleto Festival in Melbourne. While at NAISDA her choreographic experience included such works as "Metamorphosis" and "Eldaglings" in collaboration with Martin Miller. Illona has toured with Bangarra to New Zealand and Indonesia as well as performing in the production of UP UNTIL NOW. She joined Bangarra in 1990.

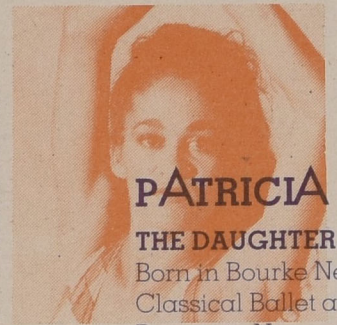


PHOTO: GEORGE SERRAS

## PATRICIA HANDY

### THE DAUGHTER

Born in Bourke New South Wales. Patricia studied Classical Ballet at The Doreen Baldwin School of Dance, in Newcastle. In 1987 Patricia was accepted into NAISDA and during her 2 years there, travelled to the Torres Strait Islands participating in community workshops and performances as part of the school's annual Traditional Trip. Since joining Bangarra in 1991, Patricia has toured Indonesia and performed in UP UNTIL NOW. A highlight for Patricia during 1991 was performing with Bangarra in Sydney's Olympic Bid for the year 2000 at the Sydney Opera House.

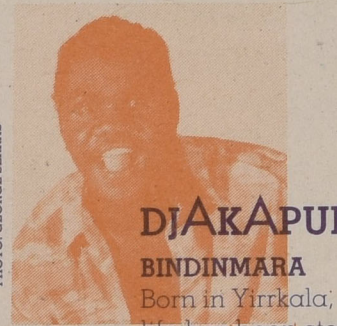


PHOTO: GEORGE SERRAS

## DJAKAPURRA MUNYARRYUN

### BINDINMARA

Born in Yirrkala, North Eastern Arnhem Land, his life has been steeped in traditional dance and ceremony. In 1989 and 1990, he travelled Australia with elders from Yirrkala teaching and conducting workshops. He joined Bangarra Dance Theatre in 1991 as a traditional dancer and a virtuoso didjiridoo player. A dynamic traditional dancer, Djakapurra shows great interest in modern dance. In 1991 he travelled to Indonesia with the company.



PHOTO: GEORGE SERRAS

## JENSEN WARUSAM

Jensen comes from Sabai Island in the Torres Strait Islands where he is a leading dancer in his community. For many years he has taught Traditional Torres Strait Island Dancing at NAISDA. In 1988 he toured Germany & Finland with the AIDT Professional Performing Group. With his passion for dance he returned to join Bangarra in 1991, for the Indonesian Tour as well as performing in UP UNTIL NOW.



PHOTO: DAVID BRADBURY

## MADONNA HEARL

Born in Mackay Queensland Madonna began her training in Classical Tap and Jazz at Betty Meskell School of Dance in Mackay. In 1985 she obtained a scholarship with the Victoria College of the Arts. At the same time she was invited by Dame Margaret Scott to attend classes at the Australian Ballet School for which she later successfully auditioned. In 1992 Madonna was offered an apprenticeship with Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia.

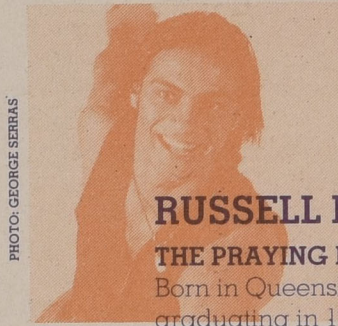


PHOTO: GEORGE SERRAS

## RUSSELL PAGE

### THE PRAYING MANITS

Born in Queensland, Russell studied with NAISDA graduating in 1989. With NAISDA in 1989, Russell represented Australia at the 2nd DANCE ACADEMY FESTIVAL in Hong Kong. In 1990, Russell performed in One Extra Dance Theatre's production of OHELLO in Jakarta and Hong Kong. With the same company he performed BRAVE NEW WORKS 2. In 1991 he joined Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia, touring Indonesia with the company. Russell's most recent performance was in POISON, an Aboriginal documentary for ABC-TV, directed by Michael Riley.



PHOTO: DAVID BRADBURY

## SUE ANN WILLIAMS

Born in Longreach, Queensland and raised in Rockhampton she started classical ballet at the Rockhampton Academy of Dancing under Debra Parker, where she obtained outstanding results in her RAD examinations. She joined the Queensland Young Dancers Company and later successfully auditioned for the Australian Ballet School. In 1987 she attended the Victorian College Dance Programme. In 1992 Sue-Ann was offered an apprenticeship with Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia.



PHOTO: DAVID BRADBURY

## MEDIKA WILLIAMS

Born in Melbourne in 1983. Medika lives in Sydney where she attends Darlington Public School. At school Medika is part of a performing group learning to sing and dance. In 1990, she participated with thousands of school children in the Annual Schools Spectacular at the Sydney Opera House. Medika has aspirations of being a dancer when she grows up. Our hope is that we will continue to encourage and inspire each other.

*Abingyi  
P/M 2-rearing  
12/3/92*

## PRODUCTION TEAM

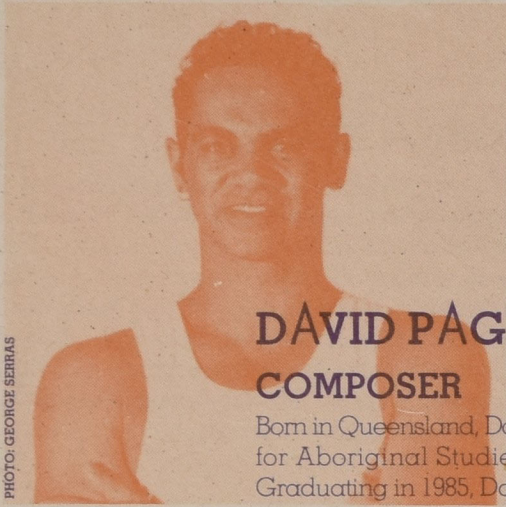


PHOTO: GEORGE SERRAS

### DAVID PAGE COMPOSER

Born in Queensland, David went to the Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music, Adelaide Graduating in 1985, David has performed in many stage productions, including MURRAS by Aboriginal playwright Eva Johnson and BIG SISTER by Reg Livermore. In both these productions he exhibited his versatility as a performer by acting, singing and dancing. David was music composer for KAYN WALU and DJUNBA WOMEN, annual productions of the Aboriginal Islander Dance Theatre - Student Ensemble. David joined Bangarra as resident composer, in 1991. During this time he has composed several original music scores for the company's productions. David toured to Indonesia and performed live music in UP UNTIL NOW.



PHOTO: DAVID HEADRURY

### LINDA BOBONGIE COSTUME DESIGNER

A graduate of the Aboriginal Dance Theatre Redfern, designing and sewing has always been Linda's greatest vocations. Being self taught, it was with great enthusiasm that in 1992 Linda joined Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia in 1992. Linda is training to be a Costume Designer, and is attending a part-time course with the Whitehouse School of Fashion Design and Drawing. This is Linda's first major design work with Bangarra.

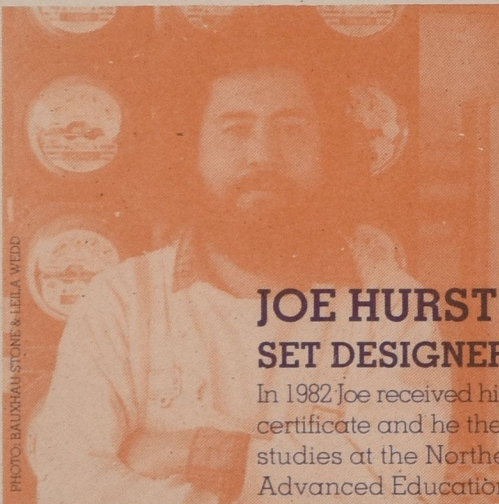


PHOTO: BAURHAM STONE & LILLA WEDD

### JOE HURST SET DESIGNER

In 1982 Joe received his Painter and Decorator certificate and he then went on to further his studies at the Northern River College of Advanced Education - Lismore, gaining a Diploma in Visual Arts. At QLD College of Arts he completed two semesters of a BA in Animation. Joe's first major design was for the production, "Keepers" written and directed by Bob Maza - Belvoir Street Theatre. Since Joe has designed many productions, both in television and theatre. Most recently being ABC TV -BLACKOUT "Poison" directed by Michael Riley, "Reflections" AIDT Student Ensemble and "Up the Road", directed by Kylie Belling.

### SHANE STEVENS LIGHTING DESIGNER

Shane Stevens graduated from NIDA in 1992 and is currently Technical Co-ordinator of The Performance Space. Lighting designs include Ochre Dreaming- Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia; The Heidi Chronicles, Other Peoples Money, The Boys Next Door - Ensemble Theatre; Boss of the Pool - Riverina Theatre Company; Just Frank - Crossroads Theatre; The White Rose of Annandale, Sharon Lilly Screwdriver, The Art of Being Still - Griffin Theatre; Future Tense - Belvoir St; Anastasia the Chamber Opera - Round Table Productions; Seen Being, The Will, Pocketful of Hula Dreams - lounge acts - Harold Park Hotel. Shane was also lighting director for Circus Oz - Sydney Tent Season '91-'92.

# BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE STAFF

## ARTISTIC PERSONNEL

Artistic Director  
Resident Composer  
Part-time Dance Teachers

STEPHEN PAGE  
DAVID PAGE  
ALANNA LOCKWARD - Ballet  
ROULA KANTARZOGLOU Modern/Jazz

## ADMINISTRATION

General Manager  
Bookings Manager  
Publicity Officer - Trainee  
Administration Assistant - Trainee  
Bookings Manager - Trainee

ROBIN BRYANT  
CHERYL STONE  
JENNIFER C. BEALE  
JOAN GREEN  
DOLORES SCOTT

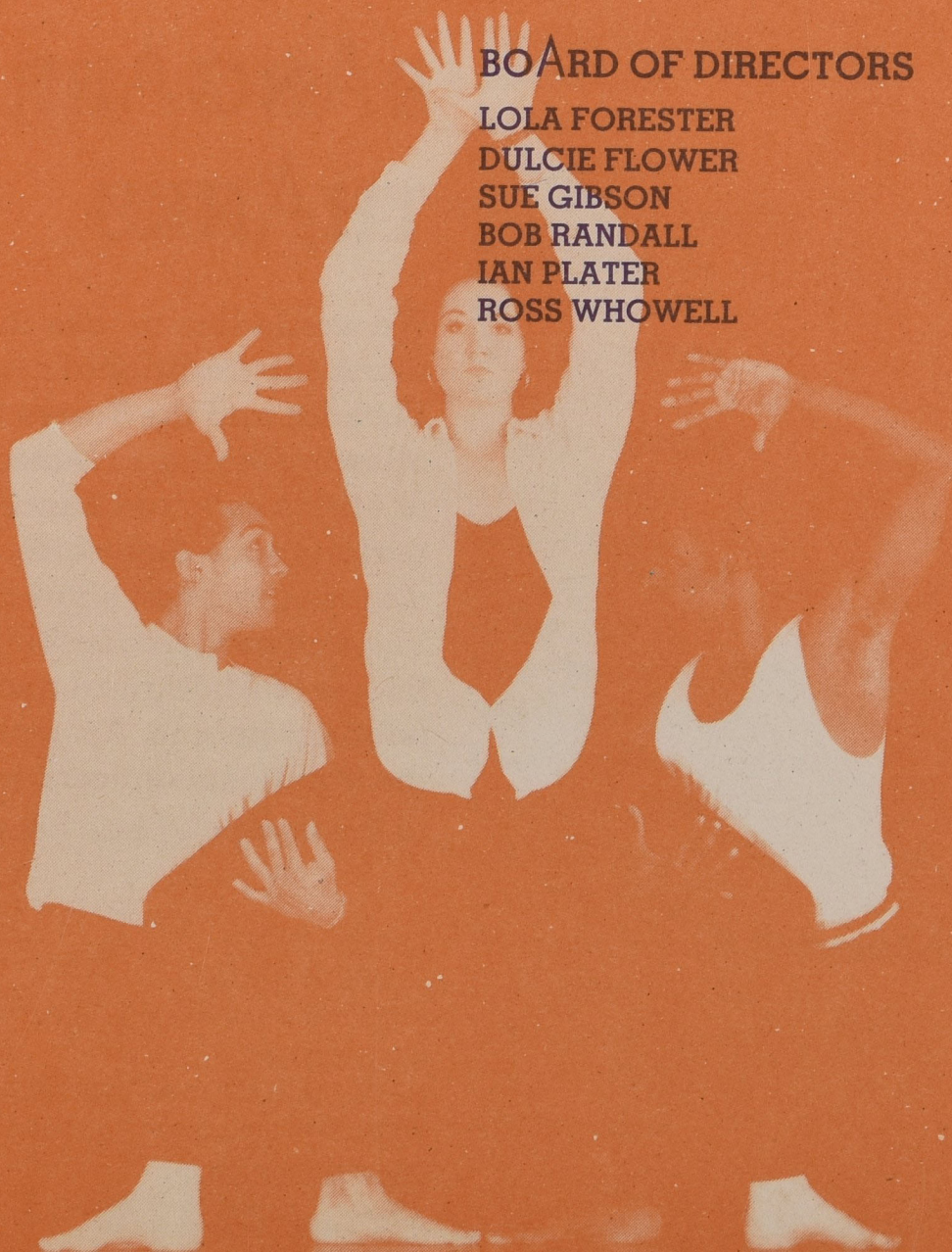
## PRODUCTION PERSONNEL

Production /Stage Manager  
Stage Manager - Trainee  
Costume Designer - Trainee  
Sound Technician - Trainee

JIM MANN  
BRENDAN READ  
LINDA BOBONGIE  
PATRICIA MORTON-THOMAS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LOLA FORESTER  
DULCIE FLOWER  
SUE GIBSON  
BOB RANDALL  
IAN PLATER  
ROSS WHOWELL





DJAKAPURRA MUNYARRYUN, MONICA STEVENS & GUYPUNGURA MUNYARRYUN  
Photo: Graham McCarter

# BANGARRA THANKS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the traditional communities of Yirrkala and the Torres Strait Islands for allowing Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia to utilise selected dances for parts of the performance repertoire. Your traditional dances has been shared nationally and internationally, contributing to the positive image of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. A special thanks go to the traditional dancers, whose contribution to the company has been invaluable.

FRONT COVER  
RUSSELL PAGE  
Photo: Bauxhau Stone & Leila Wedd  
BACK COVER  
PATRICIA HANDY & PINAU GHEE  
Photo: Bauxhau Stone and Leila Wedd  
PROGRAM DESIGN  
V2000

# BANGARRA ACKNOWLEDGES

THE  
ASSISTANCE  
AND  
SUPPORT  
FROM  
THE  
FOLLOWING  
PEOPLE  
AND ORGANIZATIONS:

- Office of Aboriginal Affairs
- Music Technology
- Damien Gerard Sound Studio
- Breakout Printing
- South Sydney Police –  
Citizens Youth Club
- SBS Radio 2EA–  
Aboriginal Program
- Australian Copyright Council
- Eugene Casey –  
Tamborine Music
- Jeremy & Lenny from  
Browns Mill
- Samantha Sanders
- Gerry Bostock
- Roland Chadwick
- Guypungura Munyarryun
- Lou Davis
- Francis Williams
- Donald Enoch
- SBS Aboriginal Television Unit
- Annie Gundy
- Libby Blainey
- Bauxhau Stone
- Leila Wedd
- Aunty Dee
- Greg Clark
- David Hutchinson
- Neal Sanders
- Jim Trembath
- Sonia Stevens
- Sam Basa
- Marcia Walker
- Kelly Khalu
- Shenique
- Michael Wood
- Jo Dormer
- The Costume Shop
- Margaret Smith
- Lise Mardon Smith
- Jimmy Gagai
- GCC Projects P/L
- Sandra King
- Rhonda Hunt & Associates
- Margaret Walker
- Ausdance (formerly AADE)
- Stephen Warren
- AM Studios



**BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE AUSTRALIA LTD.**

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