

Bangarra Dance Theatre

in association with

Fifth Amendment

presents

# the dreadnought

Stephen Page  
David Page  
Peter England  
Jennifer Irwin  
Karen Norris

Director / Choreographer  
Original Score  
Set Design  
Costume Design  
Lighting Design

**DERNGATE**  
NORTHAMPTON

19/21 Guildhall Road Northampton NN1 1DP  
Box Office 01604 624811

An Arts Facility funded by Northampton Borough Council

FRIDAY

16TH JULY 8PM

TICKETS: £9.50 £11.50

Funded by  
THE  
ARTS  
COUNCIL

Bangarra Dance Theatre



# the dreaming

Defying categories, one of Australia's foremost dance companies Bangarra Dance Theatre takes audiences on a sublime emotional journey exploring and celebrating the raw power of the elements. **The Dreaming** draws on the grandeur and desolation of Australia's sweeping landscapes and waters to evoke the dangerous beauty and spiritual resonance of a country and a people.



New South Wales Government  
Ministry for the Arts

Steeped in the cultural heritage of the Aboriginal people of Australia, Bangarra combines ancient myth and ritual with music and movement from the contemporary urban world to present a work of sharp beauty and contrasts. Nature and humanity converge in a lyrical story of resilience, strength and belonging.

This project has been assisted by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and the New South Wales Government through the Ministry for the Arts.

Bangarra Dance Theatre  
in association with  
U.K. Arts International  
presents

the  
dreaming

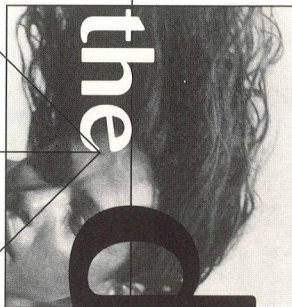
Dancer Frances Rings  
Photographer Gerald Jenkins

Director/Choreographer Stephen Page  
Original Score by David Page  
Score Produced by Stephen Francis  
Cultural Consultant Djakapurra Munyarryun  
Set Design Peter England  
Costume Design Jennifer Irwin  
Lighting Design Karen Norris  
Set Construction Scenographic Studios

#### Cast

Victor Bramich Djakapurra Munyarryun  
Lea Francis Frances Rings  
Elma Kris Desley Roberts  
Gary Lang Sidney Saltner  
Peggy Misi

## a work in two parts



# dreamings

Before time began when the land was formed and the spirits roamed free was **the Dreaming**. Where wet meets dry, the future folds back to the past and the Imagined is often Reality.

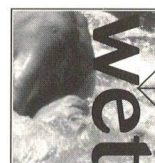
Steeped in the cultural heritage of the Aboriginal people of Australia, the Dreaming combines the ancient myth and ritual of the Munyarryun Clan of Northern Australia with music and movement from the contemporary urban world to present a work of sharp beauty and contrasts. Weaving together the elemental experience of both the land and the waters, **the Dreaming** sets forth on a sublime emotional journey. Drawing on the grandeur and desolation of Australia's sweeping landscapes and waters, **the Dreaming** evokes the dangerous beauty and spiritual resonance of a country and a people.

Humanity merges with nature's pantheon in a lyrical story of resilience, strength and belonging.



Drawing on the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the land, **Dry** explores the mystical significance of the substance of ochre, inspired by its spiritual and medicinal power. A clay-like paint drawn from the land itself, ochre plays a vital role in the cultural life of a community.

From the pain and power of male initiation to the cleansing spirit of Mother Earth at dawn, **Dry** follows the daily cycle of the land and maps the universal cycle of us all.



**Wet** 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, **Wet** celebrates the seas, the rivers, the swamps, and the wealth of life and mystery they contain.

The still waters are sites of great sacredness and spirituality, imagining 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. The oceans inspire the exhilaration and energy of life and love: 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.

Each part runs for 35 minutes with a twenty minute interval.

Bangarra Dance Theatre



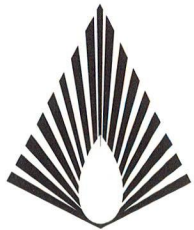
the dreaming



One of the most exciting performing arts companies in Australia at the moment is Bangarra Dance Theatre.

Formed in 1989, the meteoric rise of this company has seen them lauded by audiences and critics alike. Bangarra is something special, and totally unique. Its artists have come together from all over Australia to form a unique contemporary clan - a tribe that embraces both of Australia's Indigenous peoples, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. They have developed a new language through which contemporary urban Aboriginal people can express themselves, their ideas and their spirits, a language of dance, music and of song. Drawing on the traditional dances and culture of the Yirrkala community in the remote area of Arnhemland, in the north of Australia, under the artistic direction of Stephen Page, Bangarra has fused 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.

From this fusion has emerged an electrifying new style, completely innovative, truly Australian, a style which seamlessly blends contemporary fluidity with dynamic traditionalism, and for which Bangarra is renowned.



**BANGARRA**  
dance theatre

company

Artistic Director  
General Manager  
Artistic Coordinator  
Development Manager  
Administrator  
Financial Controller  
Production Manager  
Stage Manager  
Technician  
Production Assistant

Stephen Page  
Jo Dyer  
Jasmine Gulash  
Fiona Taylor  
Carla Theunissen  
David Lloyd  
John Colvin  
Sam Baker  
John Matkovic  
Ebony Williams



Bangarra Dance Theatre is assisted by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its 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

**Thanks**

Bangarra Dance Theatre owes its survival in part to the generous support of corporate sponsors and individual supporters. Sincere thanks must go to OzEmail Ltd, the company's Principal Sponsor, The Westfield Foundation, Sponsor of the Dancers' Development Fund, AAP Information Services, the company's Founding Sponsor, and to the many supporters who contribute generously to the Totem Program.

Special thanks to Gerald Jenkins.