

A.C.N. 003 814 006

# BANGARRA DANCE

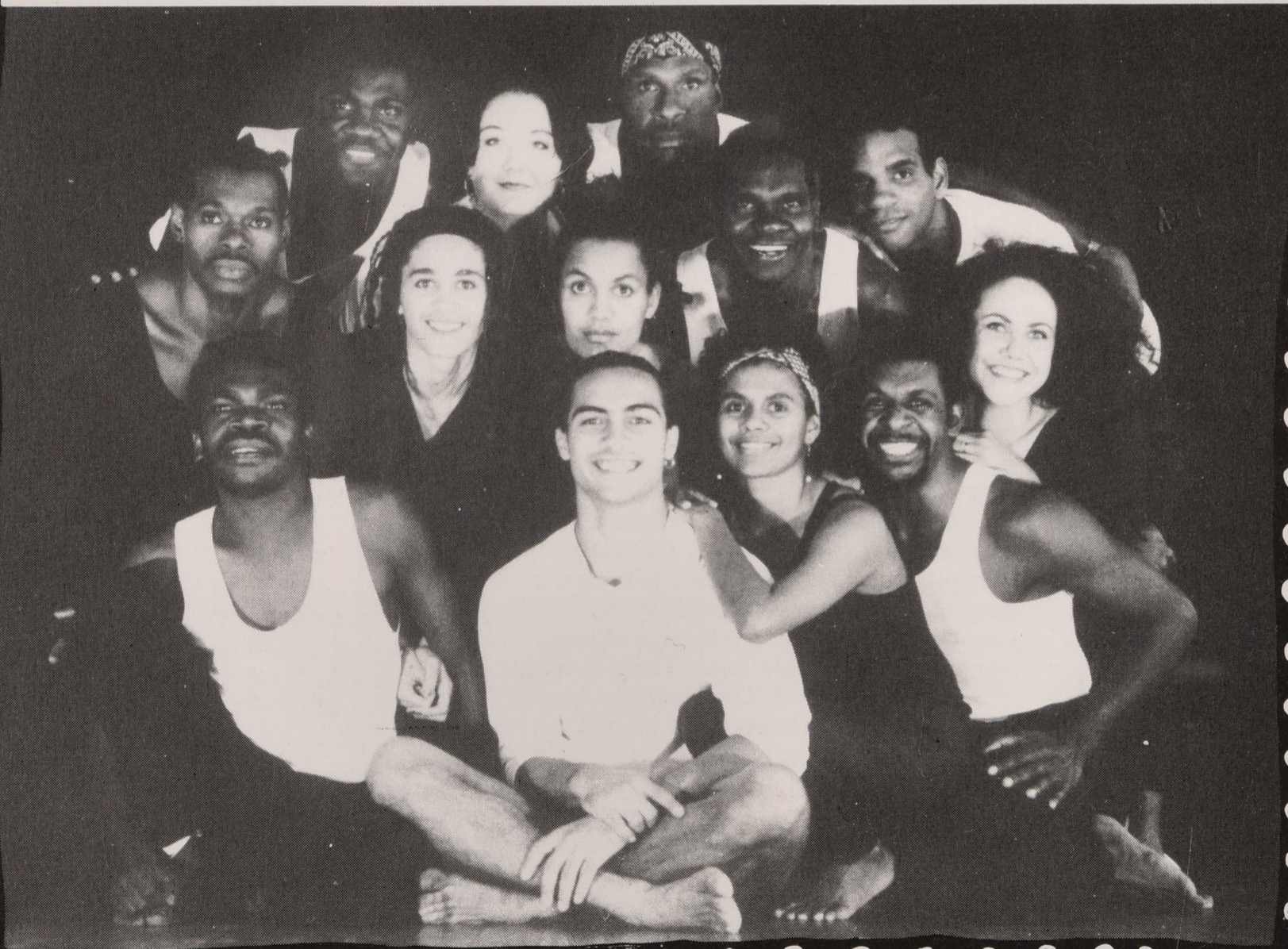


## THEATRE



Tel: (02) 319 4560 • Fax: (02) 319 4569

# NEWSLETTER *NO. 1* 1992



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PHOTO: G. HADANI

## WELCOME TO ALL OUR FRIENDS, SUPPORTERS AND NEW READERS.

Yes! We have survived yet another year of hectic work scheduals. Bangarra has been in great demand. Our dancers have hardly had a moment to rest, rushing half dressed and covered in ochre from one performance to the next. Our administration staff also deserve a round of applause. They have worked tirelessly to generate the funds that keep Bangarra's dancers on their toes.

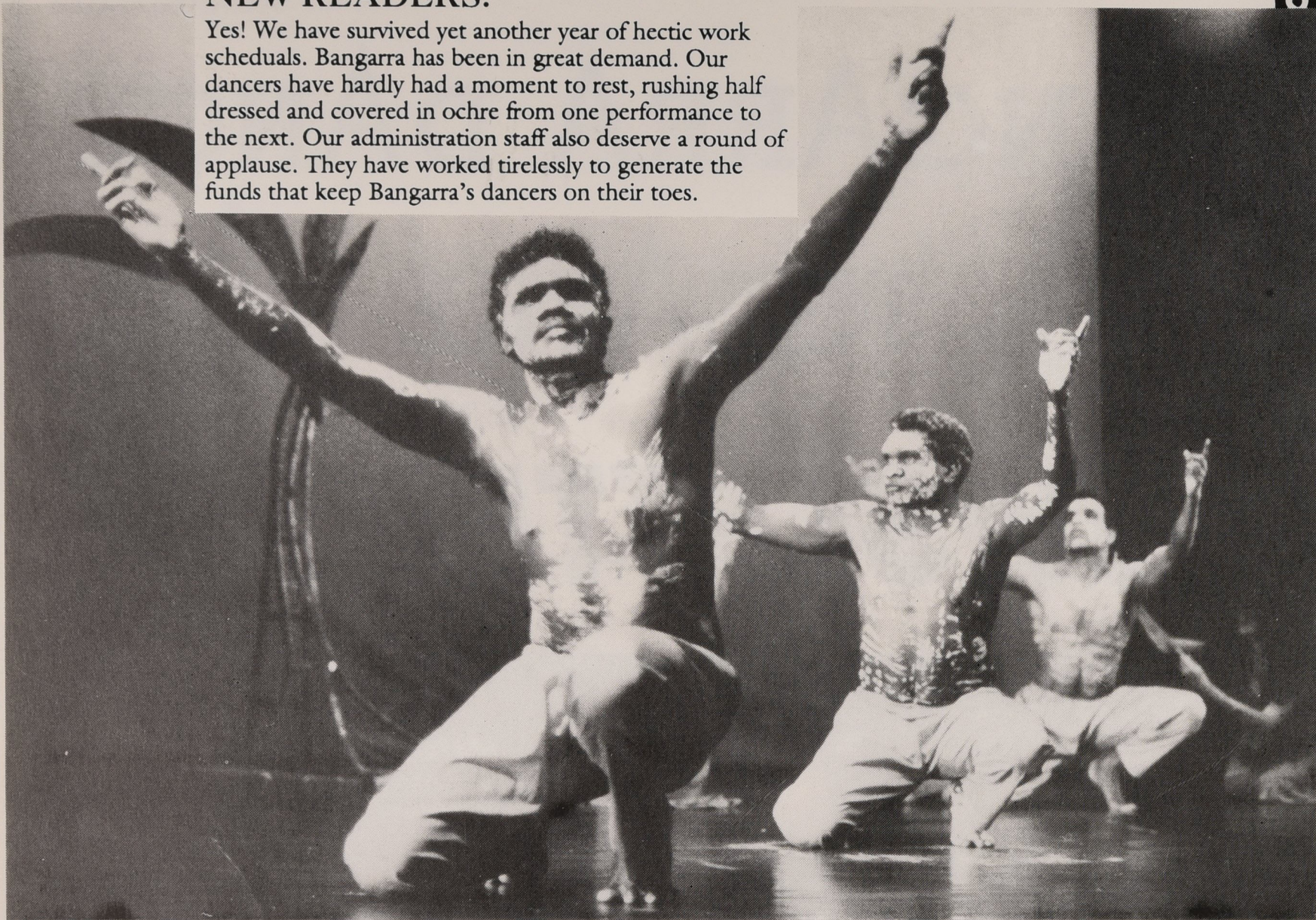


PHOTO: E. MURRAY

## APPOINTMENT OF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Bangarra has appointed Stephen Page as the Company Artistic Director.

A graduate of the National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association, Stephen joined the Sydney Dance Company in 1983 where he performed in *After Venice*, *Wilderness*, *Nearly Beloved*, *Shining*, *Poppy*,

*Cafe*, *Soft Bruising*, *Company of Women*, *King Roger* and *In Late Afternoon of a Faun*. Graeme Murphy created an important role for Stephen 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.

Stephen toured with The Aboriginal Islander Dance Theatre in 1988 to Germany and Finland and was Artistic Director of the NAISDA 1989 End of Year Show, *Kayn Walu*.

In 1991 he choreographed an original work, *Mooggrah*, for the Sydney Dance Company's season *Shakespeare Dances*.

In December 91 the Sydney Theatre Company commissioned Stephen to choreograph their latest work *Trackers of Oxyrhincus*; at the same time he choreographed a sextet for The Australian Opera's season *Nozze di Figaro*.

By the end of 1991 while juggling many jobs Stephen began his relationship with Bangarra as Principle Choreographer and choreographed *Up Until Now*, which was presented to Sydney audiences at Sidetrack Theatre, the NSW North Coast and Brisbane.

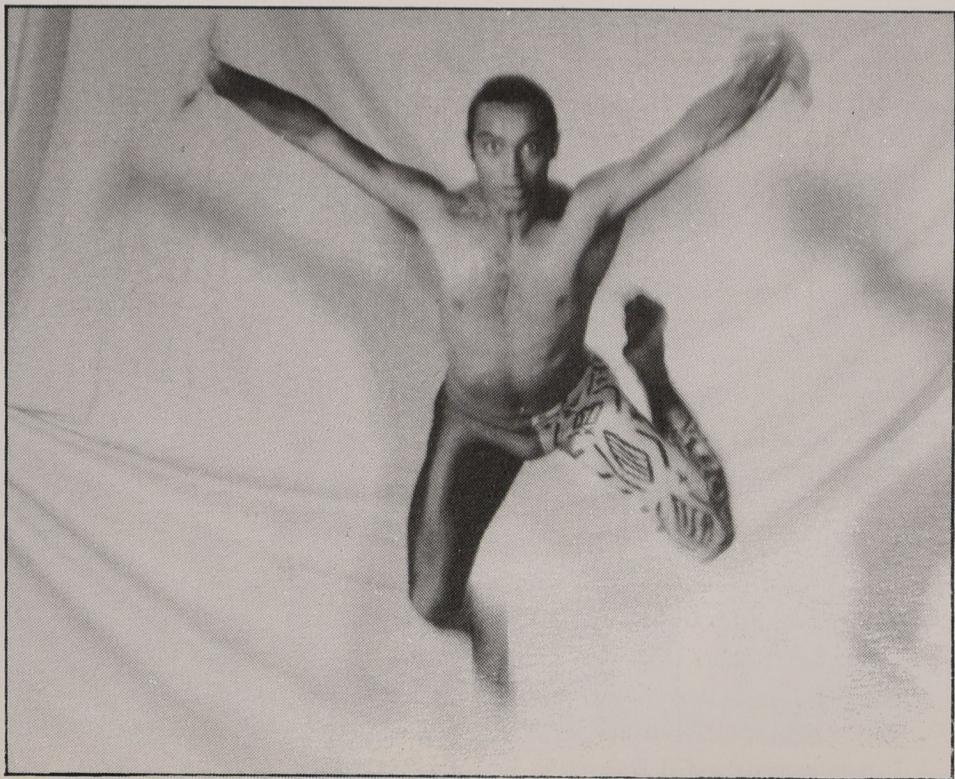
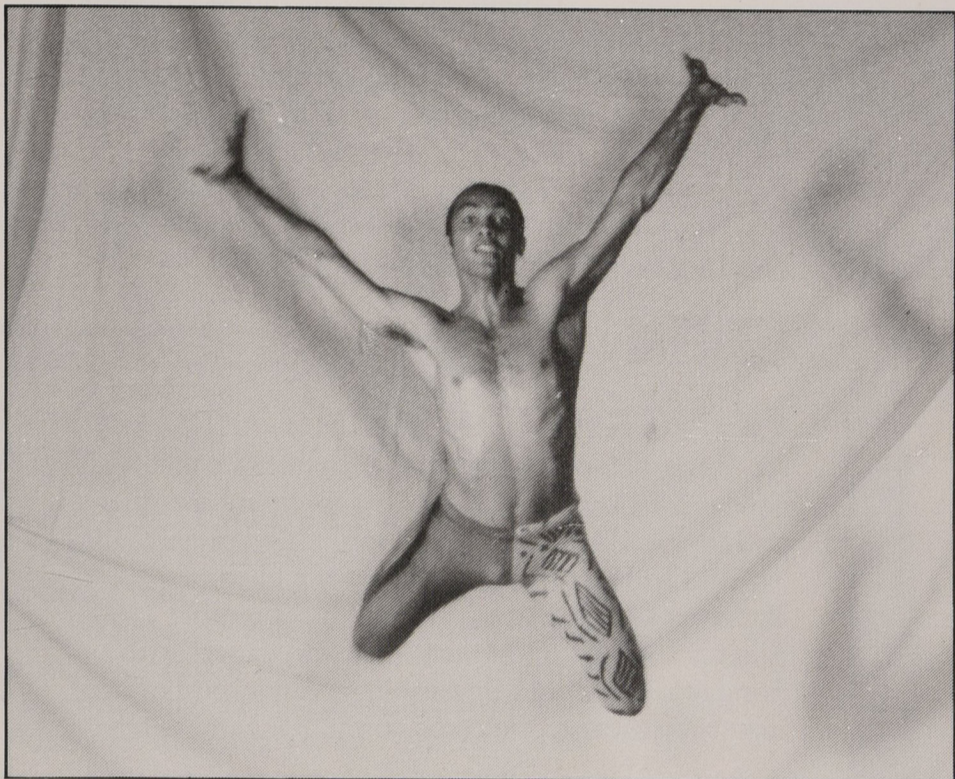


PHOTO: B. GARCIA

## YIRRKALA CONNECTION

Earlier this year our dancers had the opportunity to participate in Gumatj language classes taught by Yapuma Gurruwiwi, Janet and Beth Munyarryun. The classes were of great benefit to the dancers and enjoyed by all. Thanks also to Kathy Ganambarr for her work on the Yirrkala costumes. We thank the Yirrkala community for their valued input and ongoing support.





## BUILDING:

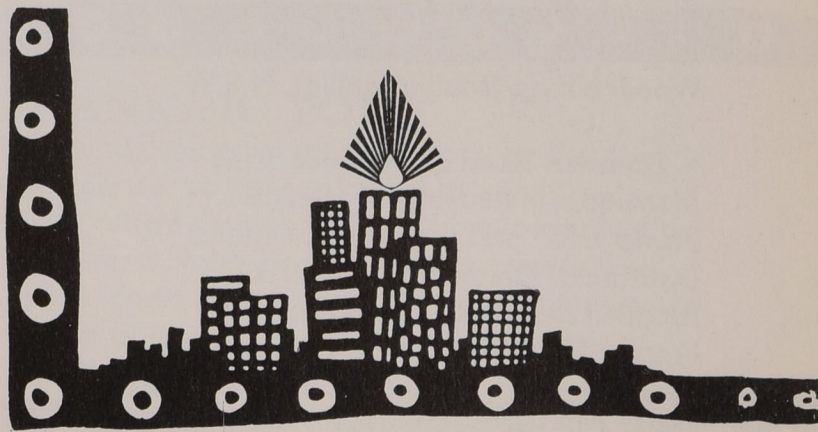
The search is still on to find a building that will adequately house the whole company. The office is still located at 245 Chalmers St. Redfern. However this space is becoming grossly inadequate with the addition of four new staff members. Our dancers are still rehearsing at the South Sydney Police Citizens Youth Club in Redfern and we are sad to say this space also is becoming inadequate with the increase in the number of dancers.

It is unlikely Bangarra will move into a new building either this year or the next. However Bangarra along with Boomalli have petitioned the N.S.W. Aboriginal Land Council to purchase the Dalgety Bond Store in Munn St, Millers Point.

Situated between the Rocks and Darling Harbour, the Munn Street Bond Stores were built in three stages in 1834. They are listed by The National Trust-Australia Heritage Commission and are included in the Central Sydney Draft LEP 1991 as an item of Environmental Heritage.

Despite the fact that the buildings need renovations, Robin Bryant -Bangarra's General Manager, believes they are ideal in terms of location (it sits directly on the tourist belt, eg. The Rocks and Darling Harbour) and space. Store A consists of 5 stories with an approx. floor space of 1,405m<sup>2</sup> and would be ideal as an Administration/ Visual Arts space for either Bangarra or Boomalli, whilst Store C has 3 stories and approx 2,156m<sup>2</sup> of floor space, perfect for use as a dance studio and performance space. A mezzanine floor could be introduced to Store C, introducing valuable floor space and allowing effective usage of the substantial floor to ceiling heights within the warehouse.

Bangarra and Boomalli's dream of occupying a building that would adequately house just one of the companies, let alone both, may be a long way off. Purchase of the Munn St. Bond Stores are currently tied up in a lot of bureaucratic red tape, which from experience, most of us know... it could be a very long and crowded time before our new homes are no longer wishful dreams but a reality. ( Unless of course some entrepreneur with a lot of money feels like splurging on a young but dynamic dance company...highly unlikely .... or we get lucky in the big one...LOTTO!!).



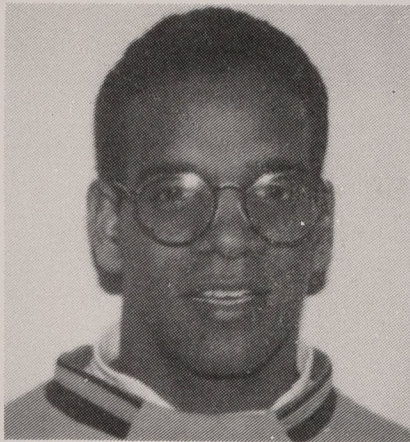
# BANGARRA EXPANDING, NEW

This year has seen the company expand. Three young and talented dancers have joined Bangarra adding a bit more sparkle to the fire. May we introduce Madonna Hearl, Sue-Ann Williams and Lewis Lampton.



• **Madonna**, born in Mackay Queensland, she began her training in Classical Tap and Jazz at the Betty Meskell School of Dance in Mackay. In 1985 Madonna obtained a scholarship with the Victorian College of the Arts. At the same time she was invited by Dame Margret 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.

• **Sue-Ann**, 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 of the Arts Dance Programme. In 1992 Sue-Ann was offered an apprenticeship with Bangarra.



• **Lewis** also hails from Rockhampton. A fiveyear graduate of NAISDA, he spent three months training with Tasdance and attended a cultural festival in Papua New Guinea. In 1991 he joined Aboriginal Islander Dance Theatre -The Company. The beginning of 1992 saw Lewis dancing the lead role of Harold Blair in Kim Walker's "The Harold Project".

Lewis, Madonna and Sue -Ann bring the total numbers of dancers employed by Bangarra up to fourteen.

## D.E.E.T. TRAINEES

Bangarra's little office is bursting at its seams with the addition of five new trainees.

• **Dolores Scott**- Trainee Public Relations/ Bookings Manager. Dolores is studying Public Relations at St George TAFE. In 1985, She graduated from the Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Scheme - Careers in Dance also known as NAISDA. Dolores is from Ingham, North Queensland.

• **Joan Green**- Trainee Administration Assistant, a well known member of Sydney's Aboriginal community, Joan has worked with various Aboriginal organisations over the last twenty years. She is doing a Business Administration Course at the Metropolitan Business College. Since joining Bangarra Joan has gained three certificates in Computer Studies from Logical Solutions. Joan comes from Woodenbong (Mullie Mullie), N.S.W.

• **Brendan Read** our Trainee Stage Manager, is studying "Technical Production" part time at the National Institute of Dramatic Arts, (NIDA). Brendan has worked extensively with Feature Film, Rock Video Clips and Documentaries. Brendan comes from Peak Hill in Central West N.S.W.

## CONGRATULATIONS

To Sylvia Blanco-Green in February earlier this year, Sylvia had a baby boy. Sylvia is a founding member and former dancer with Bangarra. Good on ya Syl!!!

And to Janet Munyarryun on the birth of Balawurr Gurru Gurru, on the 8th September 1992. Janet is a valued traditional tutor and dancer with Bangarra. Let's say Mowanthua is very proud of her new baby brother. Welcome to the Bangarra family!

**Patricia Morton-Thomas**- Trainee Sound Technician. A former Radio Broadcaster with six years experience, Patricia has worked at both the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association, (CAAMA) and the ABC. In 1990 she attended the International Radio Festival of New York, her Radio Documentary about contemporary Aboriginal music having gained finalist stature at this prestigious event. She is currently studying at the School of Audio Engineering. Patricia is a Territorian, hailing from Alice Springs.

• **Linda Bobongie**- A graduate of the Aboriginal Dance Theatre Redfern, Linda joined Bangarra as Trainee Costume Designer earlier this year. She is currently enrolled in a two year course with the Whitehouse School of Design and Drawing. Linda recently did Bangarra proud with her first major design work on Praying Mantis Dreaming.

## NEW SPONSORS:

What does a company do when it has one computer, a room full of type happy staff and more deadlines to meet than the Sydney transport system? The answer is quite simple and logical. You go to a computer company that greets its customers with a happy smile and very logical solutions to sometimes overwhelming problems. Bangarra was quite fortunate to receive sponsorship from computer company

**LOGICAL SOLUTIONS**, who have gone out of their way to ensure that Bangarra's staff never have reason to take a quick ciggy break while waiting for someone else to get off the computer... Logical Solutions has so far given us two computers, one printer and associated software.....not to mention much needed support in the way of staff training in computer literacy. Bangarra would like to thank Logical Solutions for all their help.



## CATHAY PACIFIC

Arrive in better shape

## NEWSFLASH....

INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE SPONSORS  
INDIGENOUS DANCE COMPANY....

Yes! sir ree... **CATHAY PACIFIC AIRLINES** has taken our fledgling company under its wings... Recognising the potential of Bangarra and our role in Australian performing arts Cathay Pacific decided to sign Bangarra up for sponsorship and partly subsidised the airfares for Bangarra's recent tour of China.

Cathay Pacific is already involved with performing arts in Asia, so it seemed like a natural step for the Airline to take on an Australian dance troupe and an Indigenous one at that. Bangarra looks forward to a long friendship with Cathay Pacific.



Greg Crease from Logical Solutions and Robin Bryant, our General Manager.

## EXPO 92, SEVILLE - SPAIN.

In conjunction with Marguerite Pepper Productions four members of Bangarra- Patricia Handy, Stephen, Russell and David Page as well as Aku Kadogo under the guise of "Niki Nali" participated in the Australian National Day contingent at Expo 92 in Seville and the Olympia Festival Des' Las Arts in Barcelona prior to the opening of the Olympic games.

Patricia Handy, her eyes taking on a wistful far away look as she describes the sights and atmosphere of Spain, almost had this writer calling the nearest travel agent to book the next flight out of town, heading for Spain.

Patricia was kind enough to share with us a small part of her memories of Spain.

*"It was an honour for me to perform in the Australia Day Celebration's for Expo 92 in Seville and at the Olympia Des' Las Arts in Barcelona, Spain. The Spanish climate of forty five degrees plus every day took some adjusting to, but for a country so far away from my own, the dry hot landscape reminded me of Australia. As I looked out of the aeroplane windows flying over the picturesque vineyards and focusing on the beautiful white Spanish mansions which covered the inland areas I imagined what it would be like to live in this beautiful story book landscape.*

*Many Spaniards were totally unaware of Australia and it's two cultures. I found myself informing a lot of people about our "Lucky Country" and Indigenous peoples. I felt so proud partaking in the Australian National Day Celebrations, believing it extremely important to show the international crowd the diversity of Australian art and the cultures' within it.*

*The Australian National Day Celebrations were apparently one of the most successful and entertaining of Expo 92's National Days. There were full crowds at each performance during the days celebrations and standing room only for the evening show which climaxed with Yothu Yindi performing their hit single Djapana.*

*Stephen, David, Russell and myself were given the honour of painting up in semi-traditional costume and performing the traditional dance of Djapana along with Yothu Yindi and the other acts who came on stage for the finale. For myself this was the highlight of the "Niki Nali" tour of Spain.*

*"Adios Amigos"*

PATRICIA HANDY.

Niki Nali's tour of Australia ended in Adelaide, having performed to enthusiastic crowds in both Alice Springs and Darwin.

## THANKING YOU

Shireen Malamoo has resigned from the Board of Directors due to her hectic work schedule with ATSC where she was elected Commissioner for the Queensland North Zone. We thank you for your work, support and contribution to the company. All the best from us all.

PHOTO: E. MURRAY

## 2nd CHINA INTERNATIONAL FOLK ART FESTIVAL.

There was a rumor going around Bangarra that we had been invited to perform in China...and possibly Hong Kong. Dancers and staff alike were buzzing with excitement at the possibility of trekking the legendary silk road described by Marco Polo or scaling the Great Chinese Wall but lets not delude ourselves, despite the cultural education a trip to China and Hong Kong might have evoked in us, the main thought going through every body's mind was the big "S" word ...SHOPPING!!!.... So with a lot of hard work and hours of telephone conversations which no doubt have Telecom's piggy bank bursting, the Administration staff pulled through once again to make the rumor an actual fact. The troupe left Sydney on the 11th of August leaving only a handful of us to carry on with the every day running of the company and seriously considering taking up a career in dancing.

Bangarra was invited to perform at the 2nd China International Folk Art Festival held in Beijing and Laioning Province by the China Federation of Art and Literary Circles (CFALC) thus making Bangarra the first Australian Indigenous cultural performing group to visit China.

The company performed along with 16 other countries at the Festival's Official Opening Ceremony in Beijing, Capital Gymnasium on August the 14th. The event was telecast live on National China Television to an approximate viewing audience of 800 million people (No kidding).

The original 17 countries who participated in the Beijing ceremony split up to attend opening Ceremonies in other parts of China. Our group along with Korea, France, India, Spain, Russia and a local Chinese group performed in 37-40 degrees heat to an audience of around 20,000 people at the Haicheng Sports Stadium in Laioning Province on August the 20th.

August the 22nd, Bangarra joined the Festival's 2 km Street Parade through Haiching. Our dancers

# CHINA



中國國際民間藝術節

1992



were constantly mobbed by the press and media in China.

At the request of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Bangarra's stay in China was extended to include performances in Guangdong Province and Hong Kong.

The day after the dancers arrived in Hong Kong after a gruelling tour of China, one newspaper.... The South China Morning Post zeroed into the troupes hidden agenda for China, reporting that as soon as Bangarra hit town... the dancers went shopping. The troupe arrived back in Australia on Monday the 7th of September.

Gathering bits of information from the dancers who had the energy to communicate without falling into a withering heap on the floor, I managed to decipher these comments. "It was no holiday!! The first person who suggests it was... is going to get what for.".... Oh Please I don't want to talk about it." and "HOLIDAY!! who said it was a Holiday?" ....but as the day drew on, the comments became more coherent and positive.

Many of the dancers marvelled at the size of China's population, the amount of people riding bikes and the chaotic traffic. Bangarra apparently obtained superstar status in some towns, the dancers telling of the crowds following them through the streets. Some people asking for autographes others just curious.

Australia's Consul General in Hong Kong, Dr Jocelyn Chey was impressed with Bangarra's performance. She had this to say,"You are all wonderful ambassadors for your country..... Congratulations on a splendid performance!"



PHOTOS: E. MURRAY

**FOR SALE**

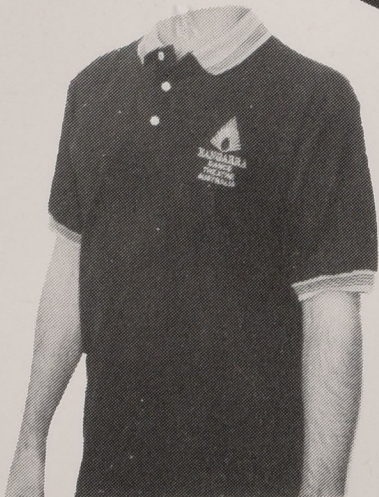


**BANGARRA  
PATCHES... \$7.00**



**CAPS..... \$10.00**

**T.SHIRTS... \$15.00**



**COLLARED  
T. SHIRTS... \$25.00**

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BANGARRA DANCE  
THEATRE AUSTRALIA  
P.O. BOX 218  
PYRMONT N.S.W. 2009

Plus postage and handling per item..... \$.....2.00

Total payment..... \$.....

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Please post to:

Patches	T.Shirts	Caps	Col. Shirts

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SIZE.....  
Small Med Large XLarge

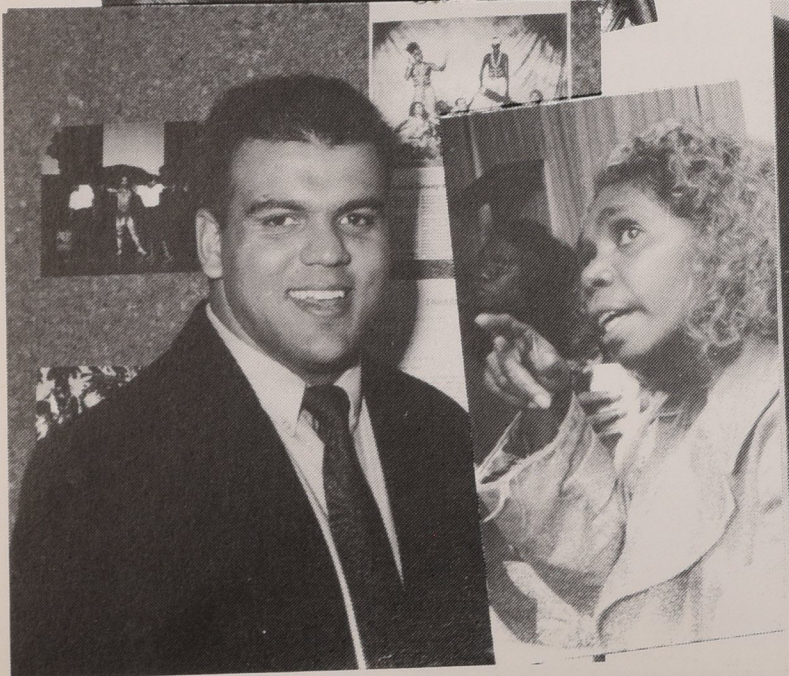
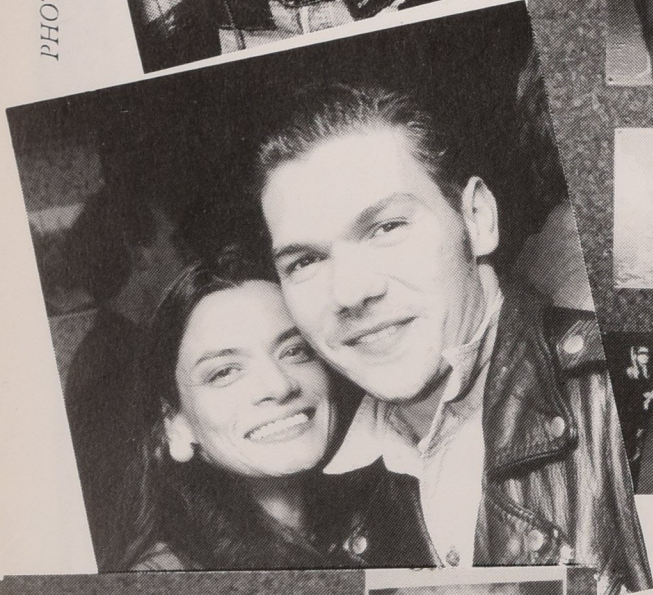
# 'PRAYING MANTIS DREAMING' PREVIEW SEASON



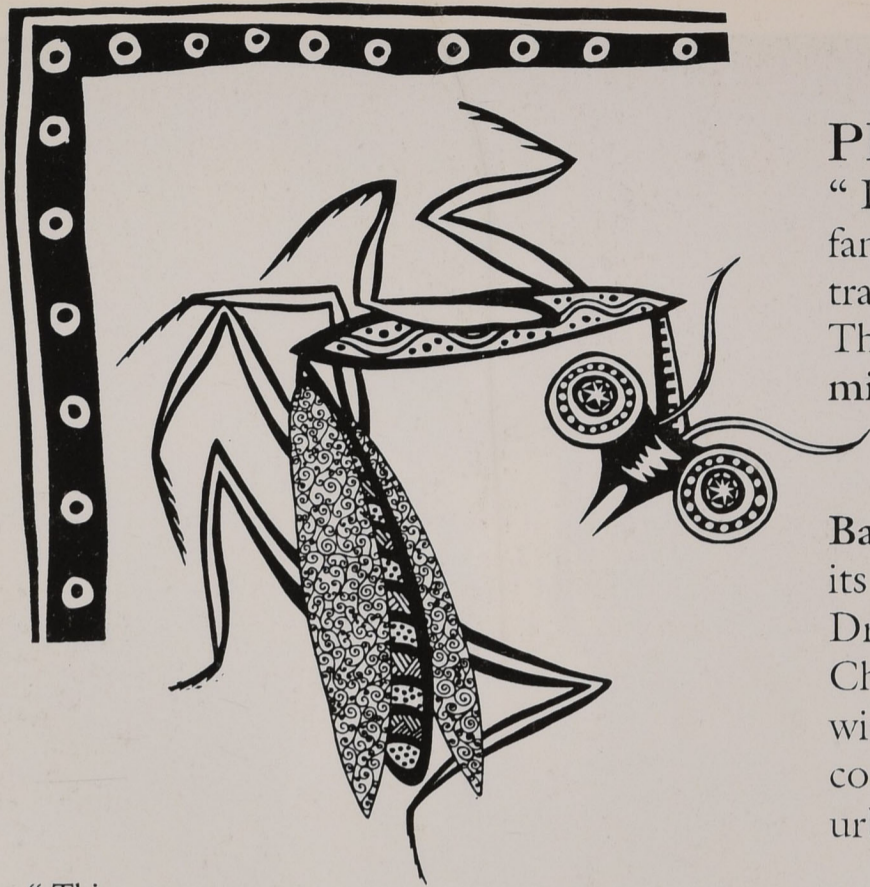
PARADE THEATRE, N.I.D.A.



PHOTOS: E. MURRAY







## PRAYING MANTIS DREAMING:

“ Praying Mantis Dreaming is a blend of entertaining fantasy and hard edge comment, contemporary and traditional dance, simplicity and complexity. Theatrically it is a good show. Historically, it is a milestone achievement”.

– *The Sydney Morning Herald 29/6/92.*

Bangarra recently turned the Sydney dance scene on its head with its performance of Praying Mantis Dreaming; Bangarra's first full-length ballet.

Choreographed by Artistic Director, Stephen Page with an original music score by resident musician/composer David Page, the ballet is described as an urban Aboriginal Dreaming story.

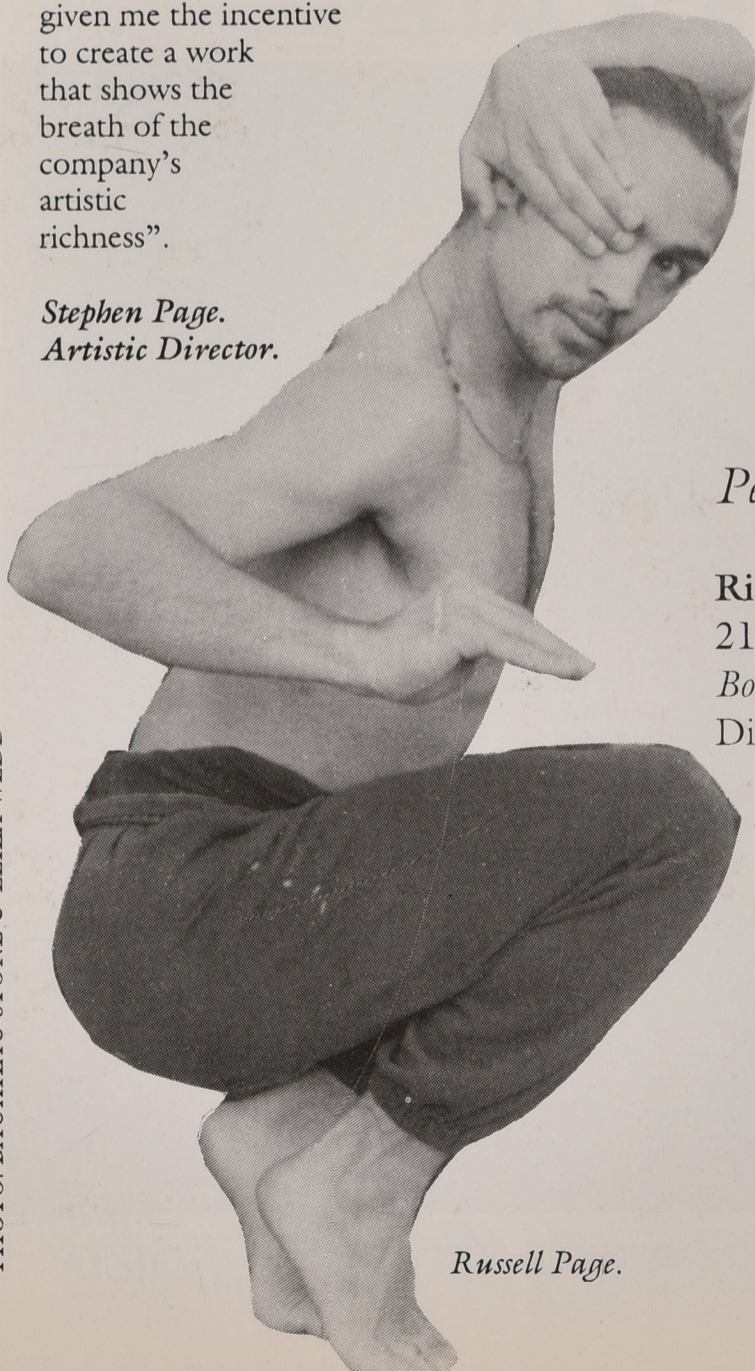
The inspiration and knowledge to do this work comes predominately from the Yirrkala people of North East Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory.

Praying Mantis Dreaming is not only a milestone achievement for Bangarra but also a milestone for Australian performing arts in general, and more specifically for Australian Indigenous performing arts.

It is exciting, it is different, maybe this writer's being biased...but those people living in Brisbane and Canbarra will soon have a chance to judge for themselves. Check below for details.

“ 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 breath of the company's artistic richness”.

*Stephen Page.*  
*Artistic Director.*



*Russell Page.*

### *Performance dates.*

**Rialto Theatre..Brisbane**

21st - 31st Oct.

*Bookings:*

Dial 'N' Charge (07) 846 4646

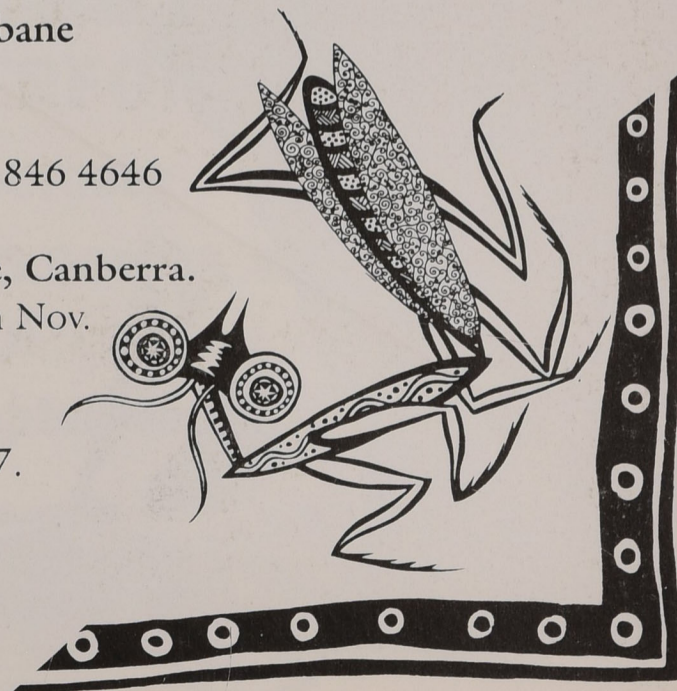
**Civic Theatre, Canberra.**

13th and 14th Nov.

*Bookings:*

Civic Theatre:

(06) 257 1077.



“With Praying Mantis Dreaming, the Bangarra Dance Theatre has come of age and audiences can welcome another professional dance troupe into the midst.”

– *The Australian*. July 1st 1992.

## EVENTS FEATURING BANGARRA DANCERS

**BLACK RIVER** – A documentary film starring Aboriginal opera singer Maroochy Barambah.

**BEDEVIL** – A feature film directed by Tracey Moffatt.

**SEVEN DEADLY SINS** – For ABC Television. A diverse collection of dance pieces by seven exceptional Australian choreographers.

**BLACKOUT** series on ABC Television. A look at Bangarra’s educational program within the schools. Produced and directed by Micheal Riley.

### WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW CEREMONY

Darling Harbour Auditorium, 20th November.

Bangarra dancers will be performing at the opening ceremony.



PHOTOS: E. MURRAY

# BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE

*Presents*

## **“Praying Mantis Dreaming”**

### **An Urban Aboriginal Dreaming Story**

It traces the life of a young Aboriginal girl as she struggles to survive, caught between two different worlds – traditional Aboriginal and urban society. The Spirit of the Praying Mantis watches over both worlds, guiding and protecting the Aboriginal inhabitants.

This is a unique opportunity for audiences to experience Bangarra doing what it does best – fusing Australia’s traditional dance styles with contemporary dance to create a bold, new dance style.

This innovative dance company continues to break new ground with its work. This is the first full length dance work to be choreographed by the newly appointed Aboriginal Artistic Director, Stephen Page, with original music score by the company’s resident musician/composer David Page.

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## **RIALTO THEATRE**

### **SPECIAL SCHOOL PERFORMANCES**

**MON 26TH & TUES 27TH OCTOBER**

**(Optional Date Fri 30TH October)**

**TIME: 10.30AM**

**COST: \$6.00**

**For School’s Information – AADE: (07) 221 9124 or  
Contact Youth Theatre (07) 221 5443**

**Workshops will be held in traditional (Aboriginal and Torres  
Strait Islander) and Contemporary dance styles.**

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## **EVENING & MATINEE PERFORMANCES**

**WED – SAT 21 – 31 OCTOBER**

**EVENINGS: 8.00PM • SATURDAY 5.00PM & 8.00PM**

**Bookings: RIALTO THEATRE (07) 844 3274 or DIAL ‘N’ CHARGE (07) 846 4646**

**Bookings Open 7TH September**

**BANGARRA IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:**



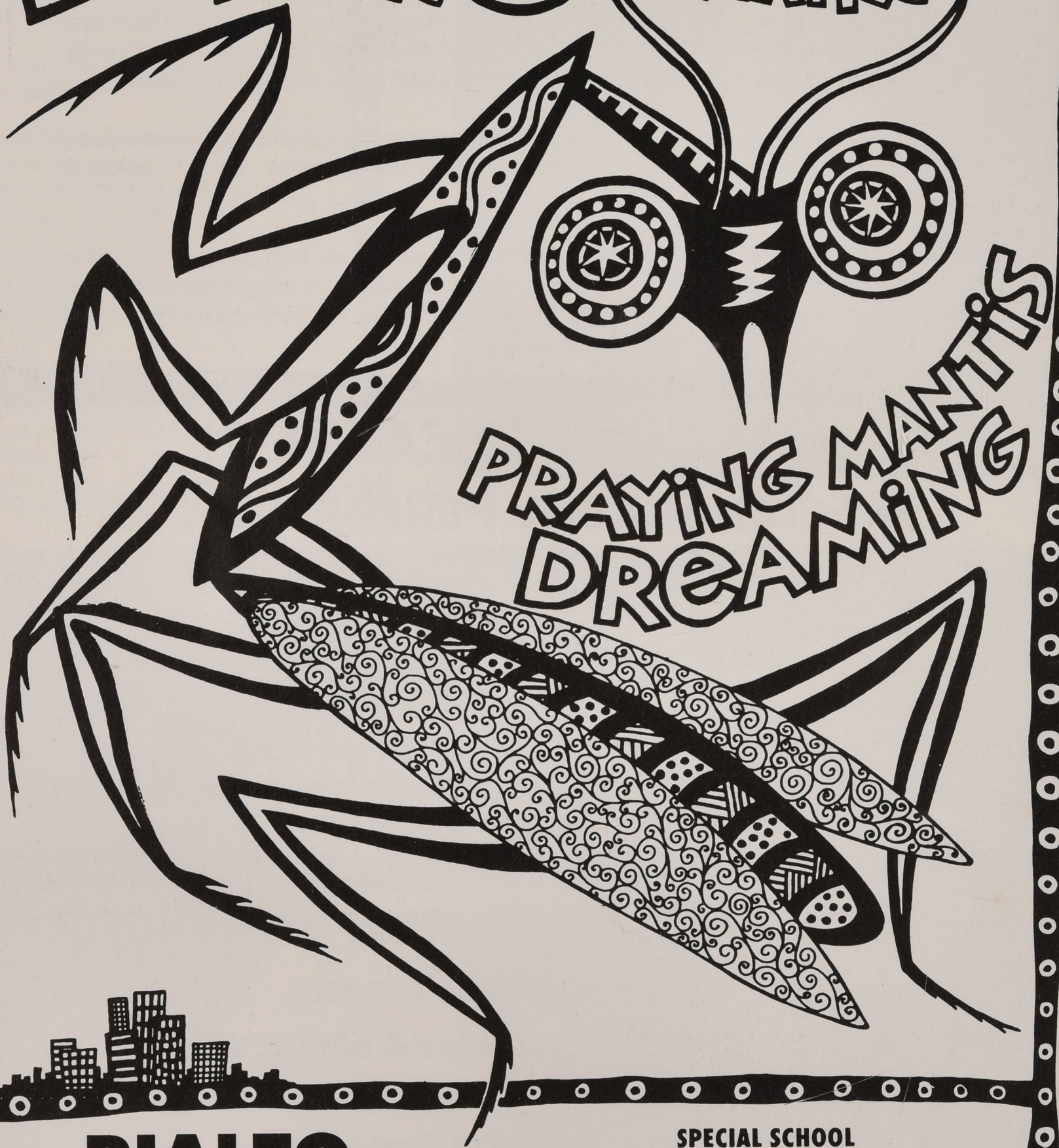
**ARTHUR  
ANDERSEN**



**Logical Solutions**

# BANGARRA

DANCE THEATRE



PRAYING MANTIS  
DREAMING

**RIALTO  
THEATRE**



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

**SPECIAL SCHOOL  
PERFORMANCES  
+ EVENINGS AND MATINEE**

**21 - 31 OCTOBER, 1992  
59 HARDGRAVE ROAD, WEST END**

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