

## 2020 REGIONAL TOUR TO WA & NSW

Albany Entertainment Centre  
15 February

Red Earth Arts Precinct, Karratha  
22 February

Civic Theatre Newcastle  
28 - 29 February

Glasshouse Port Macquarie  
4 March

Dubbo Regional Theatre & Convention Centre  
7 March

## ABOUT BANGARRA

Bangarra is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation and one of Australia's leading performing arts companies, widely acclaimed nationally and around the world for our powerful dancing, distinctive theatrical voice and utterly unique soundscapes, music and design.

Led by Artistic Director Stephen Page and Associate Artistic Director Frances Rings, our dance technique is forged from over 65,000 years of culture, embodied with contemporary movement. The company's dancers are dynamic artists who represent the pinnacle of Australian dance.

Our relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are at the heart of Bangarra, with our repertoire created on Country and stories gathered from respected community Elders. It's this inherent connection to our land and people that makes us unique and enjoyed by audiences from remote Australian regional centres to international cities such as Paris, Berlin, Toronto, New York and Tokyo.

Discover more about Bangarra at [www.bangarra-knowledgeground.com.au](http://www.bangarra-knowledgeground.com.au) where you can explore our productions, delve deeper into our stories, enjoy profiles of our Dancers, Creative Team, and Cultural Consultants, and immerse yourself in our 30-year history.

## REGIONAL TOURING

Regional touring is a crucial part of the company's annual calendar, connecting Bangarra with the communities that inspire its stories, as well as exposing new audiences to a positive representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

## BANGARRA EXECUTIVE

**Artistic Director** Stephen Page  
**Interim Executive Director** Tony Grybowski  
**Associate Artistic Director** Frances Rings  
**Rehearsal Director** Daniel Roberts

## BANGARRA DANCE ENSEMBLE





|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Elma Kris           | Ryan Pearson     |
| Tara Gower          | Lillian Banks    |
| Beau Dean Riley     | Bradley Smith    |
| Smith               | Courtney Radford |
| Nicola Sabatino     | Kassidy Waters   |
| Rikki Mason         | Kallum Goolagong |
| Rika Hamaguchi      | Gusta Mara       |
| Tyrel Dulvarie      | Kiarn Doyle      |
| Glory Tuohy-Daniell |                  |
| Baden Hitchcock     |                  |

## PRODUCTION TEAM

**Director, Technical & Production** John Colvin  
**Production Manager** Cat Studley  
**Company Manager** Cloudia Elder  
**Stage Manager** Lillian Hannah U  
**Head Electrician** Ryan Shuker  
**Head of Wardrobe** Monica Smith  
**Head Mechanist** David Tongs  
**AV Technician** Emjay Matthews  
**Production Assistant/Assistant Stage Manager** Stephanie Storr

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Photography by Daniel Boud

Bangarra Dance Theatre would like to pay respect and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather. Bangarra also wishes to acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose customs and cultures inspire our work.

# BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE

# BENNELONG

“An extraordinarily  
powerful work”

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD





**A NOTE FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
STEPHEN PAGE & INTERIM EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR TONY GRYBOWSKI**

Regional touring is an intrinsic part of the company's annual calendar, and every year we strive to share our work with as many different communities as possible across Australia. It's exciting to enter our fourth decade with an extensive tour of our award-winning production *Bennelong*, as we present this work for the first time in regional centres across Western Australia and New South Wales in 2020.

*Bennelong* tells the remarkable story of Woollarawarre Bennelong, a senior man of the Eora nation, from the Port Jackson area in Sydney. He was a traditional man who was, against his initial will, shown a European way of life, and became an intermediary between his clan and the colonists.

As Australia's only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Major Performing Arts company, we take our role as custodians of our people's stories very seriously. More than two centuries after Bennelong's death, telling his extraordinary story and sharing his

journey is a powerful reminder that there is still a long way for us to go before we can say we're at a place of true equality. We are proud to take this epic historical narrative work on the road with a world-class ensemble of 17 dancers. As part of our commitment to nurturing and developing emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creative talent, we warmly welcome our new Russell Page Graduate Program recipient, Kiarn; thank you to all of our donors and those who support this important program.

We couldn't deliver this tour without the support of the Australian Government; through the Australia Council for the Arts and through Playing Australia, and our Regional Touring Partner, Boral - to which we thank you. We also thank The Balnaves Foundation for supporting Community Ticketing.

At Bangarra, everything we do is inspired by our land and our people. We celebrate the sharing and passing down of knowledge, and hope you enjoy our performance of *Bennelong*.

# BENNELONG

Bangarra is proud to bring our monumental and award-winning work *Bennelong* back to the stage in 2020, as part of a five-stop tour across Australia to Albany, Karratha, Newcastle, Port Macquarie and Dubbo.

Following the extraordinary success of *Bennelong's* premiere season in 2017, a sell-out return season at Adelaide Festival, and a successful regional tour in 2019, the production is regarded by many as the strongest and most compelling work to have emerged from Bangarra in its 30-year history.

Directed by Bangarra's Artistic Director Stephen Page, *Bennelong* serves as an archetype of first contact and a timeless voice in the ongoing debate of the impacts of colonisation. Woollarawarre Bennelong, a senior man of the Eora nation, was a traditional man who became an intermediary between his clan and the colonists. He was one of the first Aboriginal people to have their life story recorded and documented through the early diaries of the British military, even travelling to London with Governor Arthur Phillip who ordered his initial capture.

Renowned for his richly nuanced storytelling abilities, Stephen Page selected key moments in Bennelong's life to weave a moving portrait of a complex and convicted man. His collaboration with Bangarra's dance ensemble on choreography results in *Bennelong*, a monumental work that reverberates with the company's signature authenticity and spirit.

Stephen Page says that *Bennelong* is in all of us, as we navigate the ancient and the contemporary elements of our lives.

"The remarkable story of Woollarawarre Bennelong is one that resonates deeply. Never quite belonging to his new tribe, and earning suspicion from the old, Bennelong paid the price of first contact by being exiled from both communities. With extraordinary curiosity and diplomacy, Bennelong led his community to survive a clash of cultures and left a legacy that reverberates through life today."

*Bennelong* was honoured at the 2018 and 2019 Helpmann Awards, with the company receiving seven awards, including the prestigious title 'Best New Australian Work' and 'Best New Australian Work', and 'Best Regional Touring Production' for our 2019 regional tour. Bangarra dancer Beau Dean Riley Smith was the recipient of the Helpmann Award for 'Best Male Dancer', and the Australian Dance Award for 'Outstanding Performance' in 2018 for his captivating lead role of Woollarawarre Bennelong.

*Bennelong* showcases outstanding Australian creative talent with Jacob Nash (sets), Jennifer Irwin (costumes), and Nick Schlieper (lighting) bringing their impeccable aesthetic to the production, and Steve Francis (composer) delivering a moving and inventive score. *Bennelong's* theatrical richness was shaped by Muruwari/Eora man Matthew Doyle (cultural consultancy) and delivered through Alana Valentine's expertise (dramaturgy).

## CREDITS

### Choreography

Stephen Page

### Music

Steve Francis

### Lighting Design

Nick Schlieper

### Costume Design

Jennifer Irwin

### Set Design

Jacob Nash

### Dramaturg

Alana Valentine

### Cultural Consultant

Matthew Doyle

