



the Arts Centre and Bangarra Dance Theatre present  
**BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE**

# BUSH

As a company that values cultural heritage  
 BHP Billiton proudly supports the Melbourne  
 season of BUSH.

**BUSH is a lush and contemporary celebration of beauty, ritual and music inspired by the Dreamtime creation stories of Arnhem Land. From the last breath of sunset to the first finger light of dawn, we enter a mysterious and secret space to witness nature's sacred poetry.**

*"My traditional family from Arnhem Land have supported and inspired me ceremonially and spiritually for a long time now. It is a great honour to be allowed to put these stories in the public domain in a contemporary context. This work is a bush galaxy of the poetic imagery and stories that make up our history – it embraces all the inspirations that come from living from the land. Bush is about welcoming the audience into this spiritual glory box and maintaining an honest respect for the land and its people."*

**STEPHEN PAGE, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER  
 CHOREOGRAPHER & GUEST PERFORMER  
 CULTURAL CONSULTANT & GUEST PERFORMER  
 COMPOSERS  
 SET DESIGNER  
 COSTUME DESIGNER  
 LIGHTING DESIGNER  
 ASSOCIATE LIGHTING DESIGNER  
 ASSISTANT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
 REHEARSAL DIRECTOR  
 PRODUCTION MANAGER  
 HEAD MECHANIST  
 STAGE MANAGER  
 ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER  
 PRODUCTION SECONDMENT

Stephen Page  
 Frances Rings  
 Kathy Balngayngu Marika  
 David Page & Steve Francis  
 Peter England  
 Jennifer Irwin  
 Nick Schlieper  
 Glenn Hughes  
 Jasmine Gulash  
 Catherine Goss  
 Vanessa Hutchins  
 Billy Hopper  
 Narelle Lewis  
 Cassandra Prucha  
 Anthony Johnson

DANCERS  
 Jasmine Gulash, Frances Rings,  
 Sidney Saltner, Elma Kris, Peggy  
 Misi, Desley Roberts, Sani  
 Townson, Patrick Thaiday,  
 Timothy Bishop, Joel Blanco,  
 Jhuny-Boy Borja, Deborah Brown,  
 Chantal Kerr, Rheannan Port

## THE PROGRAM

### CREATION (WIRRKUL MANDA)

*"They sang the songs and danced over the land...Created all living things"  
 (Two Sisters, Wirrkul Manda)*

PERFORMERS: Kathy Balngayngu Marika & female ensemble  
 CHOREOGRAPHER: Traditional & Stephen Page  
 COMPOSER: Steve Francis

### GOANNA (DIANDA)

Each goanna (male totem) is given his sense of sight, sound, smell, taste, touch.

PERFORMERS: Kathy Balngayngu Marika & male ensemble  
 CHOREOGRAPHER: Stephen Page  
 COMPOSER: David Page

### SLITHER

Every one hundred years a sacred creature emerges from its journey through the Earth. The women are chosen as keepers of the knowledge.

PERFORMERS: Sidney Saltner, Kathy Balngayngu Marika & female ensemble  
 CHOREOGRAPHER: Frances Rings  
 COMPOSER: David Page

CONTINUED OVER...

**LIFE CYCLE**

Metamorphosis, rejuvenation and the passing on of knowledge.

CHOREOGRAPHER: Stephen Page  
 COMPOSER: Steve Francis  
*Leaf (Man'tjarr)*  
 PERFORMER: Kathy Balngayngu Marika  
*Caterpillar (Dapal)*  
 PERFORMERS: Desley Roberts, Jhuny-Boy Borja & Timothy Bishop,  
 Female ensemble  
*Moth (Dhumar)*  
 PERFORMERS: Sani Townson and Deborah Brown

**STICK**

Nganuk or Mimi spirits appear as spiritual messengers – they can come as good or bad signs.

PERFORMERS: Sidney Saltner, Patrick Thaiday, Timothy Bishop & Elma Kris  
 CHOREOGRAPHER: Frances Rings  
 COMPOSER: David Page

**BUSH PEARL**

A celebration of female sensuality.

PERFORMERS: Peggy Misi (soloist), Rheannan Port & Chantal Kerr  
 CHOREOGRAPHER: Stephen Page  
 COMPOSER: Steve Francis

**FEATHER (BUT'TJU)**

Preparing the spirit and body for its journey into the next life cycle.

PERFORMER: Frances Rings  
 CHOREOGRAPHER: Stephen Page  
 COMPOSER: David Page

**CEREMONY**

The cycle of rituals in the celebration of death and rebirth.

*Water (Gapu)*  
 PERFORMERS: Kathy Balngayngu Marika & female ensemble  
 CHOREOGRAPHY: Traditional  
*Passing*  
 PERFORMERS: Chantal Kerr & female ensemble  
 CHOREOGRAPHER: Frances Rings  
 COMPOSER: Steve Francis  
*Gift*  
 PERFORMERS: Sidney Saltner & male ensemble  
 CHOREOGRAPHER: Stephen Page  
 COMPOSER: David Page  
*Clan*  
 PERFORMERS: Full ensemble  
 CHOREOGRAPHERS: Stephen Page & Frances Rings  
 COMPOSER: Steve Francis

**BUSH CD**  
 ON SALE IN FOYER

*The Arts Centre and Bangarra Dance Theatre wish to acknowledge that we come together on the traditional land of the Wurundjeri people who are part of the Kulin Nation. We join the Wurundjeri people to thank the spirits of their ancestors for nurturing this land.*

**JOIN BANGARRA'S MAILING LIST**

Keep up to date with all the latest Bangarra news and performances. Visit our website [www.bangarra.com.au](http://www.bangarra.com.au) to join, or contact Sarah Kelly on (02) 9251 5333

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