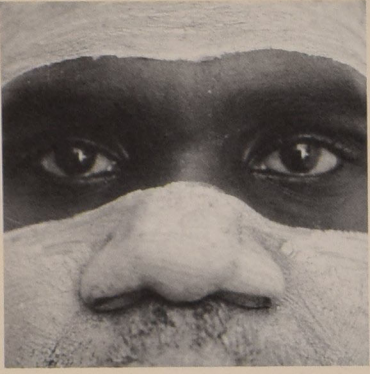


OCHRES

BANGARRA

dance theatre australia



Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia Ltd

was established in 1989 and is a full-time professional dance company that respectfully embraces the cultures of the indigenous peoples of Australia.



The artistic reputation of this company is rapidly being recognised for its unique fusion of indigenous and contemporary dance styles with original music scores. The appointments of Stephen Page as Artistic Director in 1991



and Bernadette Walong as Assistant Artistic Director in 1994, has contributed a new dimension to Australian dance and choreography.



Bangarra has toured extensively in Australia, and enthralled audiences in Japan, Indonesia, China, Hong Kong, USA, U.K. and Germany. In 1994 Bangarra was awarded the prestigious Sidney Myer Performing Arts Award.

Creating



Ochre plays an essential part in traditional life. Working with cultural consultant/dancer Djakapurra Munyarryun has provided us with valuable insight into the presentation of traditional paint up and preparation.

As a substance ochre has intrigued us. Its significance and the myriad of purposes, both spiritual and physical has been the driving force behind this collaboration.

The portrayal of each colour is by no means a literal interpretation, but the awareness of its spiritual significance has challenged our contemporary expressions.

Steph Gye

A r t i s t i c t e a m

Stephen Page

Born in Brisbane, Stephen is a descendent of the Munaldjali Clan of the Yugambah tribe in south east Queensland. He graduated from the National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association (NAISDA) in 1983.

He continued his dance career with Sydney Dance Company performing in AFTER VENICE, WILDERNESS, NEARLY BELOVED, SHINING, POPPY, CAFE, SOFT BRUISING, COMPANY OF WOMEN, and KING ROGER.

Stephen has choreographed for NAISDA, Sydney Dance Company, Sydney Theatre Company, The Australian Opera, the World Youth Soccer Opening Ceremony, AFL

Grand Final, and the Operatic film Black River.

Stephen joined Bangarra Dance Theatre as Principal Choreographer early in 1991, and at the end of 1991 was appointed Artistic Director of Bangarra Dance Theatre. In 1992 he choreographed and directed Bangarra's first full-length work, PRAYING MANTIS DREAMING, heralded by critics as "a milestone achievement", this was followed by NINNI in 1994. For OCHRES, Stephen collaborated with newly appointed Assistant Artistic Director Bernadette Walong and Composer David Page.

Bernadette Walong

Bernadette is from Oakey, in Queensland. She graduated from the National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association (NAISDA) in 1989. Bernadette then went on to perform with Dance North for the next 5 years. Whilst there she performed and taught extensively in North Queensland and Asia, doing workshops and choreographic work with a variety of schools and community arts groups.

Bernadette has performed in works by choreographers, Sue Healey, Nannette Hassell, Cheryl Stock, Graeme Watson, Leigh Warren, Richard Allen & Karen Pearlman, Csaba Buday and Stephen Page. Her own choreographic

credits include: RAW DEAL, BURN THIS TERRITORY and ORCHID SKY for Dance North.

Since joining Bangarra in April '94 Bernadette performed in NINNI, then went on to become Assistant Artistic Director. Bernadette's first choreographic contribution to Bangarra was OCHRES, collaborating with both Stephen and David Page.

Most recently she was chosen as an Australian participant in the second Young Asian Choreographers Workshop held at the National Institute of the Arts in Taiwan.

David Page

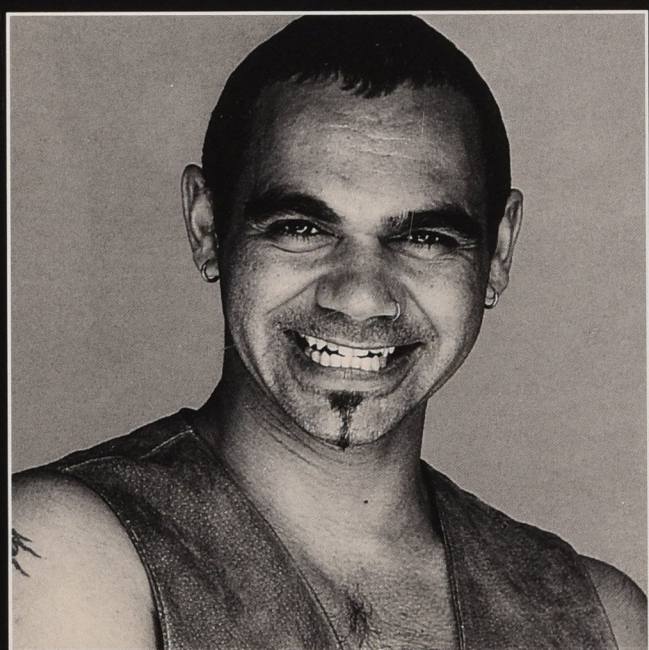
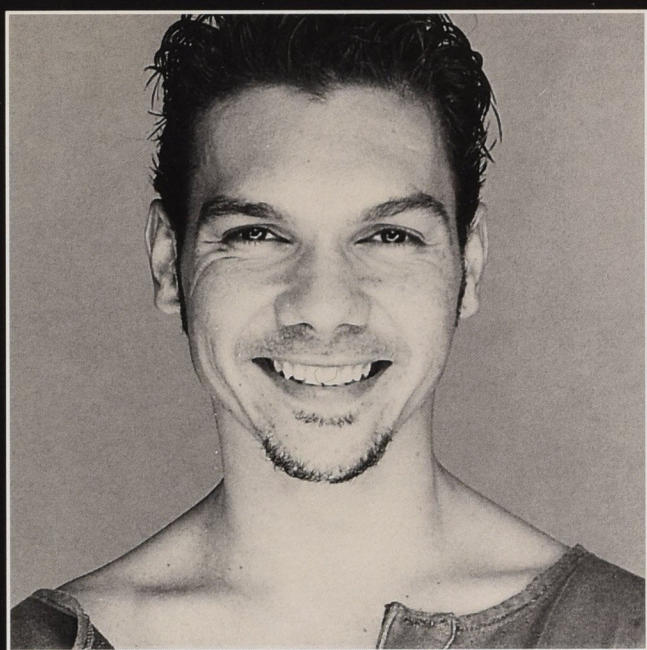
Born in Brisbane, David is a descendant of the Munaldjali Clan of the Yugambah tribe in south east Queensland.

At 13 his music career began as a solo singer, recording two singles under the direction of the W.E.A. Recording Company. He made appearances on shows such as The Mike Walsh Show and Countdown.

David pursued serious music studies at the Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music, Adelaide University where he studied saxophone, voice, composition and song arrangement. David sang, acted and danced in stage productions MURRAS written by Aboriginal Playwright, Eva Johnson and Reg Livermore's BIG SISTER.

As a composer David teamed up with his brother Stephen and created music works for NAISDA and Sydney Dance Company's SHAKESPEARE DANCES. He has also created music for television, including ABC TV's Choreographers Series SEVEN DEADLY SINS and the theme music for the TV series HEARTLAND.

In 1991 David joined Bangarra Dance Theatre as resident composer. He composed the soundtrack for PRAYING MANTIS DREAMING which has become one of his most applauded achievements. Most recently David collaborated with Stephen Page and Bernadette Walong in composing the soundtrack for OCHRES.



Ochre
Colours
of Earth
on Skin

to Dance

and

Celebrate

the Spirits

of the

Land.

BILL PENGELLY

Rehearsal Director

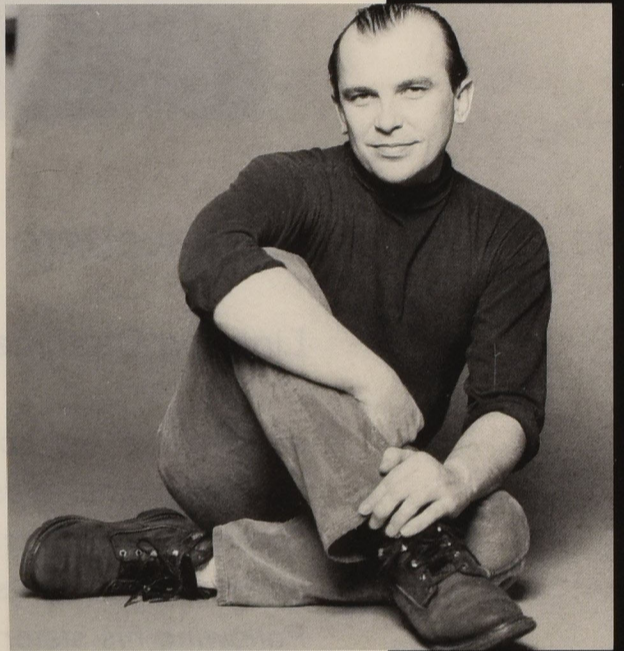
Bill Pengelly will be with Bangarra in 1996 as Rehearsal Director. His experience in dance encompasses all aspects of performance, teaching, choreography, dance administration and tour co-ordination.

Bill's early years in dance saw him with the North Queensland Ballet Company and the Queensland Ballet.

Bill joined the Sydney Dance Company as a dancer in January, 1980 and performed roles in the premiere stagings of many works by Graeme Murphy, as well as performing in many works by guest choreographers including Moograh by Stephen Page. He was appointed as Dancer Master to the Sydney Dance Company in 1986.

In 1994, Bill choreographed his first work, "Birds of Passage", for Sydney Dance Company's choreographic workshop, "Raw". Bill remained with Sydney Dance for fifteen years and has taken a short break in 1996 to become part of the Bangarra family.

Throughout his professional career Bill has toured extensively, performing in countless productions as well as film and video clips. He has been guest teacher with numerous dance institutions including the Scottish Ballet, Nureyev and Friends Australian Tour, Western Australian Ballet and the Australian Dance Theatre.



ALBERT DAVID

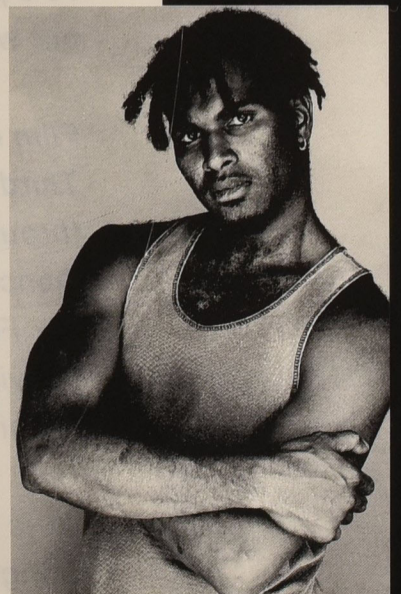
Albert was born in Thursday Island, Torres Strait in 1971. In 1989 he was accepted into NAISDA (National Aboriginal and Islander Skills Development Association) and continued his studies until graduating in 1994.

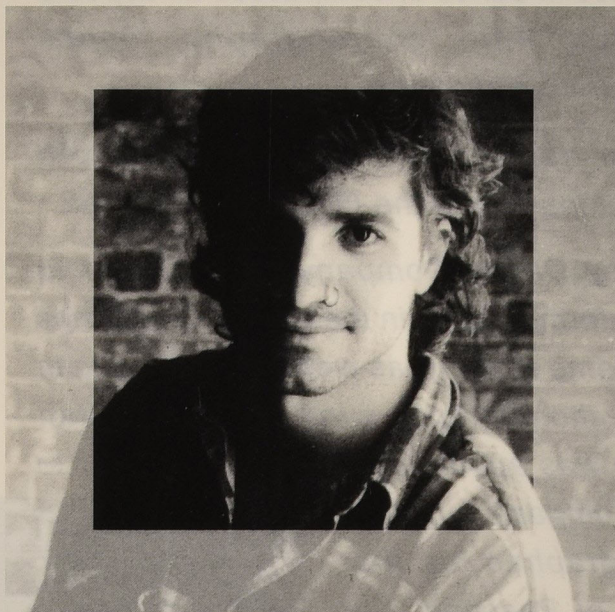
During his time as a student he was offered work in videos and commercials including Coca-Cola. He worked as a model for Balarinji designer outfits.

In 1991 Albert toured Nationally with "Harold" choreographed and directed by Kim Walker.

In 1995 Albert joined Bangarra and has toured extensively with "Ochres" to Berlin, Tokyo, Noumea, Adelaide and Perth.

He is Christine Anu's choreographer and lead dancer. Albert has gathered valuable knowledge in teaching cultural awareness.





JO MERCURIO

Lighting Designer

Jo Mercurio was born in Melbourne and raised in Freemantle, Western Australia.

As part of the Mercurio dynasty his exposure to the entertainment industry commenced at an early age. Following his sister Connie into ballet at the age of six triggered his fascination with dance. He decided to leave the barrel rolls to his brother Paul and moved into Lighting. At age sixteen one of his first jobs was for Swy Theatre Company with whom his brother Michael was a founding member.

Jo's career has spanned the entire entertainment scope. Working predominately in Lighting from rock and roll, film, television, drama, dance theatre and corporate shows. Lighting and the manipulation of light has fuelled Jo's passion for his career, it is not only what you see but what is concealed that fascinates him.

Film credits include: Blackfellas, Dingo and Michelle's Third Novel. Small screen credits include: Waltz through the hills, Under the Skin and Ship to Shore. Dance credits include: Scenes in a Prison, Six Feet Late, Traces, Window on the Clubbed, Praying Mantis Dreaming, El Amor Bruco, Ninni and Ochres.

Jo is also Production Manager for Bangarra Dance Theatre.

Ochres Spirit

"The Light"

Yellow

Black

Red

- Youth
- Obsession
- Poison
- Pain

White



Djakapurra Munyarryun



"I believe the landscape to be mother. Its flowing rivers she cleanses in, the yellow ochre she dresses in, the sun and the seasons she nourishes gathering, nesting and birthing along her travels."

An ash storm has blown over. The call and pain of the initiation can only be viewed from a distance
..... Men's Business.

Custom, Law and Values placed on the relationships between women and men have been on a path of change since time began. In each of these relationships, the youth, the obsession, the poison, the pain, there is struggle.

At dawn MOTHER EARTH yawns, her call engulfs the white ochre spirits to spiritually bathe them in preparation for the day's journey.



Credits

Music

Vocals

David Page.

Kirk Page.

Music

David Page. Featuring Tjipari Dreaming - Western Desert Women Ngarti Language Group, and Women's Funeral Dance - North West Cape York Etanyanu Language Group.

*Music
and vocals*

David Page and Djakapurra Munyarryun. Featuring traditional songs Buffalo Dance and Stick dance from Yirrkala. Vocals and Yirdaki Djakapurra Munyarryun. Torres Strait Island Language from Murray Island - Pinau Ghee.

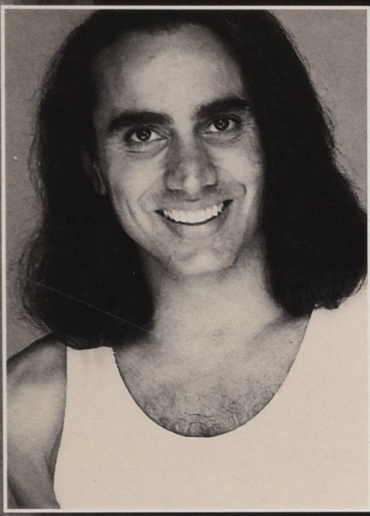
*Music
and Vocals*

David Page. Featuring Yirrgambah Language Group. Yirdaki and Vocals - Djakapurra Munyarryun Torres Strait Island Language and Vocals from Kala Kawaw Ya Language Group - Glenda Aragu.

*Music
and Vocals*

David Page and Djakapurra Munyarryun. Vocals and Yirdaki Djakapurra Munyarryun. Featuring traditional Ochre dance song from Yirrkala.





Biographies

Gary Lang

Born in Darwin, Gary graduated from the National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association, (NAISDA) in 1989.

Before taking dancing really seriously, Gary qualified as a hairdresser and was one of Darwin's top models. In 1981 he won Male Model of the Year in Darwin.

During his time at NAISDA, Gary trained in a wide range of Indigenous dance styles from all over the mainland and the Torres Strait Islands, as well as

many classical and modern forms of dance.

In 1991 he joined AIDT - the Company, touring with them extensively in Australia and overseas. In 1992 he was featured on billboards and in magazines when he participated in the NSW Land Councils's extensive campaign RACISM SUCKS.

Gary joined BANGARRA in July 1995. Performing in OCHRES he has toured with the company to Berlin, Arnhem Land, Tokyo and Noumea.

Kathryn Dunn

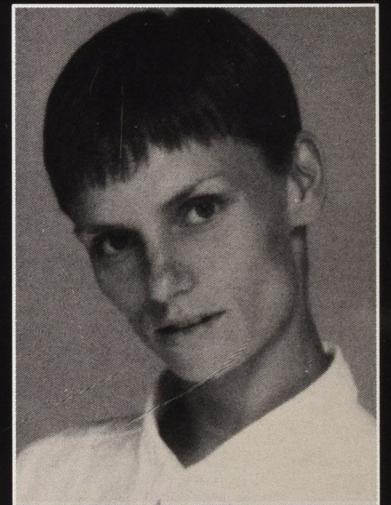
Born in Rockhampton, Queensland, Kathryn began dancing at the age of four. Her training encompassed Classical, Jazz, Tap, Contemporary dance, Music, Speech and Drama.

In 1983, at the age of sixteen, Kathryn achieved Honours in her R.A.D. Advanced, attained her Solo Seal and was awarded the R.A.D. Bursary which enabled her to study at the Royal Ballet School in London, and won the silver medal in the Adeleine Genee competition in London.

In 1985 Kathryn was offered a contract with the Royal Ballet Company with whom she toured extensively for three years working with many famous choreographers including Jerome Robbins.

Kathryn joined Sydney Dance Company in 1990. During her five years with Sydney Dance Kathryn performed in all company productions.

In 1995 Kathryn performed with Chunky Move under the directorship of Gideon Obarzanek. Kathryn joined Bangarra in January, 1996.



Marilyn Miller

Marilyn started dancing at the age of five, and has trained in Classical Ballet, various Traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dance styles, Tap and Modern Dance techniques, including Martha Graham, Lester Horton and Limone.

Marilyn has performed and taught extensively throughout Australia, and her overseas touring has taken her to New Zealand, Hong Kong, Berlin, Tokyo and Nottingham.

She has been a guest artist with The Queensland Ballet, Bangarra, and was a founding member and soloist with Aboriginal Islander Dance Theatre - the

Company. Whilst with AIDT - the Company she choreographed Blue and Purple for their full length work COLOURS. She has also choreographed and acted in works for Theatre, such as COCKROACH OPERA, DANCIN IN THE SNOW and THE CHERRY PICKERS.

Marilyn joining Bangarra has seen her return to dance after a years' break, in which time she pursued training in acting and choreographing whilst living in Brisbane. Marilyn has toured with OCHRES to Berlin, Arnhem Land, Tokyo, Noumea and Canberra.

Gina Rings

Born in Port Augusta, South Australia Gina spent most of her childhood in Murray Bridge and Port Maclay, a small reserve in S.A.. Gina began her dance training during her final years of high school. After completing Year 12, she then went on to The Performing Arts School in Adelaide, studying dance and drama for two years.

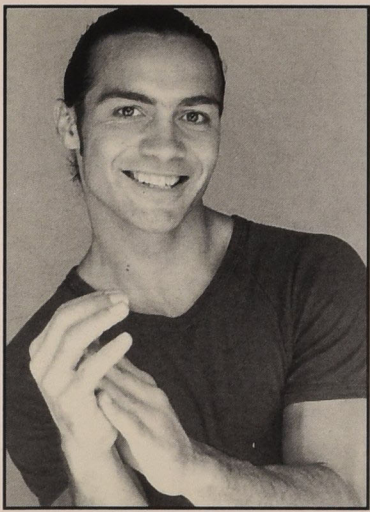
In 1993 Gina was accepted into NAISDA where she was introduced to traditional dance and culture. As a dance student, travelling to the traditional communities of the Torres Strait Islands was the highlight of her training and growth at

NAISDA, where she studied for one year.

In 1994 Gina was offered an apprenticeship with Bangarra Dance Theatre. During that year she toured with the company to the Adelaide Arts Festival, and performed with the company in its major Sydney season NINNI at the Enmore Theatre.

Gina was part of the original cast of OCHRES when presented as a work in progress during the 1994 Nambundah Festival at Belvoir Street Theatre. Recently she toured with the company to Berlin, Tokyo, Noumea, and Canberra.





Russell Page

Born in Brisbane Queensland, Russell graduated from NAISDA in 1989. During his 5yrs there he was able to learn traditional culture and values, by visiting the communities of Weipa, Bathurst Islands, the Kimberley's, Central Australia and the Torres Strait Islands.

Russell performed with The One Extra Company in OTHELLO which toured to Jakarta and Hong Kong in 1990. Teaming up with his brothers Stephen and David he performed in NIKI NALI at the 1992

World Expo in Seville and at the cultural festival held during the Barcelona Olympic Games.

In 1991 he became a full-time member of Bangarra Dance Theatre, and has toured nationally and internationally with the company. He featured in PRAYING MANTIS DREAMING and NINNI, and is also one of the original cast members of OCHRES. In 1995 Russell toured with the company to Melbourne, Adelaide, Canberra Berlin, Arnhem Land, Tokyo and Noumea.

Djakapurra Munyarryun

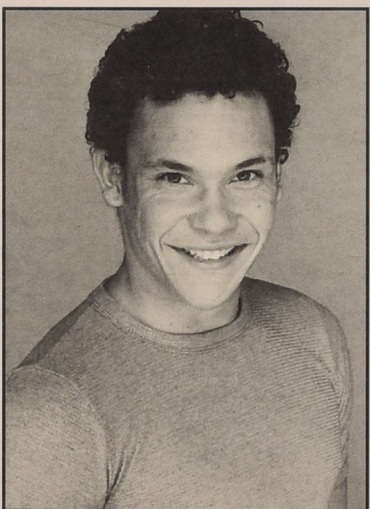
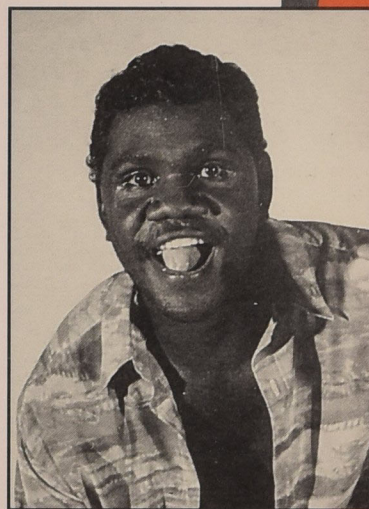
Born in Yirrkala, north-eastern Arnhem Land, Djakapurra's life has been steeped in traditional dance and ceremony. In 1989 and 1990, he travelled Australia with elders from Yirrkala, teaching and conducting traditional dance and music workshops.

Djakapurra joined Bangarra Dance Theatre in 1991 as a traditional dancer and a virtuoso didgeridoo player. A dynamic traditional dancer, Djakapurra shows great interest in the cross over of traditional and contemporary music and dance

styles, that are being created in the company.

Djakapurra danced lead roles in PRAYING MANTIS DREAMING and NINNI. In OCHRES Djakapurra recreates his own style of dance, with great articulation. He has toured with OCHRES throughout 1995 to Melbourne, Adelaide, Canberra, Germany, Arnhem Land, Tokyo and Noumea.

His major film work includes "Black River" playing the role of the water spirit and "Breaking Through" - Imax 3D film produced for Expo'93.



Kirk Page

Kirk was born in Queensland. Before stepping into the world of the performing arts Kirk worked as a labourer until deciding to take the challenge of becoming a full-time dancer and singer.

He came to Sydney in 1994 to study dance at the National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association (NAISDA). He is part of the Page clan, so naturally was inspired and encouraged by his family to make the move into the performing arts.

After having successfully completed a one year certificate course at NAISDA, he gained an apprenticeship with Bangarra in 1995. Kirk is not only an aspiring dancer, but carries inside of him a deep and passionate voice that can be heard in the opening song of OCHRES.

Kirk has toured with OCHRES throughout 1995 to Melbourne, Adelaide, Germany and Arnhem Land.

Frances Rings

Frances was born in Adelaide, South Australia, and completed a five year Associate Diploma in Dance with the National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association (NAISDA) in 1992.

During her time at NAISDA Frances toured with their professional company A.I.D.T. to New Zealand, Queensland and Northern New South Wales. During her final year she was chosen to perform and tour with Kim Walker's production HAROLD.

Frances was offered an apprenticeship with Bangarra in 1993. She has toured nationally and

internationally with the company to festivals and major events. Performing in PRAYING MANTIS DREAMING, NINNI and OCHRES, Frances has developed a real sense and passion for Stephen Page's style of choreography. By 1994 she was dancing the lead role in NINNI, a role that was created especially for her. She is an original cast member of OCHRES.

In 1995 Frances was the recipient of an Australia Council grant which enabled her travel to New York to attend the Summer School program at the Alvin Ailey American Dance School.



Company Artists

Gary Lang
Marilyn Miller
Djakapurra Munyarryun
Russell Page
Kirk Page
Kathryn Dunn
Frances Rings
Gina Rings
Albert David

Production Team

CHOREOGRAPHERS: Stephen Page & Bernadette Walong
COMPOSER: David Page
LIGHTING DESIGN: Jo Mercurio
REHEARSAL DIRECTOR: Bill Pengelly
COSTUME DESIGN: Jennifer Irwin
PRODUCTION MANAGER: Jo Mercurio
STAGE MANAGER: John Colvin
SET CONSTRUCTION: Spinning-Eye, Luke Keon

Personnel

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: Stephen Page
CULTURAL CONSULTANT: Djakapurra Munyarryun
GENERAL MANAGER: Jan Irvine
FINANCIAL CONTROLLER: Jeanette Cheung
ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT: Roma Dainius
PRODUCTION MANAGER: Jo Mercurio
REHEARSAL DIRECTOR: Bill Pengelly
PHOTOGRAPHERS: Greg Barrett, Gerald Jenkins
Paul Sweeney, Tim Webster
PROGRAMME DESIGN: Rosanna Silvestro



The company 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.



A Federal Government cultural program which gives all Australians, wherever they live, better access to the country's best performing arts.

Sponsors

AAP
SBS



Individual and Corporate support is critical to our continuing success.
If you would like to discuss sponsorship opportunities
please contact Jan Irvine on (02) 569 4555 or Fax: (02) 569 4443

All donations are tax deductible.

The Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia fund is included on the register of Cultural Organisations under sec 78 (1) (A) of The Income Tax Assessment Act (1936)

“BE NOT AFRAID OF GREATNESS.”

— WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

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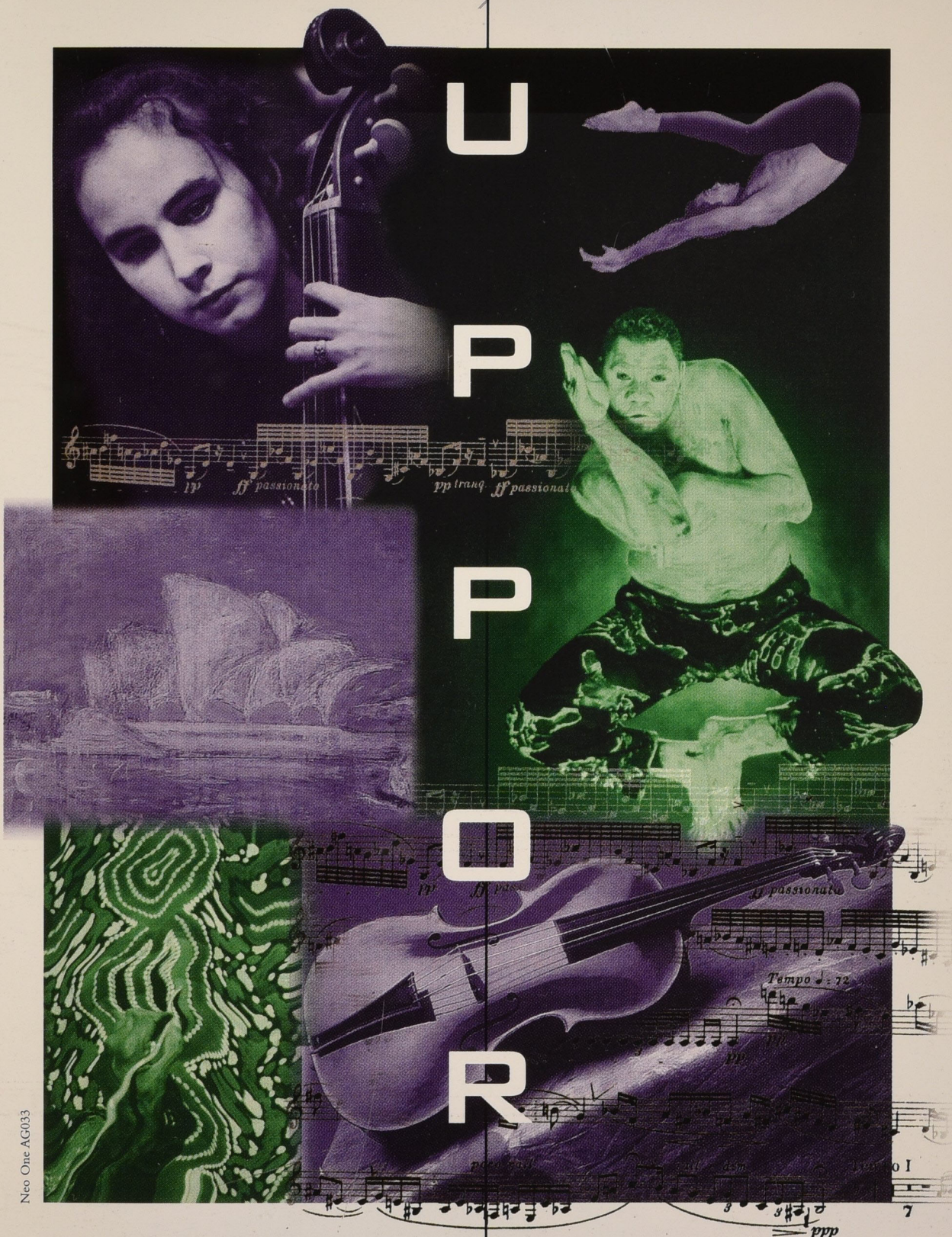
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The AAP Group is a foundation sponsor of Bangarra Dance Theatre and has been its major sponsor for the past six years.

We are extremely proud of our association with Bangarra and of its achievements and growing international reputation.

The AAP Group has nothing but admiration for all those who pursue achievement at the highest level, whether as an individual or as a group.

As Australia's leading news, information and communications company, we too strive for excellence and share those same ideals.



The answer's right here.

