Listening Back

OUR EARLY VOICES



bangarra
DANCE THEATRE

GLOSSARY

YOLŋU MATHA	ENGLISH TRANSLATION
amala	mum
balanda/Ŋabaki	non-Aboriginal
bäpurru	Clan
bathala	big / large
bäthi	dillybag
buŋgul	dance
dhapirrk	deadly
dhäwu	stories
Djaŋkawu	Dhuwa creation spirits (mythological)[1]
Garrthalala	Homelands community in NT
garma	ceremonial gathering / festival
gäthu	fathers' children
gurtha	fire
manikay	song, songline
manymuk	it's good
matha	language
mawtika	car
miny'tji -	painting[2]

YOLŋU MATHA	ENGLISH TRANSLATION
naga	calico apparel Originally a Western Desert language word.
ŋabipi / bipi	uncle
ŋamala / amala	mother
ŋarali	cigarette
ŋatha	food
raŋi	beach
Rirratingu	Dhuwa clan[3]
The Raŋi	Yirrkala beach camp
Wangurri	Yirritja clan[4]
wawa	brother
Wuyal	Sugarbag man, a mythological creator
yidaki	didgeridoo
yo	yes
yolŋu	person, people
yuwalk	true

1. Creation spirit specific to Dhuwa moiety.
2. Includes painting, body painting that holds story.
3. All people, animals, places and many other elements of the Yolŋu world are divided into two groups or moieties - *Dhuwa* and *Yirritja*. Dhuwa is one of the two moieties.
4. Yirritja – one of the two moieties in Yolŋu world.

PEOPLE

NAME	BACKGROUND	RELEVANCE to *Listening back: Early Voices*
Aku Kadogo	American with Ghanaian background Performer, choreographer, actor, director.	Regular guest teacher with NAISDA in the 1970s, 80s and 90s.
Alvin Ailey	American Dancer, choreographer and artistic director.	Several NAISDA and Bangarra Dance Theatre artists have studied at the Alvin Ailey School in New York.
Andee Reese (Kindryd)	American Producer, film maker.	Part of early Bangarra Administration/PR.
Aunty D (Dorothy Cowie) (dec.)	Australian Dance teacher.	Guest teacher at NAISDA in 1980s.
Bernadette Walong-Sene	Performer, choreographer, educator, consultant.	Dancer with Bangarra Dance Theatre, Assistant Artistic Director (1994), Co-creator with Stephen Page of *Ochres* (1995)
Bill Pengelly	Australian Dancer, rehearsal director and teacher.	Teacher during early years of NAISDA, former rehearsal director at Bangarra.
Bob Maza (dec.)	*Zenadth Kes/Torres Strait/Yidinjdji* Actor, teacher, playwright, activist.	Led the Black Theatre in Redfern where Carole Y Johnson conducted her first workshops.
Bob Randell (dec.)	*Yankunytjatjara* Elder, singer, community leader.	Father of Dorothea Randall.
Cheryl Stone	South African Dancer, arts administrator.	A founding member and administrator for Bangarra Dance Theatre.
Christine Donnelly	*Darkinjung* Teacher, administrator.	Founder of Aboriginal Dance Theatre Redfern.
Daryl Williams	*Lardil*, Mornington Island	One of the first NAISDA course enrolments.
David Dhalatnghu Gulpilil AM (dec.)	*Mandhalpingu* clan, Yolŋu Actor, dancer, teacher.	Actor, dancer and early tutor at NAISDA in 1970s, early 1980s.
Däypilil Marika (dec.)	*Rirritjiŋu clan, Y*olŋu Elder, Cultural leader.	Guest teacher at NAISDA 1970s.
Dorothea Randall	*Yankunytjatjara* on father's side	One of the first NAISDA course enrolments.
Eleo Pomare (dec.)	Columban/American Dancer, choreographer.	Carole Y Johnson member of Eleo's company in 1960s and 70s.
'Elizabeth' Elizabeth Cameron Dalman	Australian Dancer, choreographer, founder of Australian Dance Theatre (ADT).	Member of Eleo Pomare Company (with Carole Y Johnson).

PEOPLE

NAME	BACKGROUND	RELEVANCE to *Listening back: Early Voices*
Dr Eugene Casey (dec.)	American Pianist, composer.	Music teacher at NAISDA in the 1970s, 80s and 90s. Designer of first Bangarra logo.
Euphemia (*Phemie*) Bostock (dec.)	*Bundjalung/Mununjali* Printmaker, textile artist, sculptor.	Supporter for the establishment of NAISDA.
Faith Bandler (dec.)	South Sea Islander/Australian Civil rights activist.	Co-founded Aboriginal-Australian Fellowship in 1956. Leading figure in campaign for 1967 Referendum.
Fay Nelson	*Banjin,* North Queensland	Chair of NAISDA for first 13 years.
Gary Foley	*Gumbaynggirr* Academic, activist, writer.	Supporter for the establishment of NAISDA.
Herbert Cole 'Nugget' Coombs (dec.)	Australian Economist, public servant.	Advisor to numerous Prime Ministers, strong ally of First Nations people.
Illona Tim	*Gangalidda/Waanyi, Doomagee, Erub, Zenadth Kes/Torres Strait* Dancer.	Dancer with Bangarra Dance Theatre 1990–1994 *Praying Mantis Dreaming,* touring Germany and Finland from 1990–1994.
Jennifer Barry	Australian Dancer, teacher.	Former member of Eleo Pomare company and teacher at NAISDA.
Jenny Isaacs	Australian Arts administrator.	Initiated first workshops with Carole Y Johnson in 1972.
Jim Mann (dec.)	Australian Production Manager.	Bangarra's first Production Manager.
Jimmy (Jimbo) Gaigai (dec.)	*Waiben/Thursday Island/Zenadth Kes/Torres Strait* Dancer.	Dancer AIDT, dancer Bangarra.
Jimmy Little AO (dec.)	*Yorta Yorta* Singer, composer, musician.	Popular entertainer and Cultural leader. Supporter for the establishment of Bangarra Dance Theatre.
John Alderman	*Zenadth Kes/Torres Strait* Arts administrator.	First Nations CEO of NAISDA (1989).
Judith Jameson (dec.)	American Dancer.	Soloist with Alvin Ailey Dance Company.
Kai Tai Chan	Malaysian/Australian Dancer, choreographer.	Artistic Director One Extra Dance Company.
Kate Champion	Australian Theatre director, choreographer, performer.	Guest teacher at NAISDA.
Kevin Gilbert (dec.)	*Wiradjuri* Author, activist, artist, poet, playwright and printmaker.	Author of many plays including *The Cherry Pickers.*

PEOPLE

NAME	BACKGROUND	RELEVANCE to *Listening back: Early Voices*
Kim Walker	Australian Director, arts administrator, performer.	CEO of NAISDA from 2007 to 2026, dancer with Sydney Dance Company 1970s/80s, NAISDA graduate.
Lillian Crombie (dec.)	*Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara* Dancer, actor, teacher.	One of the first students in the Careers in Dance (NAISDA). Became a well known actress on stage and screen. A pioneer and mentor.
Lucy Jamawan (dec.)	Filipino/Australian Dancer, teacher, choreographer, Community worker.	Worked closely with Carole Y Johnson in establishing AIDT/NAISDA.
Malcolm Cole (dec.)	Dancer, activist, television presenter.	A founding student of the Black Theatre in Redfern, a teacher and counsellor at the Aboriginal Dance Theatre.
Margaret Walker (dec.)	Australian Dancer, teacher, activist.	Established Dance Concert, and other Cultural dance orgs. Mother of Kim Walker.
Dame Marie Bashir (dec.)	Australian Psychiatrist and health administrator.	37th Governor of NSW – 2001 to 2014. Strong supporter of Bangarra Dance Theatre.
Marilyn Miller	*Kukuyalanji/Waanyi* Dancer, mentor, program manager.	Dancer with AIDT and early years Bangarra.
Maureen Watson (dec.)	*Quandamooka* Writer, actor, activist.	Participant in early pre-NAISDA workshops at the Black Theatre.
Meryl Tankard	Australian Director, choreographer, performer.	Teacher during early years of NAISDA.
Michael Donovan (dec.)	Arts administrator/manager, author, mentor, Community leader on various initiatives.	Managed major state arts and entertainment initiatives during Australia's Bicentennial year, 1988.
Michael Leslie	*Kamilaroi/Mandandanji* Dancer, choreographer, writer, researcher.	One of the first NAISDA course enrolments, studied at Alvin Ailey School, NY.
Mum Shirl (Coleen Shirley Perry Smith AM OBE) (dec.)	*Wiradjuri* Activist: helped establish Aboriginal Legal Service, Aboriginal Medical Service, Aboriginal Black Theatre, Aboriginal Tent Embassy, Aboriginal Children's Service, Aboriginal Housing Company.	Sprong supporter for the establishment of NAISDA.
Paul Saliba	Australian Dancer, choreographer, teacher, artist.	Long time teacher of modern and contemporary dance (specialising in Graham technique) at NAISDA.
Percy Jakonia (dec.)	*Zenadth Kes/Torres Strait* Dancer, Cultural mentor.	One of the first Bangarra Dance Theatre dancers.
Pinau Ghee	*Zenadth Kes/Torres Strait*	Dancer in *Praying Mantis Dreaming, Ninni* and *Ochres.*

PEOPLE

NAME	BACKGROUND	RELEVANCE to *Listening back: Early Voices*
Raymond Blanco	*Yadhaigana (NPA)/Mer/Erub/Zenadth Kes/Torres Strait* Dancer, choreographer, arts administrator.	Former Artistic Director of AIDT and former Head of Cultural and Training operations at NAISDA.
Raymond Sawyer (dec.)	American Dancer, choreographer, researcher, teacher.	Choreographer for AIDT and some of the early Bangarra repertoire.
Richard Talonga (dec.)	*Zenadth Kes/Torres Strait/South Sea Islander* Dancer.	One of the first enrolled students of NAISDA, member of Bangarra during world tour of 1989/90.
Robina Beard	Australian Dancer, actor, choreographer, teacher.	Regular tap and modern dance teacher at NAISDA.
Roslyn Watson	*Muninjali/Birri Gubba* Dancer, teacher, activist.	Performer with AIDT, teacher of ballet and modern dance at NAISDA in 1970s and 80s.
Roy David Page (dec.)	*Nunukul/Munaldjali* Composer, actor, singer.	Composer for twenty-seven Bangarra Dance Theatre productions. Brother of Stephen and Russell Page.
Russell Page (dec.)	*Nunukul/Munaldjali* Dancer, actor.	Dancer with Bangarra Dance Theatre from 1991 to 2002. Brother of Stephen and David Page.
Stephen George Page	*Nunukul/Munaldjali* Director, choreographer, dancer.	Artistic Director of Bangarra Dance Theatre, 1991 to 2022, creating thirty nine productions. Brother of David and Russell Page.
Harrold 'Tiga' Bayles (dec.)	*Birri Gubba/Gungalu* Broadcaster, activist.	Supporter for the establishment of NAISDA.
Uncle Charles 'Chicka' Dixon (dec.)	*Yuin* Activist, diplomat and leader.	Strong activist for 1967 referendum, Tent Embassy, first Aboriginal Arts Board. For the Australia Council. Supporter for the foundation of NAISDA.
Wandjuk Marika (dec.)	*Rirratjingu* clan, Yolŋu Leader, artist.	Former chair of the Aboriginal Arts Board (Australia Council), international spokesperson and diplomat.
Wayne Nicol (dec)	Dancer.	One of the first dancers/students with AIDT/NAISDA.
Yapuma Gurriwiwi (dec.)	*Galpu* clan, Yolŋu Yidaki player, Cultural leader.	Cultural tutor of NAISDA in 1980s.

Original Logo designed by Eugene Casey (dec.)
Music teacher at NAISDA 1980 – 1995



PLACES

Bamaga, QLD	In 1947, after a devastating flood event, a large group of people migrated from Saibai Island to the Australian mainland and set up the township of Bamaga near the top of Cape York, Queensland.
Saibai, Zenadth Kes/ Torres Strait	One of the northern most islands of the Torres Strait with a Community of around 350 residents.
Yirrkala, Northern Territory	Community in North East Arnhem land at the tip of the eastern side of Gove peninsula and home of several Yolŋu clans.
St John's Church Hall, Glebe, Sydney	Located in Bridge St, Glebe, was the home of NAISDA from the mid-1970s to the early 2000s.
Lee St, Sydney	Location of first Bangarra studio space. Lee St is in the precinct of Central Railway Station and Regent St.
Redfern, Sydney	Inner city suburb of Sydney, home of many Aboriginal Communities. A vitally important place for First Nations activism and self-determination.
Laura	Laura Quinkan Dance Festival held annually in far-north Queenland.

ACRONYMS

AIDT	Aboriginal and Islander Dance Theatre
FCAATSI	Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders
NAISDA	National Aboriginal and Islander Skills Development Association
MBE	Member of the British Empire

EVENTS

bangarra
DANCE THEATRE

Tent Embassy	1972	Originally set up in January 1972 on the lawns opposite Parliament House in Canberra. Removed by police in July 1972.
Tent Embassy re-established after sit-in	1973	Re-established after public outrage in 1973. Remains one of the world's longest running protest.
First workshop led by Carole Y Johnson	1975	Workshop held at Black Theatre, Redfern – followed by 6 week course.
National Aboriginal and Islander Skills Development Scheme – Careers in Dance founded concurrently with AIDT.	1976	Course is formalised, Students enrolled in a three year course.
Spoleto Festival	1986	Former name for Melbourne International Festival.
1988 Bicentennial	1988	Australia's Bicentennial to mark the founding of a British Colony in NSW on 26 January 1788. Known also as Invasion Day.
Bangarra Dance Theatre constituted	1989	Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia constituted on 30 May 1989.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, this document includes information that was able to be verified at the time of preparation — There may be omissions or inaccuracies. If you believe any information requires correction or updating, we welcome you to contact the Company so that we can review and update the record as appropriate.