



BANGARRA AND THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCE FOUR-YEAR PARTNERSHIP IN BENDIGO



Photo: Bangarra Dance Theatre Ensemble performing *Bennelong*. Photo credit: Vishal Pandey.

As [Bangarra Dance Theatre](#) embarks on its regional tour of the 2017 landmark production [Bennelong](#), it also marks the start of a new partnership that will bring more world-class performances to Bendigo's Ulumbarra Theatre.

The Victorian Government has announced \$500,000 to support a four-year residency program that will see Bangarra stage an annual season in Bendigo comprising of performances, workshops, education programs and community activities.

The four-year program aligns with the 2019 regional tour of Bangarra's multi-award-winning production *Bennelong*, with the company travelling to Victoria, Queensland and the Northern Territory, as part of a five-stop tour across Australia through February and March. Following the extraordinary success of *Bennelong*'s premiere season in 2017, and a sold-out season at Adelaide Festival in 2018, the production is regarded by many as one of the strongest and most compelling works to have emerged from Bangarra in its 30-year history.

Bangarra Dance Theatre's Executive Director Philippe Magid said *"We are incredibly grateful to the Victorian Government for their support, which will help Bangarra continue our commitment to sharing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories with communities in regional Victoria. The Victorian Government has already been a key supporter in this endeavour, most recently enabling Bangarra's youth outreach program Rekindling to visit Warrnambool, Heywood and Horsham in 2016-2017. Through our current partnership with Creative Victoria, we are bringing past Rekindling students from regional Victoria to Geelong to see Bennelong and take part in a workshop with Bangarra's dancers, deepening the cultural connection they experienced through the program."*

With the Victorian Government's support, Bangarra were delighted to bring a number of international presenters and producers from Europe to experience *Bennelong* in Bendigo; showcasing the region and introducing them to local arts organisations.

Member for Bendigo East Jacinta Allan said "*Bangarra is a unique company of performers who bring together authentic First Peoples stories and exceptional contemporary dance in extraordinarily powerful performances. We're proud to be supporting Bangarra to come to Bendigo each year, bringing the very best creative and cultural experiences to our region – as well as hosting events to get the community involved.*"

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS:

About Bangarra:

Entering its fourth decade in 2019, Bangarra is one of Australia's leading performing arts companies, internationally acclaimed for combining more than 65,000 years of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture with powerful contemporary dance, immersive soundscapes, music and design. The 2019 regional tour of *Bennelong* will kick off the year and the company's 30th anniversary.

About Bennelong:

Directed by Bangarra's Artistic Director **Stephen Page**, *Bennelong* tells the remarkable story of Woollarawarre Bennelong, a senior man of the Eora nation, from the Port Jackson area in Sydney. Bennelong was one of the first Aboriginal men to be taken from his people and, against his initial will, introduced to European ways. He was a traditional man who became an intermediary between his clan and the colonists, and 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.

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.

[BOOK TICKETS](#)

[DOWNLOAD HIGH-RES IMAGES](#) Please credit photographer Vishal Pandey

TOUR DATES

Bendigo | Ulumbarra Theatre, 15 – 16 February
Geelong | Geelong Performing Arts Centre, 21 – 23 February
Warragul | West Gippsland Arts Centre, 2 March
Alice Springs | Araluen Arts Centre, 7 – 9 March
Cairns | Cairns Performing Arts Centre, 15 – 16 March



CONNECT WITH BANGARRA



For all media enquiries, please contact:

Jessica Keirle, Media & Communications Manager, Bangarra Dance Theatre
M: 0438 805 109 E: jessica@bangarra.com.au

