

MEDIA RELEASE
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Stephen Page's 25th year as Artistic Director celebrated across the country in 2016

The year ahead is a particularly special one for Bangarra, with Artistic Director Stephen Page celebrating a remarkable 25 years at the helm of this unique company.

To commemorate this incredible milestone, Stephen will be creating one of the three brand new works in the triple bill, ***OUR land people stories*** – his 23rd work for Bangarra. This program will premiere on 16 June at the Sydney Opera House, before touring to Perth, Canberra, Brisbane and Melbourne. Joining him as choreographers for this triple bill will be company dancers, Daniel Riley, Jasmin Sheppard and Bean Dean Riley Smith.

Stephen said being Artistic Director of Bangarra is a great privilege.

“I never imagined when I took on the role 25 years ago what this small, ambitious company would become – we’re more than just a performing arts company, we’re now part of Australia’s cultural consciousness,” said Page.

“Every day I get to work with some of this country’s finest artists, and year after year we put Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders stories in the spotlight. Every place we go through – north, south, east, west – has a wonderful depth of songlines connected to Country and that’s been the most inspiring thing to me: the identity that is Australia. I look forward to continue sharing our cultural identity through Bangarra.”

In 2016, Bangarra will have a presence across every state and territory. Here’s where you can find us:

SPEAR SCREENINGS NATIONALLY

Stephen’s debut feature film will be screened at Mofo in Tasmania (13 – 18 Jan), Sydney Festival (23 – 24 Jan SOLD OUT), ACMI in Melbourne (Feb 6 - 14) and the Perth International Film Festival (26 – 27 Feb SOLD OUT). Stay tuned for national cinema release dates in March.

For all media enquiries, please contact:
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CONNECT WITH BANGARRA



REKINDLING

Bangarra's youth program for secondary school students will be heading to Victoria and Western Australia for the first time in 2016, as well as returning to Queensland. Auditions take place in late February and early March in Heywood and Horsham (VIC), Yarrabah (QLD) and Broome (WA). Register online at www.bangarra.com.au/rekindling

RETURN TO COUNTRY

Most years, Stephen and the dancers head back to Country to deepen the strong relationships the company has with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and to give cultural opportunities to Bangarra's artists. These trips are one of the highlights of the year, with the dancers coming back spiritually recharged. In February, they will visit Yirrkala in North East Arnhem Land and for the first time, the Tiwi Islands.

TERRAIN GOES WEST AND REGIONAL

Bangarra will perform at Riverside Theatre in Parramatta for a three show season from 4 – 5 March. Frances Rings' powerful hymn to Country, set in Lake Eyre, is one of her standout works. *Terrain* will then be presented during October and November on our 2016 regional tour, going back to the home of its story in South Australia as well as Western Australia.

OUR LAND PEOPLE STORIES

This triple bill of new contemporary dance works will showcase the endless choreographic talents of the company.

Artistic Director Stephen Page tells the story of internationally acclaimed visual artist Nyapanyapa Yunupingu from North East Arnhem Land. This piece draws inspiration from her incredible life story and paintings.

Jasmin Sheppard's *Macq* (first performed in 2013 during *Dance Clan 3*) is brought to the main stage, exploring the 1816 March of Macquarie – a historical chapter that decimated Sydney's Aboriginal community.

Daniel Riley and Beau Dean Riley Smith create *Miyagan*, a poignant dance story mapping their cultural heritage in a discovery of their family background on Wiradjuri country in New South Wales.

Touring to Sydney Opera House, Sydney (16 June - 2 July), State Theatre Centre of WA, Perth (20 – 23 July), Canberra Theatre Centre, Canberra (28 – 30 July), QPAC, Brisbane (12 – 20 August) and Arts Centre Melbourne, Melbourne (1 – 10 September). For more information visit www.bangarra.com.au

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