

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**  
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**BANGARRA WELCOMES TWO NEW DANCERS**  
**The Russell Page Graduate Program expands**

Bangarra Dance Theatre are thrilled to announce that two young Aboriginal dancers have joined the company in 2016, thanks to the generosity of a group of philanthropists and matched funding from Creative Partnerships Australia's Plus1 initiative.

Glory Tuohy-Daniell and Tyrel Dulvarie, both from Queensland, have recently joined the company for the full year as Graduate Program dancers. They will both perform in *Terrain*, Bangarra's first shows of the year at Riverside Theatres Parramatta from 4 – 5 March, and then will form part of the ensemble for the *OUR land people stories* national tour starting in June. They will also join the company overseas and on a major regional tour of Western Australia and South Australia.

Donors contributed more than \$60,000 to support the employment of the two Graduate Program dancers, while matched funding of \$50,000 from Creative Partnerships Australia took the total pool of funds raised to more than \$110,000. This will in part fund the dancers' salaries, Safe Dance and wellbeing programs, cost of touring and mentoring.

The Graduate Program (formerly known as a Fellowship) is named after the late Russell Page, a founding member of Bangarra and one of its most revered dancers, who passed away in 2002.

The Artistic Director of Bangarra, Stephen Page, said a formal Graduate Program was a long-held dream.

"Russell would be so proud to know that we are able to honour him in this way. He was passionate about passing down knowledge and sharing his skills with the younger dancers in the company and I see our senior dancers doing the same now," said Page.

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“It’s so inspiring to see the next generation’s passion and talents coming through. We welcome both Glory and Tyrel to Bangarra and look forward to nurturing their professional development.”

The Executive Director of Bangarra Dance Theatre, Philippe Magid, said as part of its five-year strategic plan, Bangarra has committed to raise funds to support the Graduate Program for up to six dancers annually, to ensure the development of the next generation of cultural leaders.

“This initiative is an important part of Bangarra’s evolution. Growing the company means that over time, we can potentially expand both our touring and performance footprint and our audience base,” explained Magid.

“The Graduate Program would not be possible without the generosity of our valued patrons and Creative Partnerships Australia, so we thank them for sharing our vision.”

#### **About Russell Page**

Born in Queensland, Russell was one of the founding members of Bangarra in 1989 and the youngest of the three Page brothers synonymous with the company. He trained at NAISDA, and danced with various companies throughout his career, but it was with Bangarra that he made his mark on the Australian arts landscape.

#### **About Glory Tuohy-Daniell**

Glory is a descendant of Indjalandji Dhidhanu and Alyewarre Aboriginal tribes, in North West Queensland and Scottish, English, Irish, Welsh, Chinese and Spanish heritage. She joined Emerald Dance Centre in Central Queensland, where she took ballet, jazz, contemporary, hip-hop and tap classes before being offered a Scholarship to attend Year 11 at The McDonald College, Sydney. During the year she auditioned for NAISDA Dance College and began a Certificate II in Careers in Dance and graduated in 2015.

#### **About Tyrel Dulvarie**

Tyrel is a descendant of the Yirriganydji and Mamu from Carins and Innisfail. He also has Malaysian, German, Chinese and Middle Eastern heritage. In 2011, he moved to Brisbane to join ACPA (Aboriginal College of Performing Arts) where he studied ballet, jazz, contemporary, traditional, acrobatics, musical theatre, cabaret and burlesque, as well as singing. In 2014, he joined Ochre Contemporary Dance Company in Western Australia and in 2015 he spent a year as part of Sydney Dance Company’s Pre-Professional year.

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The Russell Page Graduate Program is supported by Creative Partnerships Australia through Plus1.

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