



## BANGARRA TO EMBARK ON INTERNATIONAL TOUR TO CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES



Photo: Bangarra Dance Theatre in *Spirit 2018*, credit *Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*

In its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, Bangarra Dance Theatre will travel to Canada and the United States to present the company's 27<sup>th</sup> international tour.

Throughout October-November, Bangarra will deliver its first major national tour of Canada, presenting an ambitious five-city tour to Brantford, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver, as well as an inter-cultural residency at Six Nations of the Grand River; the country's largest First Nations reserve. To complete the tour, the company will perform in Chicago for the first time at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, known for its world-class programming and work as a cultural anchor in the United States.

International touring is an essential part of Bangarra's role as ambassadors for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, underpinning the company's commitment to sharing the strength and resilience of Australia's First Peoples on the world stage. Bangarra will stage *Spirit*; a presentation of the company's best repertoire in a powerful celebration of culture drawing from its 30-year history. Audiences in Ottawa and Chicago will also be able to experience **Stephen Page's** *Nyapanyapa*, where senior dancer **Elma Kris** will perform as a guest artist in the title role for which she received a Helpmann Award nomination for Best Female Dancer in 2016.

Complementing our on stage performances, the company will deliver some of the largest First Nations community engagement experiences in its 30-year history. Through an immersive cultural residency at Six Nations in Canada, Bangarra will take the opportunity to share Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander knowledge, stories, dance, language and song with Indigenous students from numerous local schools. Bangarra will engage in meaningful conversations about First Nations issues through cultural exchange, as well as build its networks and strengthen existing relationships with Indigenous artists and organisations across the country. In sharing the knowledge and insights of their creative processes, Bangarra's Jacob Nash and Frances Rings will facilitate international cultural conversation through a series of talks. Young students will also have the opportunity to learn professional skills from Bangarra's production team, as the company bump in and prepare for our Brantford performances at the Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts, located near

Six Nations.

Further off the stage highlights include community workshops and master classes, which the company will deliver throughout the tour. In Brantford, Canada, Bangarra's dancers will seize the chance to learn and collaborate with the **Kaha:wi Dance Theatre** company, who are celebrated for their thought provoking performances created through Indigenous knowledge, process and methodology. Cultural exchange activities such as this not only serve to share Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture on the global stage, but also allow Bangarra's artists to learn and gain valuable knowledge to imbue their own creative, artistic practice and strengthen their own voices as cultural leaders.

*"As ambassadors for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, we are committed to deepening international engagement and global understanding of Australia's First Nations People. On completion of this tour, the company will have travelled to over 70 cities in its 30-year history, with inter-cultural dialogue and exchange integral to our practice. This tour will build on Bangarra's significant work with remote Indigenous communities in India in 2018, and help build awareness and understanding of the rich cultural history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We are excited to deliver such an ambitious international program in our 30th anniversary year, and proud to have been included in the most highly regarded dance series globally, where we will share our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture alongside some of the world's most respected dance companies."* said **Bangarra's Executive Director Philippe Magid**.

Subscription tickets for all of Bangarra's performances, other than Brantford and Vancouver, are now on sale. For more information and tickets, please visit <http://www.bangarra.com.au/whatson/>

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#### **TOUR DETAILS:**

##### **Vancouver, Canada**

Vancouver Playhouse, *Spirit*  
25 – 26 October

##### **Montreal, Canada**

Théâtre Maisonneuve, Place des Arts, *Spirit*  
30 October – 2 November

##### **Brantford, Canada**

Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts, *Spirit*  
6 November

##### **Toronto, Canada**

Bluma Appel Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, *Spirit*  
8 – 9 November

##### **Six Nations, Canada**

Cultural residency  
12 – 13 November

##### **Ottawa, Canada**

National Arts Centre, Southam Hall, *Spirit* and *Nyapanyapa*  
15 – 16 November

##### **Chicago, United States**

Harris Theater for Music and Dance, *Spirit* and *Nyapanyapa*  
22 – 23 November

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

##### **About Bangarra Dance Theatre:**

Bangarra Dance Theatre is Australia's leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance company, acclaimed worldwide for its moving performances, distinctive voice and authentic storytelling. Bangarra are

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.

## ***Spirit***

*Spirit* is a powerful collection of dance stories by Artistic Director Stephen Page, drawn from the company's 30-year history. Set to a beautiful and haunting score composed by David Page and Steve Francis, *Spirit* invites audiences to connect with stories and songlines drawn from all over Australia, in a celebration of First Nations Peoples' unbroken connection to the land.

In a series of shifting incarnations, *Spirit* has been performed to audience and critical acclaim in Tokyo, Copenhagen, Bonn, New York, Vietnam, Mongolia and China. This is a true celebration of Australia's rich culture and history, fused with outstanding dance technique.

*Choreography:* Stephen Page and Bernadette Walong-Sene

*Traditional Choreography and Music:* Djakapurra Munyarryun

*Music:* David Page and Steve Francis

*Costumes:* Jennifer Irwin

*Lighting Design:* Nick Schlieper, Karen Norris, Joseph Mercurio, Matt Cox

## ***Nyapanyapa***

The beautifully textured paintings of Yirrkala artist Nyapanyapa Yunupingu are brought to life in *Nyapanyapa*, by Bangarra's Artistic Director Stephen Page. First premiering in 2016 as part of the triple-bill program *OUR land people stories*, *Nyapanyapa* illuminates and celebrates the North East Arnhem Land artist's incredible creative gifts and brings her energy and joyful spirit to new audiences. Featuring Bangarra's internationally acclaimed striking dance language, immersive soundscapes and exquisite design, *Nyapanyapa* is inspired by the culture and history embedded in the land, and in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' connection to Country.

*Choreography:* Stephen Page

*Music:* Steve Francis

*Costume Design:* Jennifer Irwin

*Lighting Design:* Matt Cox

*Cultural Consultant:* Nyapanyapa Yunupingu

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CONNECT WITH BANGARRA



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