

MEDIA RELEASE
For immediate release
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OUR land people stories:
Australian history and identity through an abundance of dance stories

In 2016, Bangarra brings you a remarkable triple bill, featuring works by Artistic Director Stephen Page and a trio of Bangarra dancers. *OUR land people stories* will premiere at **Sydney Opera House on 16 June**, before travelling to Perth, Canberra, Brisbane and Melbourne until September.

Stephen Page marks his 25th anniversary as Artistic Director of the company with his new work ***Nyapanyapa***, inspired by the life story and paintings of internationally acclaimed visual artist Nyapanyapa Yunupingu from North East Arnhem Land. Her works are held in private collections around the world and are housed in many major Australian galleries. It will be Page's 23rd work for Bangarra, and an ongoing exploration of how to translate visual art through movement.

Page has long admired Nyapanyapa's paintings – her work depicting being attacked by a buffalo as a child, a traumatic incident that left her largely mute, won her the 2008 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award – and her latest series of dancing girls sparked the idea for this creative exchange.

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. Many landmarks in Australia are named after Lachlan Macquarie, but who was he is the question posed by Sheppard. Passionate and political, it's a work that will serve as an enlightening history lesson for many unaware of this brutal encounter, with *The Sydney Morning Herald* calling her debut "unforgettable."

Daniel Riley and Beau Dean Riley Smith create ***Miyagan*** ("our family", pronounced Me-ya-gun), a poignant dance story mapping their cultural heritage from Wiradjuri country in New South Wales.

For all media enquiries, please contact:
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Related by a great-great grandfather, the Rileys got to know each other – and their family history – while dancing together at Bangarra. *Miyagan* explores the Aboriginal kinship system, and their meaning to communities and to their own family tree. This will be seasoned choreographer Riley’s third work for the company following two highly acclaimed pieces (*Riley*, 2010 and *Scar*, 2013) and Riley Smith’s debut as a choreographer.

Page says this program is a true snapshot of what Bangarra stands for.

“These three works naturally feed into each other, what is our past and how we now thrive for identity in a celebration of our culture. It’s so exciting to be on this bill with three artists who have been nurtured right here in our own backyard – they are the next generation of cultural leaders,” notes Page.

“I’ve always said that, along with community relationships, it’s the dancers who inspire our stories, and its their heritage, their experience, their families and where they come from that permeate our productions; that’s where the heart and spirit comes into it and why our productions are so unique and moving.”

[WATCH THE OUR LAND PEOPLE STORIES TRAILER HERE](#)

[INFO AND TICKET BOOKING](#)

NATIONAL TOUR DATES

LOCATION	DATE
SYDNEY, Sydney Opera House	16 June – 2 July
PERTH, State Theatre Centre of WA	20 July – 23 July
CANBERRA, Canberra Theatre Centre	28 July – 30 July
BRISBANE, QPAC	12 August – 20 August
MELBOURNE, Arts Centre Melbourne	1 September - 10 September

Credits

Choreographers

Stephen Page
Jasmin Sheppard
Daniel Riley
Beau Dean Riley Smith

Macq Cultural Consultant Aunty Frances Bodkin

Miyagan Cultural Consultants Aunty Diane McNaboe, Aunty Lynette Riley

Creative team

Music David Page (*Macq*)

Set Jacob Nash

Costume Jennifer Irwin

Lighting Matt Cox

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