

**BANGARRA PREMIERES FIRST-EVER VISUAL ARTS COLLABORATION,  
*ILLUME*  
Touring Nationally in 2025**



*Photo: Ballardung Noongar dancer Courtney Radford. Photographer: Daniel Boud.*

*Illume - Step out of the shadows and into the phenomena of light – the central life force of our planet.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2024:** In 2025, Australia’s leading Indigenous performing arts company, Bangarra Dance Theatre, will present the world premiere of their first-ever visual arts collaboration, *Illume*, an exciting new presentation from Mirning woman and Bangarra artistic director, Frances Rings and Goolarrgon Bard visual artist, Darrell Sibosado.

Inspired by Sibosado’s Bard – Bardi Jawi Country on the north-western coast of Western Australia, *Illume* draws together music, visual arts and dance to explore the ways light has captivated and sustained Indigenous cultural existence for millennia.

Following a two-decade tenure at the Sydney Opera House Drama Theatre, in 2025, Bangarra will move to the prestigious Joan Sutherland Theatre stage at the Sydney Opera House to premiere the work in June, allowing bigger audiences to experience Bangarra’s extraordinary storytelling. *Illume* will then embark on a national tour, which in a welcome return in 2025, will also include performances in Western Australia.

Rings and Sibosado’s collaboration examines artificial light pollution and its disruption to land and sky, devastating First Nations people’s connections to sky country and limiting their ability to share

celestial knowledge and skylore. *Illume* explores the awe of light, a bridge between the physical and spiritual worlds. It charts the impacts of light pollution in a climate emergency.

Frances Rings says, “I’m excited to work alongside distinguished Bard visual artist, Darrell Sibosado and explore the concept of light as ‘a glowing bridge between the physical and spiritual worlds.’

This collaboration allows us to examine light from both choreographic and visual art perspectives, in a unique approach that draws on both movement and visual elements to convey complex themes about light, culture, and environmental issues.

I hope that by intersecting our artistic practices, we potentially create something more innovative and impactful that honours our First Nations cultural storytelling.”

Sibosado says, “I’m very excited and honoured to be working with Frances and Bangarra. I first met Frances in about 1988 when we were both students at NAISDA College. I have watched her focus, commit and grow into the artist creator she is today and I have always been intrigued by her movement style and the composition of her work.

My work is steeped in the context of where I’m from. I am really looking forward to seeing how Frances and I can work together, how our practices will respond, merge and translate to express the rhythm and essence of my people and my country.”

Working alongside Sibosado to bring his designs to the Bangarra stage, will be set designer Charles Davis, costume designer Elizabeth Gadsby, lighting designer Damien Cooper, Wiradjuri/Gamilaroi man and composer Brendon Boney, and cultural consultants Trevor Sampi, a Bardi Jawi man from Lombadina and Audrey (Pippi) Bin Swani, a proud member of the Baad/Nimanburr tribe.

Tickets are on sale from 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024. For more information, waitlist and tickets, visit [bangarra.com.au](http://bangarra.com.au).

### **ILLUME TOUR DATES:**

|                        |   |   |
|------------------------|---|---|
| GADIGAL COUNTRY        | Roslyn Packer Theatre                       | 24 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2025<br><i>(Community and Schools performances)</i> |
| GADIGAL COUNTRY        | Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House | 4 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2025  |
| WHADJUK NOONGAR BOODJA | Heath Ledger Theatre                        | 10 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2025   |
| KINJARLING             | Albany Entertainment Centre                 | 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2025  |
| NGUNNAWAL COUNTRY      | Canberra Theatre Centre                     | 25 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> July 2025   |
| MEANJIN                | Queensland Performing Arts Centre           | 31 <sup>st</sup> July – 9 <sup>th</sup> August 2025   |
| GARRAMILLA             | Darwin Entertainment Centre                 | 15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> August 2025   |
| WURUNDJERI COUNTRY     | Arts Centre Melbourne                       | 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2025   |

-ENDS-

[Images and trailer are available for download here.](#)

For further information and interview requests:

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## EDITOR'S NOTES: ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### Frances Rings

Frances is a descendant of the Wirangu and Mirning Tribes from the West Coast of South Australia. She became Artistic Director of Bangarra Dance Theatre in 2023, after Stephen Page stepped down from the role after 31 years. She also leads the company as co-CEO alongside Louise Ingram.

Frances made her main stage choreographic debut with Bangarra with the work *Rations (Walkabout)*, 2002) and received outstanding critical acclaim. Frances has followed this by creating or co-creating a further seven works for the company: *Bush* (2003, co-coreographed with Stephen Page), *Unaipon* (2004), *X300* (2007), *Artefact* (2010), *Terrain* (2012), *Sheoak* (2015) and *SandSong* (2021, co-choreographed with Stephen Page).

In 2016, *Terrain* toured regionally to Western Australia and South Australia, continuing in 2017 to regional Victoria and Tasmania. *Unaipon* was remounted as part of Bangarra's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary program, *30 years of sixty five thousand*, in 2019.

*Terrain* is currently listed on the NSW Higher School Certificate Dance, as compulsory study for Appreciation (Dance).

In 2004, Bulletin Magazine named Frances in their Smart 100, following the world premiere of her work *Unaipon* at The Adelaide Festival of the Arts. Frances has choreographed works for many of Australia's leading dance companies including West Australian Ballet and Tasdance, as well as continuing a successful independent career. Frances has also danced in works by many of Australia's leading choreographers and companies including Meryl Tankard, Leigh Warren and Legs on the Wall.

Internationally, Frances has been fortunate to establish important intercultural relationships with both Kaha:wi Dance Theatre in Six Nations, Turtle Island (Canada) and Atamira Dance Company in Auckland, Aotearoa (New Zealand), where she was invited as guest collaborator and performer for their production *MITIMITI* choreographed by Jack Gray in 2015. In 2018, she was commissioned to create a new work for Atamira as part of their triple-bill, *Kotahi*.

Frances was appointed Head of Creative Studies at NAISDA Dance College from 2016-2019, and has directed five NAISDA end-of-year productions between 2014-2018: *Your Skin, My Skin* (2014), *Kamu* (2015), *From Sand to Stage* (2016), *Restoration* (2017), and *Storyplace* (2018). She was Associate Artistic Director of Bangarra Dance Theatre from 2019 - 2022.

### Darrell Sibosado

Darrell Sibosado is from Lombadina on the Dampier Peninsula, Western Australia. Inspired by riji – sacred Bard mother-of-pearl pieces – his work fuses ancient and modern artistic practices to bring traditional Bard culture into the contemporary art world. After attending NAISDA Dance College and embarking on a diverse career in the creative arts, Sibosado returned to his ancestral home, where he became the Tourism & Arts Manager at the Lombadina Aboriginal Corporation.

Sibosado's artwork has been exhibited internationally and across Australia, including the National Gallery of Australia, Fondation Opale (Switzerland), Cartier Foundation (France), the Art Gallery of Western Australia, the Art Gallery of South Australia, the Cairns Regional Gallery, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Cooperative, Murray Art Museum Albury, and the Wollongong Art Gallery. He was also featured in the 2024 Sydney Biennale, a milestone event in his career.