

SPIRIT

A RETROSPECTIVE 2021

75 minutes, no interval

BROLGA (CORROBOREE, 2001)

Brolga is the journey of a young girl who enters a sacred ground that belongs to the brolgas. She plays, she mimics, and she discovers the sensuality of the brolga. But she has to learn to respect the secret brolga knowledge. The traditional spirit guides and protects her on this journey and she emerges with the totem markings of the brolga, transformed.

Following this young girl, we explore relationships between humans and creatures, reflecting on the intrinsic spirituality of the natural world.

PERFORMED BY

Elma Kris
Rika Hamguchi
Beau Dean Riley Smith
Lillian Banks
Tyrel Dulvarie
Full Company

BLACK (OCHRES, 1994)

This is male energy – when they wipe ochre across their forehead, it's protective action, to protect and maintain the male spirit before they go on the hunt. This dance features animal mimicry, which is integral to traditional dance; the swatting movement with the hands, like the swatting of flies, the crouching and rearing up, the shaking of the body – that is kangaroo.

In *Black* we also have the hands covering mouths – a political statement about petrol sniffing, an abstract move we included to comment on the social dilemma that is an ongoing issue in a lot of communities.

PERFORMED BY

Beau Dean Riley Smith
Rikki Mason
Ryan Pearson
Baden Hitchcock
Bradley Smith
Tyrel Dulvarie

YELLOW (OCHRES, 1995)

This is the woman spirit – mother earth in all her forms as represented by the women and the yellow ochre. Many of the movements in *Yellow* are inspired by female energy and their connection to the land – the nurturing of children, feeding, gathering, water, bathing, birthing.

PERFORMED BY

Lillian Banks
Rika Hamaguchi
Courtney Radford
Glory Tuohy-Daniell
Kassidy Waters

DINGO (SKIN, 2000)

A sacred and powerful initiation ceremony from traditional Aboriginal men's law – a young boy becomes a man and is given the totem of the Dingo, Australia's wild dog. Inspired by the initiation of boys to men, taking on the fearless nature of the dingo.

PERFORMED BY

Beau Dean Riley Smith
All Men

CREDITS

Choreography

Stephen Page,
Bernadette Walong-Sene

Traditional Choreography and Music

Djakapurra Munyarryun

Music

David Page, Steve Francis

Costume Design

Jennifer Irwin

Set Design

Jacob Nash

Brolga Cloths

John Matkovic,
Stephen Page

Lighting Design

Nick Schlieper, Karen
Norris, Joseph Mercurio,
Matt Cox

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WHITE **(OCHRES, 1994)**

White takes inspiration from what has come before and the impact it has on our future. Our history is protecting us, it informs who we are and it is a source of rejuvenation. *White* is that new spirit world: the dancers embody the spiritual energy of the future. We acknowledge the continuation of life by embracing our history.

PERFORMED BY

Lillian Banks
Glory Tuohy-Daniell
Courtney Radford

MOTH **(BUSH, 2003)**

As we watch the moth emerge and transform, we witness the human life cycle, the passing on of knowledge and the resilience of spirit.

PERFORMED BY

Tyrel Dulvarie
Rika Hamaguchi

TWO SISTERS **(BUSH, 2003)**

Creation (Wirrkul Manda), A Creation story from North East Arnhem Land of two sisters birthing the land: 'they sang the songs and danced over the land... created all living things'.

Two Sisters is a Dhuwa Traditional Dance.

PERFORMED BY

Elma Kris
Glory Tuohy-Daniell
Lillian Banks
Courtney Radford
Kassidy Waters
Maddison Paluch

THE CALL **(WALKABOUT, 2002)**

The call grapples with the challenges of being an Indigenous man in the contemporary world, calling on connections to traditional land and culture, to cultivate strength.

PERFORMED BY

Rikki Mason
Elma Kris

IN HER MIND **(NYAPANYAPA, 2016)**

Homage. Meditation through art.

PERFORMED BY

Rika Hamaguchi
Bradley Smith

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Bernadette Walong-Sene

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