

**BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE**

# Dance Clan





# Dance Clan

STUDIO THEATRE AT BANGARRA, SYDNEY  
3 - 18 FEBRUARY 2023

## CREDITS

### Choreographers

Sani Townson (*Kulka*)

Glory Tuohy-Daniell  
(*Keeping Grounded*)

Ryan Pearson (*5 Minute Call*)

### Composers

Brendon Boney (*Keeping  
Grounded & 5 Minute Call*)

Amy Flannery (*Kulka*)

Set Designer  
Shana O'Brien

Costume Designer  
Clair Parker

Lighting Designer  
Karen Norris

AV Design  
Joshua Yasserie (*Kulka*)

## BANGARRA DANCERS

Glory Tuohy-Daniell

Courtney Radford

Kassidy Waters

Kallum Goolagong

Kiarn Doyle

Emily Flannery

Maddison Paluch

Daniel Mateo

Janaya Lamb

Jesse Murray

James Boyd

Chantelle Lee Lockhart

Amber Gordon

Joshua Doctor

(Indigenous Dance  
Internship)

## PRODUCTION CREW

Rehearsal Director

Daniel Roberts

Rehearsal Director

Rikki Mason (*Kulka*)

Production Manager

Cat Studley

Stage Manager

Rose Jenkins

Head of Wardrobe

Jessica Hodgkinson

Head Electrician

Lucy Mitchell

Audio and Video Technician

Raine Paul

Assistant Stage Manager

Ashleigh King

Aerial Movement and

Rigging Consultant

Katie McDonagh

## Indigenous Lighting

Trainee

Maddison Craven

## Production

Management

Secondment

Daniel Story

## MENTORS

Sound Design

Steve Francis

Set Design

Jacob Nash

Costume Design

Jennifer Irwin

Lighting Design

Karen Norris

Movement

Matt Cornell

(*Keeping Grounded,*

*5 Minute Call*)

## Welcome to Dance Clan

This year, we embark on a significant shift in leadership as Stephen Page steps down as Artistic Director. After four decades at the helm, we are indebted to Stephen for his incredibly rich cultural contributions to our national artistic fabric and his unwavering commitment to transforming the way we tell the stories of Australia's First Peoples. As Frances steps into the role, Bangarra is buoyed by the momentum of change that lies ahead for us under her artistic direction.

We begin a new era by investing in our future. The *Dance Clan* artist development program is designed to cultivate the ground for our next generation of emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Creatives. Initiated in 1998, *Dance Clan* is a program of three new works designed to offer an opportunity for emerging artists to develop their creative practice and cultural discourse through the creation of an original work. The program aims to ignite an exciting new wave of Indigenous storytellers and future creative and cultural leaders, and their transitional pathways to further career opportunities. This year's *Dance Clan* choreographers are Glory Tuohy-Daniell, Ryan Pearson and Sani Townson. Glory, Ryan and Sani are all gifted artists endowed with a vision and passion for Indigenous storytelling. They represent an exciting and vibrant future for Bangarra as they embark on their first professional choreographic commission for the company.

Presented at home in our Studio Theatre, *Dance Clan* 2023 has expanded the program to include pathways and mentorship for First Nations theatre designers and composers. We are thrilled to have emerging Indigenous Creatives, Shana O'Brien (Set Designer), Clair Parker (Costume Designer), Maddison Craven (Indigenous Lighting Trainee) and composers Amy Flannery and Leon Rodgers (current David Page Music Fellows), and Brendon Boney (Inaugural David Page Music Fellow). We also acknowledge and thank our incredible team of Creative mentors, Jacob Nash, Karen Norris, Steve Francis and Jennifer Irwin for their knowledge and generous guidance nurturing our next generation of Indigenous Creatives.

*Dance Clan* is not only about nurturing young Indigenous artists, but also how we till the ground for a new generation of artistic expressions. We thrive when we can encourage new ideas to germinate and grow, and empower artists to be bold, curious yet authentic and grounded by Country, Culture and Kin. It is our role as a Cultural foundation to unearth and care for the new creative voices that will carry our stories forward, inspired by a new energy that elevates our Indigenous artistic expressions to a reimagined future.

Tonight's performance would not be possible without the generous support of the Hooper Shaw Foundation and the continued support of the Australian Government, through the Australia Council for the Arts. Also, a special thank you to all our corporate sponsors and our many donors who have demonstrated their commitment to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures on and off the stage.

Thank you for joining us.



Frances Rings  
Artistic Director



Louise Ingram  
Executive Director  
(Interim)

# About Dance Clan

## Kulka

Choreographed by Sani Townson, *Kulka* is a three-part piece that pays homage to Sani's grandfather.

*Kulka* runs through our veins. Heritage and lineage bloodlines are the very essence of who we are as *Lagaw Mabaygal* (Island People). Family cultural ties and bonds are what has been taught throughout our Samu, Koedal and Dhoeybaw clans. Songs and dances are taught and handed down from generations before us. This encourages us to keep our culture strong and have pride in what is rightfully ours to present to those who understand us as clanship and our identity as *Lagaw Mabaygal*.

“I want to show wider Australia how I have interpreted my given cultural knowledge through a contemporary dance lens.”

- SANI TOWNSON

### Dancers

Glory Tuohy-Daniell  
Kallum Goolagong  
James Boyd  
Kiarn Doyle  
Jesse Murray  
Courtney Radford  
Maddison Paluch  
Daniel Mateo  
Amber Gordon

### Creative Team

Choreographer Sani Townson  
Composer Amy Flannery  
Set Designer Shana O'Brien  
Costume Designer Clair Parker  
Lighting Designer Karen Norris  
Rehearsal Director Rikki Mason

## 5 Minute Call

Ryan Pearson explores the young Indigenous experience in a state of euphoria.

*5 Minute Call* in its essence is a love letter to the people we become when we reach an escape.

In developing the work, each dancer shared euphoric experiences, and together we cultivated a world where they can be expressed freely. These moments were birthed through yarns of family, self-love and home. These influences had built up the walls of their world and the choices they make in it.

“*5 Minute Call* explores the individual and collective euphoria we share into the world and the labour that comes with it.”

- RYAN PEARSON

### Dancers

Chantelle Lee Lockhart  
Emily Flannery  
Jesse Murray  
Kallum Goolagong  
Courtney Radford  
Joshua Doctor

### Creative Team

Choreographer Ryan Pearson  
Composer Brendon Boney  
Set Designer Shana O'Brien  
Costume Designer Clair Parker  
Lighting Designer Karen Norris

## Keeping Grounded

In her choreographic debut, Glory Tuohy-Daniell explores the concept of grounding.

Grounding is placing your bare feet on the ground and connecting into the energy of the earth. The earth has a negative charge and humans a positive charge. Our ancestors would walk around barefoot or use natural fibres for their shoes and until the 1960s, people were wearing leather soled shoes—allowing energy to run from the earth to our body. Since the introduction of rubber soled shoes, humans have been disconnected from the earth—the energy cannot travel through rubber, and this impacts our physical health.

I'm very interested in mental health, physical health and how grounding can heal you. With this piece I want to plant a seed and start a conversation about our health in all forms.

“Something that was a part of our everyday life, like walking around barefoot, walking on Country, is not a reality when we moved to the city.”

- GLORY TUOHY-DANIELL

### Dancers

Daniel Mateo  
Maddison Paluch  
Janaya Lamb  
Kassidy Waters  
James Boyd  
Kiarn Doyle

### Creative Team

Choreographer Glory Tuohy-Daniell  
Composer Brendon Boney  
Set Designer Shana O'Brien  
Costume Designer Clair Parker  
Lighting Designer Karen Norris



# Creative Team



**FRANCES RINGS**  
Artistic Director

Frances Rings is a descendant of the Wirangu Tribe from the West Coast of South Australia. Frances was appointed Artistic Director of Bangarra Dance Theatre in 2023.

Frances made her main stage choreographic debut with *Rations (Walkabout, 2002)*, receiving outstanding critical acclaim. Frances created a further seven works for Bangarra: *Bush* (2003, co-choreographed with Stephen Page), *Unaipon* (2004), *X300* (2007), *Artefact* (2010), *Terrain* (2012), *Sheoak* (2015) and *SandSong* (2021, co-choreographed with Stephen Page).

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

In 2023, Frances will choreograph *Yuldea*, her first work as Artistic Director of Bangarra.

Frances has worked as a choreographer and dancer with Australia's leading dance companies including West Australian Ballet, Tasdance, Meryl Tankard, Leigh Warren, and Legs on the Wall, The Australian Ballet and internationally with companies including KAHĀ:WI Dance Theatre (Turtle Island) and Atamira Dance Company (Aotearoa).

Frances was appointed Head of Creative Studies at NAISDA Dance College from 2016-2019 and has directed five NAISDA end-of-year productions.

Frances has received multiple awards for her work including six Helpmann Awards (2003, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2017), a Deadly Award (2003), Australian Dance Award (2004) and a Green Room Award (2011).



**SANI TOWNSON**  
Choreographer (*Kulka*)

Sani comes from a strong cultural family who are of Samu, Koedal, Dhoeybaw clans of Saibai Island. He studied at NAISDA 1996-2000 and danced with Bangarra 2001-2006. Since leaving Bangarra, he has worked with SBS, NITV and ABC, and collaborated with companies such as Gondwana Voices, Sydney Children's Choir, QANTAS, Leigh Warren & Dancers, Insite Arts and NAISDA Dance College. He has also choreographed for Christine Anu, Felix Riebel, Kate Miller-Heidke, Sean Choolburra and Electric Fields. In 2020, Sani returned to Bangarra as the Youth Programs Coordinator while developing his own interactive children's show Lagaw Mabaygal (Ailan ppl).



**RYAN PEARSON**  
Choreographer (*5 Minute Call*)

Ryan is of Biripi and Worimi descent on his mother's side and Minang, Goreng and Balardung on his father's side. He joined Bangarra in 2017 as part of the Russell Page Graduate Program. Ryan was nominated in the 2020 Australian Dance Awards for Most Outstanding Performance by a Male Dancer for his performance in Jiri' Kylian's *Stamping Ground (30 years of sixty five thousand, 2019)*.



**GLORY TUOHY-DANIELL**  
Choreographer (*Keeping Grounded*)

Glory is a descendant of Indjalandji Dhidhanu and Alyewarre Aboriginal tribes, in the North West Queensland and Northern Territory. She joined Bangarra in 2016 as part of the Russell Page Graduate Program.

The experience that has made the biggest impact on Glory was attending a cultural residency on Saibai and Moa Islands in the Torres Strait and Elcho Island, North-East Arnhem Land.

A highlight of her career was performing in *Ochres*. To be the same age as the show itself and to have been able to perform in such a historic work, is something she will remember forever.



**KAREN NORRIS**  
Lighting Designer

Karen Norris' origins are Indigenous from Aotearoa of Morori descent. She has designed productions throughout Australia and Europe, working as a designer with Bangarra on *The Dreaming* (1999), *SKIN* (2000), *Terrain* (2012) and *LORE* (2015). Karen is a multi-award-winning designer, some of her awards include Helpmann's for *SKIN*, *Terrain*, *LORE*, Narelle Benjamin's works *In Glass* (2011) and *Hiding in Plain Sight* (2015), and most recently *Barbara and the Camp Dogs* which also won a Green Room (2020).



**BRENDON BONEY**  
Composer (*Keeping Grounded & 5 Minute Call*)

Brendon Boney is a Wiradjuri/Gamilaroi man from Wagga Wagga and was the inaugural David Page Music Fellow. He has toured internationally as a recording and performing artist during the past decade and is an APRA Professional Development Award winner. He toured with Ilbijerri Theatre's acclaimed production *Black Ties* as Music Director and made his acting debut in the same production. Brendon has composed for Belvoir Theatre, Ensemble Theatre and Sydney Theatre Company.



**AMY FLANNERY**  
Composer (*Kulka*)

Amy Flannery is currently a David Page Music Fellow. Her journey as a young First Nations artist has taken in a great deal in a very short time. A Wiradjuri woman based on Wangal Country in Sydney, Amy studied dance and music simultaneously during high school and at NAISDA Dance College. After graduating from NAISDA in 2018, she choreographed and composed for several independent productions, building skills and delving into a range of technologies to craft a personal creative voice.



**SHANA O'BRIEN**  
Set Designer

Shana O'Brien is a First Nations artist and dancer who was brought up on Darkinjung land. She is a NAISDA and Sydney College of the Arts graduate. She is currently a dancer with Wagana Dancers and Jannawi Dance Clan. In her own practice she likes to find the in between spaces, and meeting points of dance and visual arts. In 2022 she began her first role in set design for Bangarra's *Dance Clan*.



**CLAIR PARKER**  
Costume Designer

Clair is a Takaringa Tiwi woman born and raised in Darwin, NT. She is a visual artist, graphic designer, and fashion designer based in Perth, WA. In 2016 she became the first Aboriginal graduate from the Whitehouse Institute of Design. Since then, she's presented a fashion collection at Australian Fashion Week and has worked with brands such as R U OK, Redken, and First Nations Fashion + Design. A significant milestone was creating a gown in 2017 worn at the 89th Academy Awards. Clair provides bespoke, ready-to-wear garments for her women's wear fashion label Clair Helen.

## Special thanks

Leon Rodgers

Beau Dean Riley Smith

Stephen Page

Leonora Addi

Joshua Yasserie

Ross Bradbury

Traleen Ryan

Russell Carey

Charlotte Day

Alex Hunt

Alex Stuart

Richard Whitehouse

Michelle Leonard

Clemence Williams

Andrew Howes

Jacqui Elliot

Lauren Ballinger

Zipporah Corser-Anu  
(Vocalist for *Kulka*)

Veronique Serret  
(Violinist for *Kulka*)

NAISDA Dance College

Theatre Star

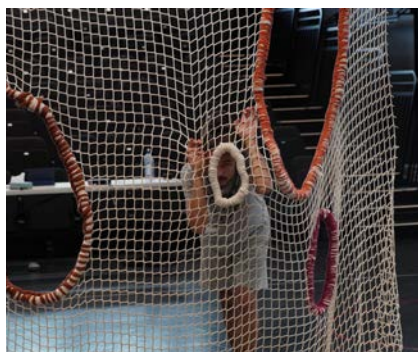
Belvoir Theatre Company

Translationz

BUSY At Work

NIDA

# Dance Clan Rehearsals



# About Us



## We are Bangarra Dance Theatre

We are a company of professional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performers.

We are storytellers. We are fire makers.

As one of Australia's leading performing arts companies, we share our culture with Communities and audiences across Australia and the world.

We are contemporary dancers, drawing on 65,000 years of culture.

We create powerful works of theatre with dance, music, poetry and design.

We tell the stories of our Elders, create works on Country and return the works we create to the place they were made.

Each of our dancers is a professionally trained, dynamic artist with a proud Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background. Together, they represent the best of Australian talent.

We have been making our indelible marks on the Australian theatre landscape for 33 years.

We were born in 1989 from the energy of NAISDA (National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association) founder Carole Y. Johnson, along with NAISDA graduates, and Rob Bryant and Cheryl Stone.

Today, Artistic Director Frances Rings and Interim Executive Director Louise Ingram lead the company in our mission to promote awareness and understanding of our cultures.

Every year, we tour a world premiere work across the nation and embark on an international tour. We are at home performing on Country, in regional centres and on Australia's most iconic stages. We run education workshops, programs and special projects to nurture the next generation of storytellers.

We are for the hundreds of First Nations Communities across Australia — and for anyone who wants to be a part of our story.

**Photography** Main images Daniel Boud Rehearsal images Rikki Mason

# Join us this year

LEARN MORE

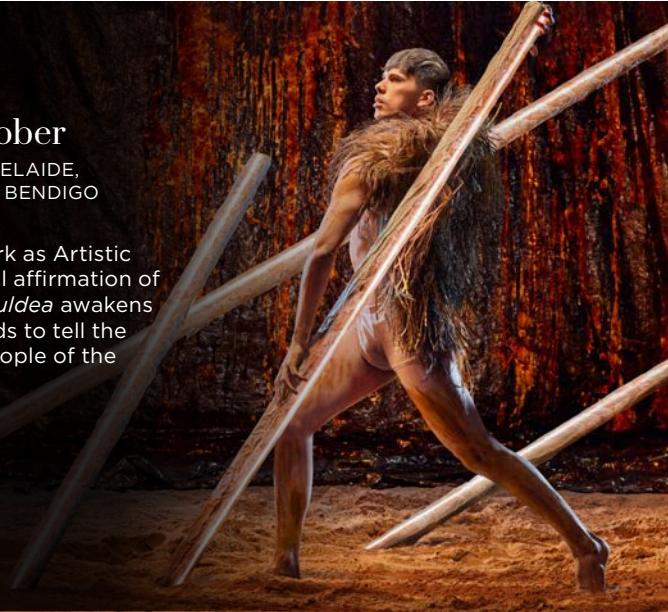


## Yuldea

14 June – 14 October

SYDNEY, CANBERRA, ADELAIDE,  
BRISBANE, MELBOURNE, BENDIGO

Frances Rings' first work as Artistic Director is a ceremonial affirmation of history and heritage. *Yuldea* awakens the earth and sky worlds to tell the story of the Anangu people of the Great Victorian Desert.



## Waru – journey of the small turtle

12 September – 10 November

NSW, VIC, QLD, NT

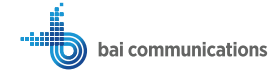
Our first dedicated work for children, *Waru- journey of the small turtle* is an interactive and immersive introduction to Torres Strait Islander culture and dance for 3 to 7-year-olds.



# Partners

*Dance Clan* has been generously supported by the Hooper Shaw Foundation

## MAJOR PARTNERS



## SUPPORTING PARTNER



## PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS



## COMPANY PARTNERS



## GOVERNMENT CORE FUNDING PARTNERS



Bangarra Dance Theatre is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.

Bangarra Dance Theatre is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.

# Help keep Bangarra moving: on and off the stage.



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has an impact.

**BANGARRA DANCE  
THEATRE AUSTRALIA**

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