

Press Release  
For Immediate Release



**BANGARRA'S SANDSONG: STORIES FROM THE GREAT SANDY  
DESERT RETURNS FOR 2022 REGIONAL TOUR  
TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA & THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**



Australia's leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performing arts company, Bangarra Dance Theatre, is delighted to bring the profound and deeply powerful production of *SandSong: Stories from the Great Sandy Desert* to Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton, Karratha, Fitzroy Crossing, Alice Springs and Darwin as part of its 2022 Regional Tour of Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Under the vast Kimberley sky, the red pindan dust stretches across the desert homelands of the Walmajarri, where the ancient knowledge of People and of Country is preserved through Songlines that have endured for hundreds of generations.

At the heart of this land is the Living Water - *Jila* – that resides in desert waterholes across the region and is the basis of cultural beliefs and practices. *SandSong* tells the unique story of this Place and the survival of its People.

Between the 1920s and 1960s, Aboriginal people were removed off their Country and onto pastoral stations where they were forced into hard labour, usually for no wages and only minimal rations. Despite this displacement and cultural disruption, the Traditional People of the Western Desert have maintained unbroken connection to Land and Country - keeping songs, stories and kinship strong.

The Lawford family has long generational ties to this part of the Kimberley and are current owners of the pastoral lease for Bohemia Downs cattle station, allowing them the stability to continue to care for their Land, Culture and Community.

*SandSong* is a journey into ancient story systems framed against the backdrop of ever-changing government policy and of the survival of people determined to hold strong to their Culture.

*SandSong* is created by Bangarra Dance Theatre in consultation with Wangkatjungka/Walmajarri Elders from the Kimberley and Great Sandy Desert regions, drawing on the stories, knowledge and memories of the past to create a new narrative for our Indigenous futures.

This work honours the legacy of Ningali Josie Lawford-Wolf and her family - past, present and future.

**Bangarra Artistic Director, Stephen Page, and Associate Artistic Director, Frances Rings, said:** “*SandSong* is a glimpse into the world of the Walmajarri people from the Great Sandy Desert and their inspirational story of survival as they overcome adversity to defend their land, identity and Cultural rights.”

*SandSong* has been choreographed by Bangarra Artistic Director, Stephen Page, a descendant of the Nunukul people and Munaldjali clan of the Yugambah Nation, and Bangarra Associate Artistic Director, Frances Rings, a descendant of the Kokatha Tribe from the West Coast of South Australia.

For more information and tickets, visit: <https://www.bangarra.com.au/blog/2022-regional-tour/>.

**SANDESONG: STORIES FROM THE GREAT SANDY DESERT TOUR DATES:**

VENUE	DATES
Albany Entertainment Centre, Albany WA	26 <sup>th</sup> October
Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre, Bunbury WA	29 <sup>th</sup> October
Queens Park Theatre, Geraldton WA	2 <sup>nd</sup> November
Red Earth Arts Precinct, Karratha WA	5 <sup>th</sup> November
Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs NT	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> November
Darwin Entertainment Centre, Darwin NT	25 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> November

Community tickets across our Regional tour are made possible through the generous support of The Balnaves Foundation.

-ENDS-

For further information and images:

**CONTACT DETAILS HERE**