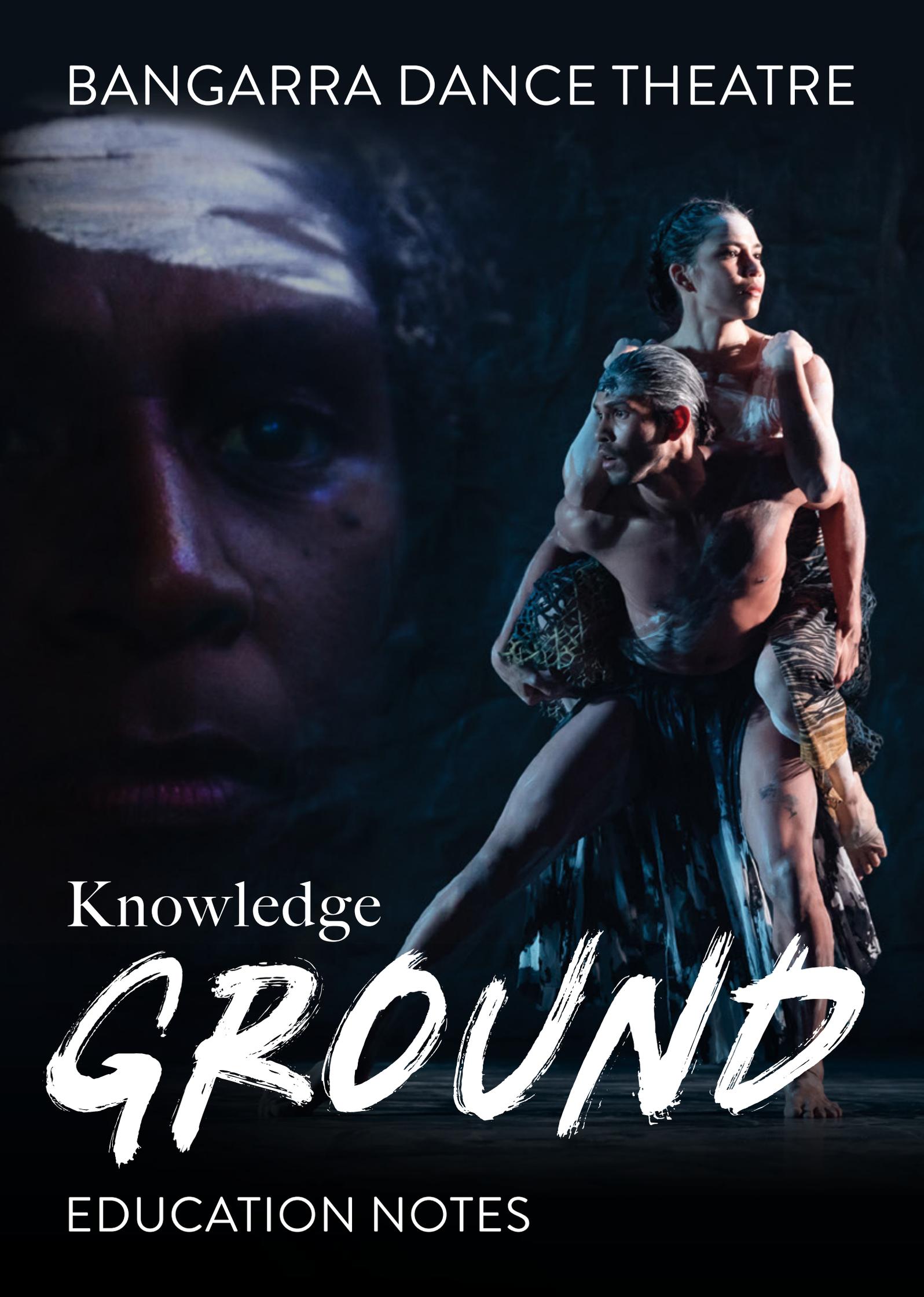


BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE



Knowledge

GROUND

EDUCATION NOTES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Bangarra Dance Theatre pays respect and acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, create, and perform.

We also wish to acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose customs and cultures inspire our work.

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (ICIP)

Bangarra acknowledges the industry standards and protocols set by the Australia Council for the Arts Protocols for Working with Indigenous Artists (2007). Those protocols have been widely adopted in the Australian arts to respect ICIP and to develop practices and processes for working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and cultural heritage. Bangarra incorporates ICIP into the very heart of our projects, from storytelling, to dance, to set design, language and music.

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WARNING

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that these Education Notes contain names and images of, and quotes from, deceased persons.

Photo Credits

Front Cover: Elma Kris, Rika Hamaguchi and Tyrel Dulvarie, photos by Daniel Boud & Jacob Nash, image created by Jacob Nash

Back Cover: Elma Kris, photo by Daniel Boud



INTRODUCTION

Bangarra is rooted in two worlds, and through dance we connect to both, embodying ancient practices and igniting contemporary songlines. Our productions are our contemporary acts of ceremony, our way of protecting and preserving our unique songline. *Knowledge Ground: 30 years of sixty five thousand* is a curated collection of the artefacts of these ceremonies – iconic set pieces, soundscapes, and costumes, which reveal the influences and themes that underpin our practice.



“Bangarra’s work draws on an incredibly rich culture of over 65,000 years, and we have a vital role to play as caretakers of these stories. The inception of the Knowledge Ground installation and digital platform is our way to ensure that the integrity of these stories is preserved, documented, and can be shared with a wider audience for years to come.”

- STEPHEN PAGE, 2019



Knowledge Ground: 30 years of sixty five thousand marks the official launch of Bangarra's new curated archival site, Knowledge Ground. This digital platform offers in-depth information about Bangarra's productions, artists, and inspirations behind our works.

This vast and evolving resource allows students to embark on a self-directed tour of Bangarra's 30-year history, and to absorb and respond to a variety of stories, themes and perspectives.

The **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures cross-curriculum priority** is woven through both the installation and the site, offering students the opportunity to learn through an immersive multimedia experience.

Learn More

bangarra-knowledgeground.com.au

SIX THEMATIC WORLDS

The installation is curated through six thematic worlds - History, Country, Social Issues, Costume, Soundscape, Homelands - which seek to connect audiences with the foundation of our works.

Knowledge GROUND MAP

1788 Set Piece

Nest

HISTORY

Behind-the-Scenes Photographs

Sacred Ring

SOUNDSCAPE
Dubboo Songline

Patyegarang Cloth

COUNTRY

COSTUME
Costumes from our Productions

SOCIAL ISSUES
SPEAR Film

EORA - Dark Emu

HOMELANDS
Homelands House



Elma Kris in *Bennelong* (2017)
Photo by Daniel Boud



Tyrel Dulvarie behind-the-scenes in
EORA - Dark Emu (2018)
Photo by Daniel Boud



Hunter Page-Lochard and Bangarra Dancers
in *SPEAR* (2015)
Photo by Edward Mulvihill

HISTORY

DISCUSSION STARTING POINTS

- How can we investigate and re-investigate our history from multiple perspectives?
- Nests are a site of birth and care - what does the earth falling from the nest make you think about?
- Research the Western (Gregorian) calendar and Indigenous concepts of time. With that in mind, consider the juxtaposition of the 1788 and Sacred Ring set pieces in this space.



DELVE DEEPER ON KNOWLEDGE GROUND

SEARCH
"Bennelong"
"Patyegarang"
"Newsletter"

COUNTRY

DISCUSSION STARTING POINTS

- What is the sensation of entering this space after experiencing the darkness in History?
- Head of Design Jacob Nash describes the Patyegarang Cloth as a 'landscape of endless possibilities'. How does light interact with this set piece to evoke this concept?
- On what Country is your school located? What are the some stories from that Country?



TAKE A JOURNEY ON KNOWLEDGE GROUND

SEARCH
"Terrain"
"Inspired by Country"
VISIT
<https://bangarra-knowledgeground.com.au/places>

SOCIAL ISSUES

DISCUSSION STARTING POINTS

- How does the film *SPEAR* challenge perceptions about social issues experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?
- What are some ways Indigenous issues that stem from our particular colonial past resonate, in our society today?
- How do continuing tensions between western capitalist society and respect for First Nations communities and cultures manifest? Consider the economic, cultural, social, and/or political aspects.



EXPLORE ON KNOWLEDGE GROUND

SEARCH
"Spear"
"ID"
"Blak"



Frances Rings in *Corroboree* (2001)
Photo by Greg Barrett



David Page in the studio (2014)
Photo by Tiffany Parker



Lynette Thomas and Rika Hamaguchi on
Country at Narooma (2018)
Photo by Tiffany Parker

COSTUME

DISCUSSION STARTING POINTS

- What are some materials used in these costumes? What natural textures and elements do they remind you of?
- How does costume design function as part of a story?
- How are these costumes similar or different from other performing arts companies'?



VIEW MORE ON KNOWLEDGE GROUND

SEARCH
"Jennifer Irwin"
"costume"
"jacket"

SOUNDSCAPE

DISCUSSION STARTING POINTS

- How can song be a powerful tool for cultural and linguistic revival and maintenance?
- What audio elements are included in *Young Man*? How do they complement each other?
- How do audio and visual elements interact in this space to create an immersive experience?



IMMERSE YOURSELF ON KNOWLEDGE GROUND

SEARCH
"composer"
"Dubboo"
"music"

HOMELANDS

DISCUSSION STARTING POINTS

- Discuss the nature of 'home' suggested in *Homelands*.
- Explore Bangarra's Cultural Creation Lifecycle.
- How does Bangarra's ethic of reciprocity and responsibility connect to Indigenous ways of relating to Country?
- Research the *Homelands* movement in Australia and overseas.



LEARN MORE ON KNOWLEDGE GROUND

SEARCH
"Return to Country"
"Rekindling"
VISIT
<https://bangarra-knowledgeground.com.au/people>



bangarra

DANCE THEATRE

**BANGARRA DANCE
THEATRE AUSTRALIA**

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