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BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE RETURN TO TOURING

**BANGARRA TOURS *SPIRIT: A RETROSPECTIVE 2021*
THROUGH REGIONAL NSW IN FEBRUARY**



In February 2021, Australia's leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performing arts company, Bangarra Dance Theatre, will tour *Spirit: a retrospective 2021* to regional locations across New South Wales. The Company, on the back of their recent Australian Dance Awards for Outstanding Performance by a Company and Outstanding Performance by a Male Dancer, will perform in Griffith, Orange, Tamworth and Wyong, following a run at Sydney Festival.

Spirit: a retrospective 2021 is a powerful collection of dance stories chosen from Bangarra's 31-year repertoire. Featuring the full Bangarra ensemble of 18 dancers, *Spirit* draws from a selection of the company's most celebrated works, comprising of *Brolga (Corroboree)*, *Black (Ochres)*, *Yellow (Ochres)*, *Dingo (Skin)*, *White (Ochres)*, *Moth (Bush)*, *Two Sisters (Bush)*, *The Call (Walkabout)*, and *In her Mind (Nyapanyapa)*. Tracing an unbroken songline, the works unravels a sacred world of plants, animals, and ancestral medicine, laid down one step at a time.

Set to a haunting score, *Spirit* invites audiences to connect with stories and songlines drawn from all over Australia, in a celebration of First Nations Peoples' unbroken connection to the land.

Bangarra Artistic Director, Stephen Page said, “Dance is our medicine, a practice which connects the past, present and future through the communication, and passing on, of cultural knowledge. In *Spirit*, we will share the stories of our black experience – uncensored, raw and unapologetic. Stories which powerfully communicate the complexities, diversity and sophistication of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and philosophy.”

Bangarra Executive Director, Lissa Twomey said, “We’ve been absent from theatres since March 2020 and are incredibly excited to tour our Sydney Festival program to NSW regional communities. The disruption to our national and international touring of the past year has allowed space in our schedule to tour to communities we ordinarily couldn’t get to.”

Bangarra Associate Artistic Director, Frances Rings said, “We are delighted to reconnect with our audiences with a program of works which together speak deeply to the enduring strength and visceral power of human connection and the human spirit.”

The works of *Spirit* are choreographed by Bangarra Artistic Director and multi award-winning choreographer Stephen Page, along with Bangarra Associate Artistic Director Frances Rings, Bernadette Walong-Sene and Djakapurra Munyarryun, and the late Russell Page. The atmospheric score for *Spirit* was composed by the late David Page, Bangarra’s long-time music director and prolific composer, and Steve Francis, an award-winning composer for film, television, theatre, and dance.

This project is proudly supported by The Balnaves Foundation and by the NSW Government through Create NSW as part of Arts Restart.

This regional tour is a rare opportunity to see some of Bangarra’s much-loved repertoire as a must-see dance experience in 2021. For more information and tickets, visit: <https://www.bangarra.com.au/productions/spirit-regional-tour/>.

SPIRIT: A RETROSPECTIVE 2021 REGIONAL TOUR DATES

Saturday 13 February – Griffith – Griffith Regional Theatre

Wednesday 17 February – Orange – Orange Civic Centre

Saturday 20 February – Tamworth – Tamworth Regional Entertainment Centre

Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 February – Wyong – The Art House

- ENDS -

For further information and interview requests:

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