

Press Release

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 4th NOVEMBER AT 10AM AEDT



**BANGARRA THREADS GENERATIONS TOGETHER IN POWERFUL
NEW TRIPLE-BILL, *SHELTERING*
Touring Nationally in 2026**



*Photo: South Sea Islands descendant with connections to Ambrym Island, dancer Donta Whitham.
Photographer: Daniel Boud.*

Three stories of Country. One message of hope.

4th November 2025: Beneath the constellation of its creative and cultural legacy, Australia's leading Indigenous performing arts company, Bangarra Dance Theatre, will present a program of three powerful works: ***Keeping Grounded***, ***Brown Boys***, and ***Sheoak***, which honour Bangarra's past while looking to the future. ***Sheltering*** will tour nationally from May to July 2026.

An intergenerational thread connects this bold triple-bill, drawing deeply from First Nations perspectives, and offering a profound journey into the intricate bonds between people and place. Rooted in Indigenous knowledge, the concept of shelter is reimagined as a sacred, transformative space: a haven of protection, connection, and the sharing of stories across generations.

Keeping Grounded, choreographed by Indjalandji-Dhidhanu and Alyewarre woman Glory Tuohy-Daniell, is a poignant exploration on our energetic connection to the earth and ancestral land. Born



out of *Dance Clan* 2023 and reimagined for a new stage, this piece explores the challenges of staying culturally and physically grounded in a world increasingly shaped by technological advancement.

Brown Boys is a groundbreaking film directed by Daniel Mateo and Cass Mortimer Eipper. Visually poetic and deeply personal, it delves into the experiences of young Indigenous men, exploring identity, belonging, and cultural connection. Inspired by Mateo’s own poetry, the film intimately portrays his journey as a Gamilaroi and Tongan man—blending dance, narrative, and cinematic artistry. This work was first presented in *Dance Clan* 2024.

Sheoak, choreographed by Mirning woman and Bangarra Dance Theatre artistic director and co-CEO, Frances Rings, with music by Munaldjali and Nunukul man and renowned composer David Page, is a deeply affecting work exploring themes of resilience, connection to country, and cultural identity. The work, which premiered in 2015 as part of the double bill *Lore* under Munaldjali and Nunukul man Stephen Page’s artistic direction, draws inspiration from the sheoak tree—a powerful symbol in Indigenous Australian culture known for its strength, adaptability, and deep meaning.

Together, these three works engage with vital First Nations social and cultural issues, reminding us of the spirit at the heart of Indigenous worldviews and the enduring connections between people, land, and spirit.

“Sheltering draws deeply from First Nations perspectives, exploring the intricate bonds between people and place through the symbolic sheltering branches of a tree.

“Intergenerational storytelling is an important part of my artistic vision for Bangarra. In Sheltering, we see the different perspectives and styles of how Bangarra choreographers from past and present create work. Each is unique and reflects not only different eras of Bangarra’s 36-year legacy, but new forms, technologies, innovations, and new media that offers wider platforms for storytelling and expression.

“In commissioning fresh voices, Bangarra cultivates continuity between tradition and innovation, memory and emergence”. – Frances Rings, co-CEO and artistic director of Bangarra.

Tickets are on sale to the general public from 17th November 2025, with exclusive presale access for Community and Bangarra subscribers. For more information, to join the waitlist, and purchase tickets, visit bangarra.com.au.

SHELTERING TOUR DATES:

NGUNNAWAL COUNTRY	Canberra Theatre Centre	23 rd – 27 th May 2025
GADIGAL COUNTRY	Joan Sutherland Theatre, Sydney Opera House	3 rd – 13 th June 2025
WURUNDJERI COUNTRY	Arts Centre Melbourne	18 th – 27 th June 2025
MEANJIN	Glasshouse Theatre, Queensland Performing Arts Centre	9 th – 18 th July 2025

-ENDS-

[Images available for download here.](#)

For further information and interview requests:

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Cultural Content Advisory

This work honours the late **David Page**, whose music remains a living heartbeat within Bangarra's story. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised that this content includes the name, voice and creative legacy of a person who has passed. We share this work with deep respect and love for David, his family, and community.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

Glory Tuohy-Daniell

Glory is a descendant of Indjalandji Dhidhanu and Alyewarre Aboriginal tribes, in the NorthWest Queensland and Northern Territory, and of Scottish, English, Irish, Welsh, Chinese and Spanish heritage.

Glory Graduated from NAISDA Dance College, she then Joined Bangarra Dance Theatre in 2016 under the Russell Page Graduate Program, performing and traveling with them until February 2023. The experiences that made the biggest impact on Glory's artistic practice are attending cultural residencies with NAISDA to Saibai Island and Mao island in the Torres Strait and Elcho Island North-East Arnhem Land. Returning shows back to country with Bangarra to Yirrkala, East Arnhem Land, Marree, South Australia and Thursday Islands in the Torres Strait.

Daniel Mateo

Daniel Mateo is a descendant of the Gomeroi people of north east NSW as well as the Tongan people from the Pacifica region. Daniel was born and raised in Orange (Wiradjuri country) and later moved to Newcastle (Awabakal land).

Daniel started his dance studies at Catapult Dance in Newcastle before moving on to NAISDA Dance College in 2019. At NAISDA Daniel quickly demonstrated an impressive commitment to building both his technical and creative skills. Daniel completed his Diploma qualification at NAISDA in 2020, and in 2019 was part of Catapult Dance's Propel program, where he created his first choreography, *Boy, cries*.

Cass Mortimer Eipper

Cass Mortimer Eipper is a distinguished director, filmmaker, and choreographer, celebrated for his pioneering fusion of stage and cinematic arts. His signature works, known for their inventive visual language and choreographic ingenuity, have captivated audiences from Australia to Europe, India, Canada, and the U.S.A.

Leveraging his vast experience in both choreography and film-making, Cass crafts compelling video campaigns for leading institutions such as Bangarra Dance Theatre, Sydney Theatre Company, and Sydney Opera House.



Frances Rings

Frances is a descendant of the Wirangu and Mirning Tribes from the West Coast of South Australia. She became artistic director of Bangarra Dance Theatre in 2023 and also leads the company as co-CEO alongside Louise Ingram.

Frances made her main stage choreographic debut with Bangarra with the work *Rations (Walkabout)*, 2002) and received outstanding critical acclaim. Frances has followed this by creating or co-creating a further eight works for the company: *Bush* (2003, co-coreographed with Stephen Page), *Unaipon* (2004), *X300* (2007), *Artefact* (2010), *Terrain* (2012), *Sheoak* (2015), *SandSong* (2021, co-choreographed with Stephen Page), and *Illume* (2025).

Internationally, Frances has been fortunate to establish important intercultural relationships with both Kaha:wi Dance Theatre in Six Nations, Turtle Island (Canada) and Atamira Dance Company in Auckland, Aotearoa (New Zealand), where she was invited as guest collaborator and performer for their production *MITIMITI* choreographed by Jack Gray in 2015. In 2018, she was commissioned to create a new work for Atamira as part of their triple-bill, *Kotahi*.

Frances was appointed Head of Creative Studies at NAISDA Dance College from 2016-2019, and has directed five NAISDA end-of-year productions between 2014-2018: *Your Skin, My Skin* (2014), *Kamu* (2015), *From Sand to Stage* (2016), *Restoration* (2017), and *Storyplace* (2018). She was Associate Artistic Director of Bangarra Dance Theatre from 2019 - 2022.