

Press Release  
For Immediate Release



**BANGARRA'S SANDSONG: STORIES FROM THE GREAT SANDY  
DESERT RETURNS FOR 2023 REGIONAL TOUR  
IN QUEENSLAND & NEW SOUTH WALES**

★★★★½

Sydney Morning Herald

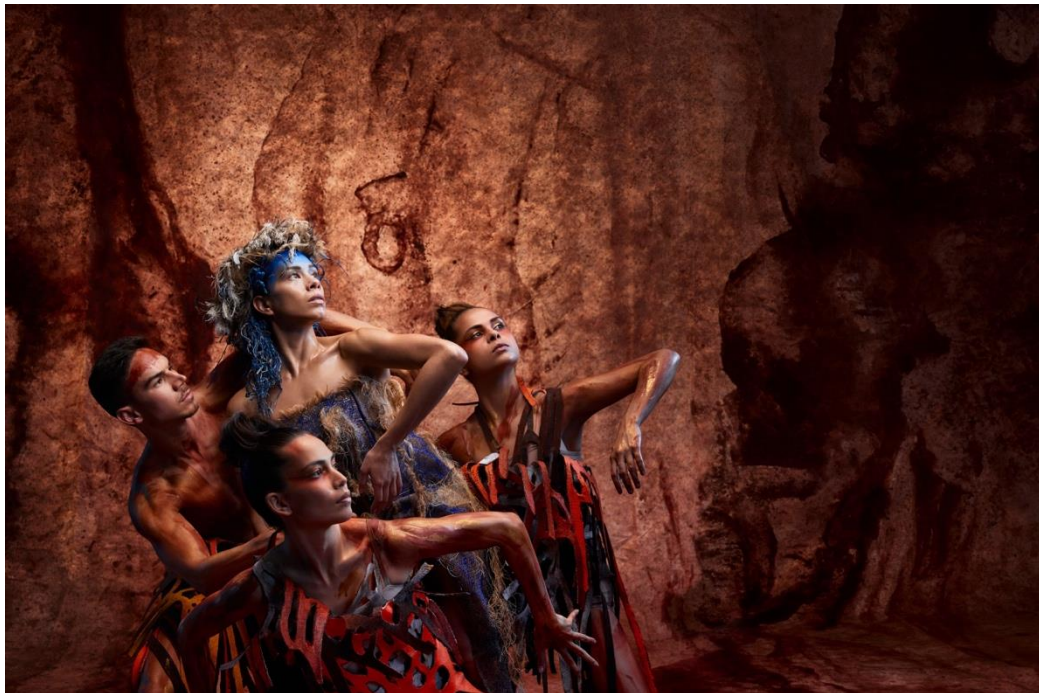
★★★★★

"Few dance works could compare to *SandSong*"

Limelight Magazine

"*SandSong* proves Bangarra is one of Australia's best dance companies"

The Conversation



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 Queensland and New South Wales as part of its 2023 Regional Tour.

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 N. Lawford-Wolf and her family - past, present and future.

**Bangarra 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 former Artistic Director, Stephen Page, a descendant of the Nunukul people and Munaldjali clan of the Yugambah Nation, and Bangarra Artistic Director, Frances Rings, a descendant of the Wirangu and Mirning Tribes from the West Coast of South Australia.

For more information and tickets, visit <https://www.bangarra.com.au/productions/sandsong-stories-from-the-great-sandy-desert/>

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

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

KOMBUMERRI COUNTRY	Home of the Arts (HOTA), Gold Coast, QLD	3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> November	<a href="https://hota.com.au/whats-on/live/dance/sandsong">https://hota.com.au/whats-on/live/dance/sandsong</a>
GIABAL AND JARROWAIR COUNTRY	Empire Theatre, Toowoomba, QLD	8 <sup>th</sup> November	<a href="https://empiretheatre.com.au/whats-on/bangarra-sandsong">https://empiretheatre.com.au/whats-on/bangarra-sandsong</a>
GIMUY WALUBARA YIDINJI	Cairns Performing Arts Centre, QLD	11 <sup>th</sup> November	<a href="https://www.ticketlink.com.au/ticketlinkEvents/dance-and-ballet/bangarra-dance-theatre-sandsong-stories-from-the-great-sandy-desert">https://www.ticketlink.com.au/ticketlinkEvents/dance-and-ballet/bangarra-dance-theatre-sandsong-stories-from-the-great-sandy-desert</a>
GURAMBILBARRA	Townsville Civic, QLD	22 <sup>nd</sup> November	<a href="https://whatson.townsville.qld.gov.au/events/sandsong-stories-from-the-great-sandy-desert">https://whatson.townsville.qld.gov.au/events/sandsong-stories-from-the-great-sandy-desert</a>
DARUMBAL COUNTRY	Pilbeam Theatre, Rockhampton, QLD	29 <sup>th</sup> November	<a href="https://www.seeitlive.com.au/Whats-On/BangarraSandSong">https://www.seeitlive.com.au/Whats-On/BangarraSandSong</a>
WIRADJURI COUNTRY	Orange Civic	5 <sup>th</sup> December	<a href="https://premier.ticketek.com.au/sh">https://premier.ticketek.com.au/sh</a>

	Theatre, NSW		<a href="https://www.glasshouse.org.au/show/show.aspx?sh=SANDSONG23">ows/show.aspx?sh=SANDSONG23</a>
BIRPAI COUNTRY	Glasshouse, Port Macquarie, NSW	8 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> December	<a href="https://www.glasshouse.org.au/Whats-on/SELECT-Bangarra-SandSong-Stories-from-the-Great-Sandy-Desert-2023">https://www.glasshouse.org.au/Whats-on/SELECT-Bangarra-SandSong-Stories-from-the-Great-Sandy-Desert-2023</a>

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For further information and images:

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