

BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE



Dance Clan

A photograph of four performers (three men and one woman) standing in a row against a light-colored, textured background that resembles a wall with faint, branching patterns. They are all wearing white clothing. From left to right: a man with a beard and tattoos in a white tank top and pants; a woman in a white blazer and pants; a man in a white long-sleeved shirt and pants; and a man with a mustache in a white open shirt and pants. The title 'Dance Clan' is overlaid in a large, dark brown serif font.

Dance Clan

STUDIO THEATRE AT BANGARRA, SYDNEY
29 NOVEMBER – 14 DECEMBER 2024

CHOREOGRAPHERS

Kallum Goolagong
(*Metamorphosis*)
Daniel Mateo
(*Brown Boys*)
Lillian Banks
(*Yawuru Buru*)

BANGARRA DANCERS

Lillian Banks
Bradley Smith
Courtney Radford
Kallum Goolagong
Kassidy Waters
Jye Uren
Kiarn Doyle
Maddison Paluch
Daniel Mateo
Emily Flannery

Janaya Lamb
James Boyd
Chantelle Lee Lockhart
Amberlilly Gordon
Lucy May
Donta Whitham

PRODUCTION CREW

Production Manager
Cat Studley
Company Manager
Joseph Cardona
Stage Manager
Rose Jenkins
Head Electrician
Lucy Mitchell
Head of Wardrobe
Jessica Hodgkinson
Sound & Video Technician
Emjay Matthews

Assistant Stage Manager
Ashleigh King
Production Trainee
Peta-Louise Rixom

MENTORS

Choreography
Jasmin Sheppard
(*Yawuru Buru*)
Raghav Handa
(*Metamorphosis*)
Sound Design
Steve Francis
(*Metamorphosis*)
Brendon Boney
(*Yawuru Buru*)
Set & Costume Design
Elizabeth Gadsby
(*Yawuru Buru & Metamorphosis*)

Welcome to Dance Clan

In 2024, Bangarra Dance Theatre proudly commemorates its 35th anniversary, a milestone marked by vibrant collaborations with communities, performers, and creatives from across the nation. We celebrate our rich heritage by building important connections to Elders and communities that transcend cultural boundaries, inviting you to experience the profound stories of First Nations peoples and their enduring spirit.

Dance Clan is a distinctive program initiated by Bangarra's previous Artistic Director, Stephen Page, and is aimed at nurturing emerging Indigenous artists and storytellers. Established in 1998, it has become a vital platform for new generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creatives to develop their artistic voices and cultural expressions through dance.

Dance Clan serves as a springboard for young artists, providing them with the opportunity to create original works that reflect their personal stories and cultural heritage. Over its 25-year history, the program has significantly contributed to the careers of many successful Indigenous artists, fostering a vibrant community of choreographers, designers, and performers.

Each year, *Dance Clan* features a selection of emerging choreographers who create new dance pieces. This year's *Dance Clan* choreographers are Lillian Banks, Kallum Goolagong and Daniel Mateo. Lillian Banks and Kallum Goolagong will present original dance works, while Daniel Mateo will debut a dance film co-directed with Cass Mortimer Eipper. This year, the performances are at our Studio Theatre, situated on Gadigal Country and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Dance Clan emphasises mentorship from established artists and cultural leaders. Each emerging choreographer is paired with experienced mentors who guide them through the creative process. Additionally, composers and designers are involved in crafting the music and visual elements for the performances.

We are thrilled to have emerging Indigenous Creatives: designer Annaliese McCarthy (Set Designer), as well as composers Amelia Thompson and James Howard (current David Page Music Fellows). We also acknowledge and thank our incredible team of creative mentors, Jasmin Sheppard, Raghav Handa, Steve Francis, Brendon Boney, Elizabeth Gadsby for their knowledge and generous guidance nurturing our next generation of Indigenous Creatives and to Matt Cox as the Lighting Designer.

Dance Clan represents a "new dawn" for Indigenous storytelling that embraces fresh perspectives and innovative artistic expressions. It plays a crucial role in preserving and evolving Indigenous culture through storytelling and stands out as a transformative initiative that empowers Indigenous artists while fostering a deeper understanding of their rich cultural heritage through the medium of dance.

Tonight's performance would not be possible without the generous support of the Hooper Shaw Foundation and our presenting partner, Aesop. We would also like to acknowledge the continued support of the Australian Government, through Creative Australia and the NSW Government through Create NSW. A special thank you to all our corporate partners and our many donors, who have demonstrated their commitment to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures on and off the stage.

Thank you for joining us.



Frances Rings,
Artistic Director
& Co-CEO



Louise Ingram,
Executive Director
& Co-CEO

The Stories



Metamorphosis

Choreographed by Kallum Goolagong, this work explores themes of transformation, heavily influenced by Zen philosophy and Kallum's own life experiences.

This story has sat with me for nearly two years, during which I've experienced a significant shift. I've been striving to adopt a more positive outlook on life, a different outlook. I have gone through my own metamorphosis. Metamorphosis was a reoccurring word for me – it is such a rich idea; you can grab so much from it. It really resonated with me as I have evolved.

This piece speaks to the importance of nurturing yourself. It is about keeping calm and letting change happen, even when faced with the unknown, disruptions, or challenges. If you don't find that change within yourself, then you just repeat the same cycle.

"If you really reflect on your personal beliefs, you can resonate with the work."

- KALLUM GOOLAGONG

Dancers

James Boyd
Kiarn Doyle
Maddison Paluch
Kassidy Waters
Emily Flannery
Courtney Radford

Creative Team

Choreographer Kallum Goolagong
Composer James Howard
Set Designer Annaliese McCarthy
Lighting Designer Matt Cox
Costume Design Consultant Elizabeth Gadsby
Singer Olivia Foa'i
Rehearsal Director Rikki Mason
Set Construction Alex Stuart



Brown Boys

Co-directed by Daniel Mateo and Cass Mortimer Eipper, *Brown Boys* is a film inspired by a collection of Daniel Mateo's poems that explore a sense of home and comfortability in our own bodies.

For Daniel, telling this story is very important. It's a dance film about connection and highlighting the beauty of this unspoken vibration between land and body. It carries the holistic and physical nourishment needed to heal us as Indigenous people.

"Sharing my lived experiences and knowing that these stories are shared with a lot of our indigenous young men is a motive for producing this work."

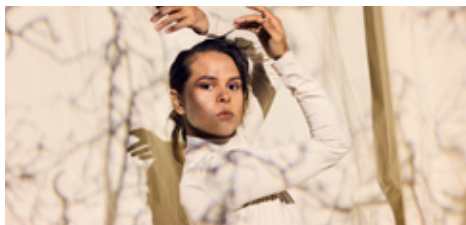
- DANIEL MATEO

Performer

Daniel Mateo

Creative Team

Choreographer Daniel Mateo
Directors Daniel Mateo, Cass Mortimer Eipper
Composer Leon Rodgers
Set & Costume Designer Elizabeth Gadsby
Producer Michaela Le
Production Manager Cat Studley
Director of Photography Liam Brennan
1st AC Christian Barbeitos
2nd AC Lars Forsingdal
Steadicam Max McLachlan
Gaffer Matthew Willis
LX Assist Craig Knight
Key Grip Jonathon Scott
Grip Assist Oskar Sienknecht
Set Construction Joanna Grenke
Set Construction & Art Direction Alex Stuart
Stage/Runner Ashley King
Runner Nico Bruni
CG Tom Spires
Colourist Marcus Friedlnader



Yawuru Buru

Lillian Banks explores identity, belonging, and the enduring ties to culture and home.

Yawuru Buru, meaning “Yawuru Country” in the Yawuru language, delves into the experience of being far from home while maintaining an unbreakable spiritual connection to it. The work highlights the strength and resilience of her people, showing that distance does not diminish her roots. Lillian describes the creative process as a form of healing, reflecting on her journey since leaving her home in Broome.

“We all as individuals have a story to tell and everyone is on their own journey. I want to tell this story because it’s a way for people to get more of an understanding of who I am in a form that I am most comfortable with, through dance.”

- LILLIAN BANKS

Dancers

Donta Whitman
Jye Uren
Daniel Mateo
Chantelle Lockhart
Janaya Lamb
Lucy May
Amberlilly Gordon

Creative Team

Choreographer Lillian Banks
Composer Amelia Thompson
Set Designer Annaliese McCarthy
Lighting Designer Matt Cox
Costume Design Consultant Elizabeth Gadsby
Costume Print Design Maxine Charlie
Rehearsal Director Rikki Mason
Set Construction Alex Stuart

Acknowledgements

Lighting Programmer Travis Kecek
Props Maker Jake Stevens
Costumier Maverick Durkin
Costumier Prue Corlette

Special thanks

Dorothy Le Serve
Maxine Charlie
Tim Mayer
Dan Boud
Chameleon Touring Services
D1 Studios
Bella Catering
Look Print
Sydney Theatre Company

Creative Team



FRANCES RINGS
Artistic Director & Co-CEO

Frances is a Mirning woman from the Far West Region of South Australia and also has German heritage. She was appointed Artistic Director of Bangarra Dance Theatre in 2023. Frances has created nine works for Bangarra: *Ration*, *Walkabout*, (2002) *Bush* (2003, co-choreographed with Stephen Page), *Unaipon* (2004), *X300* (2007), *Artefact* (2010), *Terrain* (2012), *Sheoak* (2015), *SandSong* (2021, co-choreographed with Stephen Page) and *Yuldea* (2023). Frances has received multiple awards for her work including six Helpmann Awards, a Deadly Award, an Australian Dance Award and a Green Room Award.



KALLUM GOOLAGONG
Choreographer (*Metamorphosis*)

Kallum is a proud Wiradjuri and Darkinjung man and a dynamic force who joined Bangarra in 2019 through the Russell Page Graduate Program. Career highlights are performing the *Kapi Spirit* duo in *Yuldea* and connecting with communities on tour. Kallum eagerly showcases his mesmerising movement and storytelling and proudly presents his culture onstage, leaving an unforgettable mark.



DANIEL MATEO
Choreographer & Co-Director (*Brown Boys*)

Daniel Mateo is a proud Gamilaroi mari from central northern NSW and Tongan from Ma'ufanga, Nuku'alofa Tongatapu. A multidisciplinary artist, he explores his deep connection to culture and storytelling through dance, poetry, film, and painting. A NAISDA Dance College graduate, Daniel joined Bangarra in 2021 as a Russell Page Graduate recipient. He has featured in *SandSong*, *Terrain*, *Yuldea*, and *Horizon*, touring widely. Daniel's mesmerizing performance in Bangarra's 2024 production, *The Light Inside (Horizon)*, earned critical acclaim.



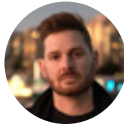
LILLIAN BANKS
Choreographer (*Yawuru Buru*)

Lillian Banks, a proud Yawuru woman from Broome, Western Australia, joined Bangarra Dance Theatre in 2018 through the Russell Page Graduate Program. A NAISDA Dance College graduate, she has featured in Bangarra productions such as *SandSong*, *Terrain*, *Yuldea*, *Horizon*, and toured North America with *Spirit* in 2019. Her artistry is shaped by the deep connection to her culture and dedication to sharing Indigenous stories through dance. A career highlight includes featuring in the Cathy Freeman documentary, *FREEMAN* and returning *SandSong* back to her Country.



CASS MORTIMER EIPPER
Director (*Brown Boys*)

Cass Mortimer Eipper is an award-winning director and choreographer whose stage and film work has been showcased globally. He has created for most of Australia's leading dance companies and presented works at festivals and with companies across Europe, Canada, and the USA. Notable accolades include Best Dance Film at the Global Short Film Awards Cannes, the Helpmann Award for Most Outstanding Male Dancer, and Most Outstanding Performance at the Rome International Choreography Competition.



LIAM BRENNAN
Director of Photography
(*Brown Boys*)

Liam Brennan is a two-time ACS Gold Tripod winning Cinematographer, based in Sydney, Australia. He joined the film industry hoping to one day shoot a K-Pop music video. It still hasn't happened. Liam's kill-all-birds-with-one-stone dream project would be a "Chef's Table inspired K-Pop music video starring Guy Pearce, set in an Art-Deco Mansion somewhere in Eastern Europe". Until then, you'll find him shooting for Commercial, Documentary and Narrative projects world-wide.



MATT COX
Lighting Designer (*Yawuru Buru & Metamorphosis*)

Matt has a 15-year career as a lighting designer in both Australia and the UK. In London, he collaborated with student directors from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and on John Stahl's *Blindman*. In Sydney, he's designed for Bangarra Dance Theatre (*Blak, Belong, Waru - journey of the small turtle*), Carriageworks (*Lake Disappointment*), Australian Chamber Orchestra (*Reflections on Gallipoli*), Bell Shakespeare (*Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet*), Sydney Theatre Company (*Ruby Moon*), and more, contributing his expertise to numerous acclaimed productions.



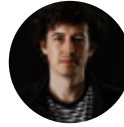
MICHAELA LE
Producer (*Brown Boys*)

Michaela is a multidisciplinary producer and has worked with distinguished production houses and directors. She has helped a variety of projects come to life, anything from web series, to not for profit campaigns to social branded content. She has great connections in the industry and loves sinking her teeth into challenging projects.



ELIZABETH GADSBY
Set & Costume Designer (*Brown Boys*) & Costume Design Consultant
(*Yawuru Buru & Metamorphosis*)

Elizabeth Gadsby is an artist and designer who works primarily in live performance. Her design credits include the set and costumes for the acclaimed operas *Awakening Shadow* and *Antarctica* for Sydney Chamber Opera. Additional opera highlights include co-director and costume designer of *The Rape of Lucretia* for Sydney Chamber and Victorian Opera. She served as Sydney Theatre Company's Resident Designer from 2016-2019. Selected credits for STC include set and costume design for *Julius Caesar*, *Appropriate* and *Seven Stages of Grieving*.



JAMES HOWARD
Composer (*Metamorphosis*)

James Howard is a Jaadwa composer and musician whose practice is driven by the potential for First Nations storytelling through electronic instrumentation and improvised performance. Howard has previously collaborated with Australian Dance Theatre resulting in two full-length works, *SAVAGE* (2022), and *Marrow* (2024). Recently, his live performance collaboration with Alice Skye and Michael Julian, *Gikilangu Wergaia* won Best in Music at the 2024 Melbourne Fringe Festival. *Dance Clan* (2024) marks Howard's first collaboration with Bangarra Dance Theatre.



ANNALIESE MCCARTHY
Set Designer (*Yawuru Buru & Metamorphosis*)

Annaliese is a proud Gadigal designer with a robust architectural and project management background. In 2024, the Australian Design Review named Annaliese in the 30 Under 30 of Architects and Innovators of the Built World. As a New Colombo Plan Scholar, she has had the privilege of working in Tokyo in furniture design and architecture firms. Annaliese has a passion for thoughtfully integrating First Nations culture into design and advocating for community benefits in all project phases.



LEON RODGERS
Composer (*Brown Boys*)

Leon Rodgers is a descendant of the Worimi nation from the Myall Lakes region, NSW. Based in Melbourne, Leon has created sound composition for film, documentaries and the commercial sector. A graduate of the Australian Institute of Music and RMIT (VIC), Leon is not only a composer, but also a bassist and songwriter, and has collaborated with First Nations film producer John Harvey on several projects. Leon was a recipient of the 2021 David Page Music Fellowship and composed the score for Bangarra's *Yuldea* (2023).



AMELIA THOMPSON
Composer (*Yawuru Buru*)

Amelia Thompson is an Indigenous artist and a dedicated advocate, whose heritage deeply informs her work in music and beyond. With accolades from The University of Sydney Conservatorium of Music, she traverses roles from social media and marketing to legal support for disaffected Indigenous plaintiffs, punctuated by her independent music career featuring an acclaimed EP and live performances. Her experience extends to radio hosting and event production, marking her as an ideal candidate for innovative music industry roles that demand a blend of artistry and social consciousness.

Dance Clan Rehearsals

Photos by Daniel Boud





We are Bangarra Dance Theatre

We are a company of professional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performers.

We are storytellers. We are fire makers. As one of Australia's leading performing arts companies, we share our culture with Communities and audiences across Australia and the world.

We are contemporary dancers, drawing on 65,000 years of culture.

We create powerful works of theatre with dance, music, poetry and design.

We tell the stories of our Elders, create works on Country and return the works we create to the place they were made.

Each of our dancers is a professionally trained, dynamic artist with a proud Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander background. Together, they represent the best of Australian talent.

We have been making our indelible marks on the Australian theatre landscape for 35 years.

BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE

ILLUME

4 – 14 JUNE 2025

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

Step out of the shadows and into the phenomena of light – the central life force of our planet. A kaleidoscope of images, patterns and synergies into the otherworldly language of light.

For two decades we have made fire in the Drama Theatre on Tubowgule, now known as Bennelong Point. From 2025, we will proudly illuminate the Joan Sutherland Theatre.



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Dance Clan has been generously supported by the Hooper Shaw Foundation

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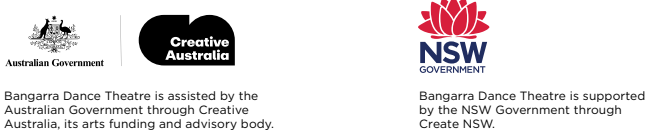
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**BANGARRA DANCE
THEATRE AUSTRALIA**

ABN 96 003 814 006

Bangarra Dance Theatre Australia
Gadigal Country, Eora Nation
Wharf 4/5, 15 Hickson Road
Walsh Bay NSW 2000
Phone +61 2 9251 5333
Email bangarra@bangarra.com.au



@bangarradancetheatre #bangarra



/bangarra



@BangarraDanceTheatre



/bangarradancetheatre

