



Stephen Page honoured with Australia Council Dance Award

Bangarra is thrilled to announce that Artistic Director Stephen Page has today been honoured with the Australia Council Dance Award. This prestigious award is given each year to recognise outstanding and sustained contributions by individuals working in the dance sector.

Stephen Page says of the honour: "I am always so humbled when recognised for my creative professional being and I truly believe I have one of the most fortunate and privileged positions in our arts industry."

"This prestigious award reaffirms the importance of our culture and our dance stories. Thanks must go to all the incredible artists who have worked by my side over the years – my brothers, my Bangarra family who are with me every day in the studio, and the many cultural consultants we have worked with along the way."

Australia Council Chair Rupert Myer AO congratulated the Award recipients and said these leading artists have been honoured for representing the finest artistic traditions and cultural expressions in their area of practice.

"These awards are an important way of acknowledging the role of artists in the life of our communities, and many of the past recipients have said how meaningful it was to be nominated by their peers," Mr Myer said.

"Widely respected both here and abroad in their art forms, the 2017 Australia Council Award recipients join a distinguished group of artists who are wonderful ambassadors for Australian art," Mr Myer said.

Stephen was appointed Artistic Director of Bangarra in 1991 at age 25. In his 26 years with Bangarra he has developed a resonant body of work that has redefined contemporary dance in Australia and reinvented the art of storytelling to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

Stephen Page has created transformative works across many genres, including dance, opera and theatre, including major events such as the Indigenous Sections of the 2000 Sydney Olympics Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

He has mentored and created opportunities for countless Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and youth, and has been a champion of social justice for Indigenous people. You can read his full biography [here](#).

Page is currently in the process of creating *Bennelong*, a new full-length work, which premieres at the Sydney Opera House in June.

The production is based on the life of Woollarawarre Bennelong, a senior man of the Eora Nation, from the Port Jackson area in Sydney, whose extraordinary curiosity and diplomacy helped lead his people to survive a clash of culture.

[BENNELONG](#)

Sydney Opera House
29 June – 22 July 2017

Canberra Theatre Centre
3 August – 5 August 2017

QPAC Brisbane
24 August – 2 September 2017

Arts Centre Melbourne
7 September – 16 September 2017

CONNECT WITH BANGARRA



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