

Press Release  
For Immediate Release



## **BANGARRA'S *SANDSONG: STORIES FROM THE GREAT SANDY DESERT* RETURNS FOR 2022 TOUR**



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

**– The Conversation**

Following the extraordinary success of its world premiere season, Bangarra Dance Theatre is delighted to bring the profound and deeply powerful production of *SandSong: Stories from the Great Sandy Desert* back to Australian audiences in 2022.

*SandSong* will return to Sydney, completing a season cut short this year due to COVID restrictions, before touring to Bendigo and Melbourne, marking the company's first appearance in Victoria in three years. After sold-out seasons in Brisbane and Canberra, *SandSong* is set to be a must-see production in the Australian arts calendar.

Created by Bangarra Dance Theatre in consultation with Wangkatjunga/Walmajarri Elders from the Kimberley and Great Sandy Desert regions, *SandSong* has been choreographed by Bangarra Artistic Director, Stephen Page, a descendant of the Nunukul people and Munaldjali clan of the Yugambeh Nation, and Bangarra Associate Artistic Director, Frances Rings, a descendant of the Kokatha Tribe from the West Coast of South Australia.

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.

*SandSong* tells the unique story of this Place and the survival of its People, where between the 1920s and 1960s, Aboriginal people were removed off their Country and forced into hard labour for no wages and minimal rations. Despite this displacement and cultural disruption, the people of the Western Desert have maintained unbroken connection to their Land, keeping stories and kinship strong.

This is also the Country of Wangkatjunga woman Ningali Josie Lawford-Wolf (1967-2019), an acclaimed performer and an important cultural consultant and artistic collaborator of Bangarra, whose spirit, stories and artistic contributions have inspired a number of the company's works, and enriched the broader arts landscape. *SandSong* honours the legacy of Ningali, and her family – past, present and future.

**Bangarra Artistic Director, Stephen Page, and Associate 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.”

Shared through a dance theatre language that is truly unique in the world, and performed by Bangarra's internationally-acclaimed dance ensemble, *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.

Also in 2022, Bangarra will tour iconic work *Terrain* for a special 10th Anniversary tour to Sydney, Canberra and Brisbane.

Tickets are available now from <https://www.bangarra.com.au/>.

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

VENUE	DATES
Sydney Opera House, Sydney	30 <sup>th</sup> June to 23 <sup>rd</sup> July
Arts Centre Melbourne, Melbourne	24 <sup>th</sup> August to 3 September
Bendigo Venues & Events	9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> September

-ENDS-

For further information and images:

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