

Press Release
For Immediate Release



BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE PRESENTS THE STORIES OF EMERGING ARTISTS
Our stories. Our emerging storytellers. Our future.

"We are creators, we are movers, we are storytellers" – Daniel Mateo



Image: Choreographers Lillian Banks (centre), Kallum Goolagong (left) and Daniel Mateo (right). Photo by Daniel Boud.

13th August, 2024: Bangarra Dance Theatre is pleased to present *Dance Clan*, a series of brand-new works from emerging Indigenous choreographers and creatives, on Gadigal Country at the Studio Theatre at Bangarra, Walsh Bay, from 29th November to 14th December.

For over 25 years, *Dance Clan* has fostered the talents of a new generation of storytellers, designers, dancers and choreographers; springboarding choreographic careers of artists including Deborah Brown, Sani Townson, Tara Gower, Yolande Brown, and Bangarra's Artistic Director Frances Rings.

In 2024, Yawuru woman Lillian Banks and Wiradjuri and Darkinjung man Kallum Goolagong both choreograph original works performed by the Bangarra Dance Theatre Dancers, and in a first for *Dance Clan*, Gamilaroi and Tongan man Daniel Mateo choreographs and stars in a dance film co-directed with Cass Mortimer Eipper.

Dance Clan offers the unique opportunity for Bangarra's artists to share their own stories alongside a brilliant team of Indigenous early career designers, as they express their creative voice, with the support of their elders and mentors.



Current and former David Page fellows James Howard, Leon Rodgers, and Amelia Thompson will compose the score for each piece under the mentorship of composers Brendon Boney and Steve Francis. Set designer Annaliese McCarthy will create the design elements of the show under the guidance of designer Elizabeth Gadsby.

Choreographers will be mentored by independent artists Raghav Handa and Bangarra alumna Jasmin Sheppard, with lighting design by Matt Cox. Also joining the creative team are Director of Photography Liam Brennan and Producer Michaela Le.

Frances Rings, Artistic Director of Bangarra Dance Theatre, said, *“For 35 years, Bangarra has been nurturing and cultivating growth in First Nations artists, creatives and storytelling. Dance Clan gives us a new dawn, where we are energised by the early-career talent and emerging creative leaders who bring a fresh generational breath and bold artistic imaginings.*

Creating new works this year are Lillian Banks (Yawuru) and Kallum Goolagong (Wiradjuri / Darkinjung). We are also proud to announce the creation of a new dance film by Daniel Mateo (Gamilaroi / Tongan) in collaboration with choreographer and filmmaker, Cass Eipper. Each of these emerging choreographers offer us new prism through which we see First Nations stories, and a glimpse into a future of unexplored possibilities.”

The value and importance of *Dance Clan* was highlighted this year with Sani Townson’s 2023 *Dance Clan* work, *Kulka*, making its mainstage debut as part of *Horizon*.

Join Bangarra in the foyer before the show for an Indigenous food and beverage experience presented by Plate Events.

Presale tickets for *Dance Clan* are available now via Bangarra’s e-newsletter at bangarra.com.au. Tickets go on sale to the general public on Monday 19th August.

BANGARRA’S DANCE CLAN 2024

Dates: 29th November to 14th December

Times: Tuesday at 6.30pm, Wednesday through Saturday at 7.30pm, Wednesday & Saturday matinees at 1.30pm.

Location: The Studio Theatre at Bangarra, Gadigal Country, Eora Nation, 15 Hickson Rd, Walsh Bay

Prices: All tickets \$59 (Community and Under 30s pricing available)

Tickets: On sale now via bangarra.com.au

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Presenting Partner

Dance Clan has been generously supported by the Hooper Shaw Foundation.

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[Images are available for download here](#)



For further information and interview requests:

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CHOREOGRAPHER BIOGRAPHIES

LILLIAN BANKS

Lillian is a Yawuru woman from Broome, Western Australia. In 2013, Lillian left her hometown to study dance at NAISDA Dance College in Sydney. She was applauded for her thoughtful contemporary solo in the college's graduation showcase and joined Bangarra in 2018 as part of the Russell Page Graduate Program. An opportunity Lillian will cherish forever is being part of the Cathy Freeman documentary, *FREEMAN*.

KALLUM GOOLAGONG

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

Daniel is a Gamilaroi mari from central northern NSW as well as Tongan from Ma'ufanga, Nuku'alofa Tongatapu. 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. He joined Bangarra in 2021 as one of two Russell Page Graduate Program recipients.

