

# Belong

*ID* by Stephen Page

*About* by Elma Kris

'... highly theatrical ... striking, layered, surprising ... absolutely transporting.' **Sun Herald**

' This is very strong theatre and it makes powerful comments in a way that only movement can.'  
**Sydney Morning Herald**

'★★★★★' **Time Out Sydney**

'This pure and intrinsic connection with nature, presented with a beautiful aesthetic, is a Bangarra hallmark' '[ID] engages our intellect, psyche and emotions and challenges our beliefs, preconceptions and stereotypes' **Courier Mail**



Following an extremely successful season in Brisbane and critical acclaim for the Sydney Opera House season which opened on July 20 2011, **Bangarra Dance Theatre** will return to Melbourne in September with *Belong*, a stunning new theatrical experience.

Playing from September 16 to 24 at the Arts Centre, *Belong* features two new dance theatre works: *ID* by Artistic Director Stephen Page, and *About* by Elma Kris, choreographer and dancer with Bangarra Dance Theatre. Based on personal observations of people tracing their bloodlines and re-connecting with traditional culture, *ID* provokes perceptions in contemporary society. Stephen Page investigates what it means to be Aboriginal in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, asking important questions of identity. Torres Strait Islander Elma Kris is inspired by customs passed down through families for generations. Reflecting the strong links between communities and their natural environment, *About* explores the mood of the winds as they move across land, sea and sky signifying key moments in time.

Artistic Director Stephen Page says of the tour, "*Belong's national tour has been a great adventure so far, with the world premiere in our spiritual home Brisbane followed by Sydney at the Opera House. Bangarra's artists are inspired by the audience's response at every performance, which is always warm and explosive. I am looking forward to sharing this new work with the Melbourne mob*".

Since the World Premiere of this tour in Brisbane at the start of July, audience and critical responses have been unanimously positive, and this has been reflected in high ticket sales for the national tour. Stage Whispers Magazine praised the 15 dancers in the company, "*the stars of the show are the performers....these dancers are not only individuals but parts that make up an organic, breathing being that is elusive and ever-evolving*". Time Out Sydney echoed this sentiment, "*the Bangarra dancers possess not only virtuosic technical skill but an extraordinary capability to communicate story, character and emotion with their bodies*",

Dancer Jasmin Sheppard was raised in Melbourne and is thrilled to be returning to perform in *Belong*. Says Sheppard of performing in front of Melbourne audiences in September, "*It's always a special experience coming home to perform in front of my family and community, back on the stage where I first saw Bangarra perform myself*".

Bangarra's artists-in-residence David Page (award winning composer) and Jacob Nash (award winning set designer) together with Emma Howell (costume designer) and Matt Cox (lighting designer) have collaborated with choreographers Stephen Page and Elma Kris for *Belong*.

Bangarra Dance Theatre is Australia's premier national Indigenous performing arts company. Under the brilliant and inspirational artistic direction of Stephen Page, Bangarra has strived to maintain the cultural integrity and spirit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tradition, combining it with contemporary expressions of stories, dance and music to create unique theatrical experiences, and to deliver these experiences to audiences across Australia and around the world. Bangarra Dance Theatre just received the 2011 Helpmann Award for the Best Regional Touring Production for *Mathinna*.

'Powerful and evocative dance that stimulates the senses'

'The dancers are powerful, the music is complex and evocative, the costume design is full of delicate fragility and the set design brilliantly stimulates the senses.'

The Australian



Please Credit : Photo Jeff Busby

## BELONG

Artistic Director **Stephen Page**  
Choreographers **ID by Stephen Page**  
**About by Elma Kris**  
Composer **ID by David Page**  
**About by David Page**  
**& Steve Francis**

Set Designer **Jacob Nash**  
Costume Designer **Emma Howell**  
Lighting Designer **Matt Cox**

Playhouse Theatre, The Arts Centre 16 – 24  
September

Tickets: **\$25 – \$168** \*transaction fee applies

Bookings: **theartscentre.com.au** ph **1300 182 183**

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