



canadianstage

Australia's renowned Bangarra Dance Theatre is coming to Toronto

"A triumph!" – The Daily Telegraph



Photo Credit: Elma Kris, Tyrel Dulvarie and Rika Hamaguchi. Photo by Daniel Boud and Jacob Nash

(Toronto, October 4, 2019) Bangarra Dance Theatre, Australia's leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance company, will play perform at Toronto's Bluma Appel Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, on November 8 & 9, 2019 as part of its first major national tour of Canada.

Acclaimed worldwide for its moving performances, distinctive voice and authentic storytelling, tickets for **Bangarra Dance Theatre** are now on sale and available online at stlc.com, by calling 416-366-7723 or 1-800-708-6754, or in person at select TO Live box offices.

Bangarra Dance Theatre is a part of **TO Live's Dance Collection**, co-presented with **Canadian Stage**, and generously supported by **BMO Financial Group** and funded in part by the **Government of Canada**.

“**TO Live** is thrilled to partner with **Canadian Stage** on this inaugural joint season of dance. Together, along with our partner **BMO**, we can further achieve our goal of bringing excellence to Toronto from the stages of the world,” said **Clyde Wagner**, President and CEO, **TO Live**.

“Working with **TO Live** to bring one of Australia's greatest cultural exports to Toronto was monumental,” says **Canadian Stage** Artistic Director **Brendan Healy**. “I am excited for Toronto audiences to be wowed by these exceptional dancers.”

Led by Artistic Director **Stephen Page**, **Bangarra Dance Theatre** is internationally acclaimed for combining more than 65,000 years of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture with powerful contemporary dance, immersive soundscapes, music and design.

In Toronto, Bangarra will stage ***Spirit*** - a presentation of the company’s best repertoire in a powerful celebration of culture drawing from its 30-year history.

Spirit is a collection of dance stories by Artistic Director **Stephen Page**. Set to a beautiful and haunting score composed by **David Page** and **Steve Francis**, ***Spirit*** invites audiences to connect with stories drawn from all over Australia, in a celebration of First Nations Peoples’ unbroken connection to the land. This is a true celebration of Australia’s rich culture and history, fused with outstanding dance technique.

Stephen Page (born 1965) is a descendant of the Nunukul people and the Munaldjali clan of the Yugambah Nation from South East Queensland, Australia. He studied dance at the National Aboriginal and Islander Skills Development Association (NAISDA), graduated in 1983 and then danced with the Sydney Dance Company until he was appointed Artistic Director of Bangarra in 1991. Stephen Page has since developed a signature body of works that have become milestones in Australian performing arts and he continues to reinvent Indigenous storytelling within Bangarra and through collaborations with other performing arts companies, notably directing the Indigenous sections for the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies and creating a new dance work for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony.

He also collaborated on several films and theatre works. His first full-length film *SPEAR* (2015) premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival before screening at various arts festivals.

In 2017, Stephen Page was honoured with the Australia Council Dance Award for significant contributions to the cultural and artistic fabric of the nation and was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO).

Watch the trailer here - <http://bit.ly/2nQomSl>

A **Canadian Stage** and **TO Live** Co-Presentation
Spirit - A Bangarra Dance Theatre Production
Created by Bangarra Dance Theatre
Choreography: Stephen Page and Bernadette Walong-Sen
Traditional Choreography and Music: Djakapurra Munyarryun

Friday, November 8, 7PM
Saturday, November 9, 2PM
Saturday, November 9, 8PM

Bluma Appel Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts
27 Front Street East

Tickets range from \$49.00 – \$111.00
(Additional fees may apply)

Tickets are available online at stlc.com, by calling 416-366-7723 or 1-800-708-6754, or in person at the following TO Live box offices:

Meridian Arts Centre Box Office
(formerly the Toronto Centre for the Arts)
5040 Yonge Street
Tuesday-Saturday 1PM-6PM

St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts Box Office
27 Front St. E.,
Monday-Friday, 12PM-6PM

For more information, visit - <http://bit.ly/2nxdl8P>

ABOUT TO LIVE

TO Live is one of Canada's largest multi-arts organizations, operating three iconic venues: Meridian Hall (formerly the Sony Centre for the Performing Arts), the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts and Meridian Arts Centre (formerly the Toronto Centre for the Arts). In addition, TO Live presents a full range of performing arts, theatrical and concert events at these venues in both downtown and uptown Toronto. With these two hubs of creativity and content creation, TO Live has a unique place and perspective to activate creative spaces by inspiring local and international artists, connect audiences and to be the nexus for new ideas, elevate artistic potential, and be the catalyst for creative expression that is reflective of Toronto's diversity.

ABOUT CANADIAN STAGE

Canadian Stage is one of the country's leading not-for-profit contemporary performing arts organizations. Led by Artistic Director, Brendan Healy, and Executive Director, Monica Esteves, the company produces, presents, commissions, and collaborates with multiple partners on cross-disciplinary work with a focus on performance styles that integrate theatre, dance, film, visual arts and more. Sharing innovative and vibrant performance work from Canada and around the world, it stages performances at three Toronto venues: The Bluma Appel Theatre at the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts; the Berkeley Street Theatre; and the High Park Amphitheatre.

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