

NAISDA alumni celebrate

NAISDA graduates Bradley Smith and Lillian Banks performed at the recent NAISDA Dance College 2017 graduation ceremony. They took time out from their national tour with world-renowned Bangarra Dance Theatre to bring their creative leadership to new graduates.

With 60% of Bangarra dancers being NAISDA alumni, they continue the strong legacy of shining on the Bangarra stage, established by icons of Indigenous performing arts before them.

NAISDA Dance College chief executive Kim Walker expressed his pride for all graduating artists.

"A NAISDA education gives graduates the skills, qualifications and ability to follow their passion, realise dreams and equip them for a successful future in the arts," Mr Walker said.

"We have been at the forefront of dance performance training of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for over 40 years.

"NAISDA graduates truly are recognised leaders in their disciplines. The demand for Indigenous artists, performance and practice is ever growing both in Australia and globally."

After leaving NAISDA, Bradley Smith and Lillian Banks secured



NAISDA graduates Mendia Kermond (left) and Bradley Smith perform *Season of Restoration* at NAISDA's 2017 graduation ceremony. Picture: Branco Gaica

12 months professional experience and training through Bangarra's coveted Russell Page Graduate Program.

"NAISDA is here to prepare young people for these opportunities – to help them build national and international partnerships, engage in

multidisciplinary projects, create pioneering art works and experiences, and share our living cultures with even larger audiences through dance," Mr Walker said.

Another NAISDA graduate Thomas E.S. Kelly established one of Australia's newest

performing arts companies KARUL Projects, and recently created a work as part of Festival 2018 for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

"Importantly our success stories are made possible because culture is at the heart of everything we do," Mr Walker

said. "As a place of cultural learning we affirm, connect and celebrate our cultural identities and provide a pathway to confidence and self-expression that really has the power to transform lives."

Unique to Australia, NAISDA's learning model is informed by powerful partnerships with Indigenous Elders, cultural tutors, on-country residencies, communities and networks extending across Australia.

"Ultimately, NAISDA is here to graduate more than dancers," Mr Walker said.

"We foster connections to culture and provide a space where our young people can safely experience their own worth and take pride in personal and cultural identity. We empower them to become, skilled, qualified and confident individuals, ready for the possibilities that lie ahead."

NAISDA Dance College welcomes the next promising wave of developing artists, with auditions for the 2019 intake from December 3 to 7.

Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people interested in auditioning for NAISDA's 2019 intake can register their interest by phoning 1800 117 116 or visiting www.naisda.com.au

**WE
GRADUATE
MORE THAN
DANCERS**

NAISDA DANCE COLLEGE is Australia's leading performing arts organisation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

A NAISDA education gives you the skills, qualifications and ability to follow your passions, realise dreams and equip you for a successful career in the arts.

As a rich place of cultural learning we affirm, connect and celebrate our cultural identities and provide a pathway to confidence and self-expression which has the power to transform lives.

Open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people between the ages of 16 and 26.

Take the first step towards your artistic future today.

AUDITIONS FOR OUR 2019 INTAKE WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN 3 - 7 DECEMBER 2018. Visit naisda.com.au or phone (FREE CALL) 1800 117 116 for more information or to register your interest.

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