JOSE CALARCO PRESENTS

TRADITIONAL & CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCE

Descendance
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Dance Theatre

JOSE CALARCO presents his multi-cultural traditional & contemporary dance spectacular “Flamenco Dreaming” exploring hybrid themes & breathtaking fusions. A maelstrom of live exotic instruments blended with the timeless sounds of the didgeridoo drive the show into a spiritual, high energy & entertaining dance experience never seen before.

The story tells the tale of creation and the tree of life, exploring the roots of dance and expression, in a synergistic collision of art forms, as Indigenous, Flamenco, & Indian dancers explode onto the stage as the past present and the future become one, for all cultures are truly branches of the same tree. Descendance promises new and compelling work as it pioneers in the field of cross-cultural experiences. Descendance captures the essence & emotion of each culture & presents it in a modern overview.

Jose was at the front of the world music & dance movement in the nineties heading four International Dance Companies, including the Antonio Vargas Flamenco Dance Theatre, Flamenco Dreaming, Nguru Aboriginal & Islander Dance Co, and now his most celebrated success Descendance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dance Theatre.

INDIGENOUS DIVERSITY
Descendance has over fifty dancers from diverse tribes across Australia. They range from NSW to Mount Isa, across to Rockhampton, through the Central Desert, Western Australia, up to Cape York, and all the way around the Torres Strait Islands. Descendance cultural program is exclusive to Far North Queensland. Descendance today is helping create work for many other Indigenous artists in areas outside dance, from modelling, painting, and popular music, to writing and acting. Descendance has grown out of necessity for Indigenous people of Australia, and has become a refuge for Aboriginal culture needing assistance. Descendance fills Australia’s need for a wholesome, exciting, and world-class traditional and contemporary performing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dance Company. Today Descendance is providing Australia and the world with some of the finest in traditional and contemporary Indigenous culture and music.

Descendance along with world music artistic director Jose Calarco have begun a new genre of contemporary Indigenous performing. This fusion style has never been undertaken by an Indigenous company before, exciting cross-cultural work with other cultures in both dance and live music, including Flamenco, Indian, Middle Eastern, Native American, South American, Asian, Eastern European and African, these cultural exchanges have been invaluable learning experiences for Descendance which have broadened our vision and outlook on life.

Artistic Director and creator of Flamenco Dreaming Jose Calarco present’s his multi-cultural traditional & contemporary dance spectacular “Flamenco Dreaming” exploring hybrid themes & breathtaking fusions. A maelstrom of live exotic instruments blended with the timeless sounds of the didgeridoo drive the show into a spiritual, high energy & entertaining dance experience never seen before.

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History of Descendance

The Descendance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dance Theatre was born from the mighty Ngaru Aboriginal Dance Company, Sydney’s first professional independent traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dance troupe established in 1993. Ngaru means “shake a leg”, a dance style prevalent in the Cape York Peninsula in Far North Queensland. Ngaru had been one of the longest running professional performing Aboriginal dance troupes in Australia. In 2000 the name was changed to “Descendance” to account for the many artists from diverse tribes living in Sydney and joining the company. The motto was “One people, one fighting a common cause.”

Sean Chooburra originally formed Ngaru in Sydney in 1993; Sean was born in Townsville in North Queensland and has a background from three Aboriginal tribes, Yirrida from Tully (father’s side) Kaladaun from Mount Isa’s mother’s side and Kuku-Yalanji from Cooktown grandfather’s side. In 1998 Ngaru came under the guidance of the late, great Aboriginal song woman Imelda Willis, and world music pioneer and producer Jose Calarco. Imelda came down from the sleepy seaside Aboriginal mission of Narribal in Far North Queensland on the invitation of Sean Chooburra. In 2002, Descendance took up cultural duties for twelve months before her untimely death in 1999 (may she rest in peace). Imelda had just completed a six month season of traditional dance and song at Ayers Rock (Uluru) before finishing her career in Sydney. Imelda was a gifted songwriter and enhanced the Descendance repertoire with some of her original works to encourage indigenous youths living in the city to make something of there lives. Imelda’s heritage came from two tribes (Kandju/Cape York) and (Kirituri/Cairns). Descendance was born out of her loving memory to create an independent vehicle and indigenous agency for artists without support or funding; today her daughter Nicole Willis assumes her legacy.

MAJOR EVENTS

Descendance has participated in major world events including the Sydney Olympics in 2000, the opening ceremony of the Rugby Union World Cup in 2003, the Soccer World Cup in Germany 2006; they headlined the United Nations indigenous forum in New York City in 2006, and the International Indigenous Forum in Pau (France) 2005. Since the year 2000, Descendance has participated in many of the major international conventions and corporate events held in Australia and around the world, performing for politicians and international dignitaries in the fields of medicine, technology, science, education, humanities, Arts and other diverse practices.

CLIENT BASE

Descendance has worked with some of the world’s leading organizations and clients including Aurora Resorts, United Nations, Hawaiian Airlines, P & O Cruises, Qantas, Virgin Airlines, Anway International, Seoul City Government, Air New Zealand, Ethihad Airlines, Korean Air, Australian Grand Prix, Disneyworld Florida, South Corp Wines, Tourism Australia, OFAI, Australian Rugby Union, AMP Australia Council, Canada Council, Aboriginal Tourism Australia, Channel Seven, Samsung, Australian Government, International AIDS Society, BMW, SOCOG, Richard Pratt, David Suzuki, Queens Jubilee Foundation, Amnesty International, Greenpeace, International Indigenous Funders, Moscow Circus, Sydney Casino, Northern Territory Tourist Commission, Sydney Opera House, Austrade, Discovery Channel, many of the major five star hotels, and the worlds leading Event Management companies, In 2005 they became the first indigenous company to become a finalist at the Sydney Business Awards.

CELEBRITY PERFORMANCES

Descendance have also worked internationally and across Australia in movies, documentaries, theatres, TV, radio, community work, cultural centres, worlds leading festivals, recording projects, education institutions, jails, and countless political events. Descendance have accumulated a distinguished resume of live performances, and have been invited to perform for international celebrities such as The Dalai Lama, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Nicole Kidman, Mel Gibson, Janet Jackson, Deacere, Jimmy Cliff, Cate Blanchett, Bruce Willis, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Geoffrey Rush, Sylvester Stallone, Olivia Newtown John, Steve Irwin, Keith Urban, The Dixie Chicks, Julio Iglesias, Justin Timberlake, The Black Eyed Peas, Delta Goodrem, Jennifer Hawkins (Miss Universe) Ian Thorpe and Johnny Knoxville and the Jackson Team. They have also given private performances for many of the worlds leading overseas dance companies, ranging from Cuba to Brazil, and Spain to Africa. Descendance starred in Australia’s first full-length laser movie “Reef Dreaming”, which was shot at Cockle Bay in Darling Harbour Sydney for three years on a screen of jet-propelled water, producing giant hologram Aboriginal images with laser effects. “Reef Dreaming” went on to be watched by over a million locals and tourists. A documentary by the Discovery Channel titled “Atlas Australia” screened in a record breaking 170 countries and featured Descendance with narration by Russell Crowe. Descendance is also a member of the International Dance Council in Greece.

INTERNATIONAL TOURING


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DESCENDANCE INTERNATIONAL

United Nations New York 2006

Indigenous Forum Pau France 2006

In Russia 2005

In Austria 2006

LA performing for Nicole Kidman 2005

In Hungary 2003 - 2006

In Russia 2005

In New Zealand 2005 - 2008

In Germany 2006

In USA 2005

In Canada 2005

In Ukraine 2005

In Philippines 2005

In Korea 2005 - 2008

In Australia 2005

In France 2006

In London 2004

Cultural Olympic winners Seoul 2004