

NAISDA NEWS

EDITION FOUR: JUNE 2011



Warren Mundine and Office for the Arts' Kim Allen present the inaugural Chairman's Award to Travis De Vries

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NAISDA – proudly dancing on Darkinjung land

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I SEE (NGARANY NHAMA DÄTIWUY NGATH I MAN)

For over thirty years Babies Proms has been introducing children to the exciting and stimulating world of the performing arts in one of the world's most famous performing arts centres.

This year's Babies Proms at the Sydney Opera House featured NAISDA dancers and indigenous instruments. From the 5th to the 15th of May, playing three times a day to an audience of mainly under-fives was a challenge the dancers relished. NAISDA's Artistic Coordinator and Director for the performance Ms Jasmine Gulash, said "This was a great opportunity for NAISDA graduates to work alongside the Sydney Opera House staff. I hope it will be the beginning of a real partnership as the Opera House builds its Indigenous programming."

"Many millennia ago - 40,000 years and more - out of the Dreamtime came the Dreamings. Listen, they say, listen to the Ancestor Spirits and tell our stories down through the generations in song and dance. NAISDA Dance College together with Sydney Opera House are proud to present I See (Ngarrany Nhama Dätiwuy Ngath I Man). This Babies Prom is specifically designed to be a fun and engaging way for kids to be introduced to some of the music, dance and storytelling from Indigenous nations around Australia."

Creative Director: Jasmine Gulash

GAIL MABO - ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

For two weeks in May, Gail Mabo was Artist in Residence at NAISDA Dance College, working with the senior Developing Artists on the latest development of her seminal work "Koiki" about her late father, the celebrated Eddie Mabo. "Koiki" is



Gail Mabo

a contemporary new form of creative expression that tells the story of Eddie Mabo's life. Incorporating traditional Torres Strait Islander song and dance, with contemporary music and movement, "Koiki" is the first production written, directed and choreographed by Gail Mabo, an Indigenous woman and daughter of Eddie Koiki Mabo.

The production is a 'work in progress', a twenty minute performance utilising traditional implements and musical instruments of the Torres Strait Islander people in both contemporary and traditional contexts. Visual aids such as historical footage and dialogue of Eddie Mabo is also captured throughout the production. Lighting is also integral to the performance in accenting the different segments of his life.



The production "Koiki" is an innovative and dramatic dance production which captures the life of Edward Koiki Mabo. The creative concept captures the innocence of a child watching her father as she is mesmerised by his wealth of knowledge and passion for his beliefs.

Reflecting on his stand against social injustices and his fight for native title, Gail Mabo says, "the strength and wisdom that my father had enabled him to become the master of his own destiny."

After developing the work with the NAISDA students during the Residency, Gail will return at the end of the year to direct the piece as a major part of the NAISDA end of year show.



Students practice "Koiki"

VIBE ALIVE



Vibe Alive is all about recognising that young Indigenous Australians have a multitude of different talents. It encompasses sport, singing, dancing. In 2010 VibeAlive was held in Bendigo and Townsville and NAISDA Dancers Juanita Duncan and Steven Smith-Ince performed for the crowd.



To watch the clip, or for more information about the Competition, go to www.generationone.org.au.

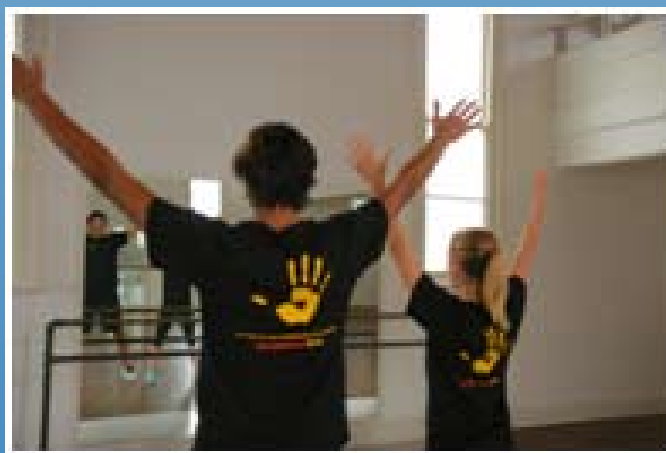


GEN-ONE COMPETITION

Thomas Kelly is making an impact on a national level. Thomas was selected to participate in a collaboration with Dale Pope from the Australian School of Performing Arts to film a dance clip which will be distributed to every school in Australia. The clip features original choreography created by Thomas and Dale to the Warumpi Band's 1987 song BlackFella/WhiteFella, and forms part of an educational resource pack in support of GenerationOne's national school Competition.

GenerationOne is a movement to end Indigenous disadvantage in one generation – this generation, and the competition aims to encourage teachers and students to actively engage with the issues of Indigenous education, employment and training. The dance clip features on the promotional DVD, which is designed to inspire students to get moving, and to encourage teachers to introduce this issue into their curriculum.

Thomas, who is in his third year of study at NAISDA said, "I was really excited to be involved in this project, and to have the opportunity to promote the message of GenerationOne. It's really important to get young Australians involved in ending Indigenous disadvantage, so I hope this will encourage schools to enter the Competition. I'm thrilled that this clip will be going to every school in Australia!"



Dale Pope and Thomas Kelly

GRADUATION 2010

The 2010 Graduation Ceremony was held at Gosford Regional Gallery and Japanese Garden on the 25th of March this year. The ceremony included an address by NAISDA Artist in Residence Gail Mabo and guests of honour included Jensen Warusam, Sedrick Waia and Elsie Waia from Saibai Island, Torres Strait. From Elcho Island (Galiwinku), Northeast Arnhem Land - Heather Mitjangba Burarrwanga and Tony Wuduku Ganambarr.

Students graduating included:

Diploma:

Eric Avery
Travis DeVries
Ann-Janette Phillips
StevenSmith-Ince

Certificate III:

Rodney Beatty
April Cunningham
Shae Duncan
Rarriwuy Hick
Tom Kelly
Selina Reuben
Beau Smith

Certificate IV:

Anthony Mayor
Amy Minchin
Nicola Sabatino
Carmel Vale

Certificate II:

Alexandra Barlow
Casey Benedierks
Lateisha Blanco
Heather May Campbell
Rhys De La Cruz
Texas De Vries
Mikayla Down
Danielle Idai - Jawai
Anna Kerindun
Kira Liddy
Tully Narkle
Caleena Sansbury
Taree Sansbury
Timeika Slockee
Kasabad Warusam
Kirsty Williams



Steven Smith-Ince, Eric Avery, Ann-Janette Phillips and Travis DeVries

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Study full time but come
home twice a year.
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for you.
... and it's free to try out.*

**Come to NAISDA Dance College
on the Central Coast of NSW
4-7 October, 2011**

Contact Karen McCann on 1800 117 116 for more information
Abstudy will pay all your travel and accommodation costs.
www.naisda.com.au