



*Advocacy of sustainable TNQ Dance*

With Australian National Dance Week 2010 came the launch of the Tropical North Queensland Dance Strategy 2010-2015 - an Arts Nexus initiative funded jointly through Arts Queensland and Cairns Regional Council through the RADF program. Several recommendations are coming to fruition including the establishment of a forum to stimulate the development of dance practice within the Far North Queensland community, and to see key issues identified within the Strategy actioned upon.

The forum is called **MOVE - dance tnq** and has formed as a motivated panel comprising key dance practitioners who represent diverse interests and experiences within the Dance sector, expert industry members, and key stakeholders. In the spirit of reconciliation and tolerance, the vision of the **MOVE - dance tnq** forum is to advocate sector sustainability through dance - evolution, ecology and engagement.

Locally **MOVE - dance tnq** receives strong support through JCU School of Creative Arts, Arts Nexus, Kick Arts Contemporary Arts, the host of the Strategy's launch on May 7, and Jute Theatre. With further assistance from the Cairns Civic Theatre **MOVE - dance tnq** is planning the **New Move Network** initiative, a studio series of five 2-week choreographic residencies with Cairns and Tableland practitioners at the Centre of Contemporary Art, Cairns throughout 2011.

**MOVE - dance tnq** is looking forward to fostering relationships with educators, service providers, Dance company's and key events such as REACH, Ausdance, Dance North, Laura Dance Festival and the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, among others. We believe the dance potential for our region is exciting and worthy of our commitment and investment. Our view is not where we are at this point in time, but where we want to be ten years from now, with robust and visible dance product proudly contributing to the Far North Queensland and Australian Dance landscape.

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### **MOVE - dance tnq**

**Raymond D. BLANCO** is of Pajinka / Wik (Cape York) Aboriginal heritage mixed with Magarem of Mer Island (TSI) on his paternal side and Erub Island (TSI) and Malay on his maternal side. A 1984 Graduate of the NAISDA, Raymond is an acknowledged leader in the development of Indigenous Dance and the Performing Arts both in Australia and internationally with a diverse career that spans 30 years. One of Australia's most highly regarded choreographers, directors and performers with a strong motivation in nurturing Indigenous Youth through the arts sees Raymond live, produce work and employed with Dance and Indigenous communities throughout Australia.

**Sarah Collins** is a former professional dancer engaged by both Classical Ballet and Contemporary/Dance Theatre Companies in Belgium, Germany, Austria, Israel and Iran for 15 years working with internationally renowned dancers and choreographers. She returned to Australia in 1993, and became business founder and operator of RIPARTS (Regional Institute of Performing Arts) in Cairns. She has a Post Graduate Diploma in Dance Instruction from QUT (Distinction) 2003 and was employed by Cairns TAFE in 2005 delivering units in Classical Ballet, Choreography and Contemporary Dance for the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Dance Course Certificates III & IV. Her interests lie across art forms supporting and initiating productions through sponsoring Tropical Arts 'The Tempest', 'The Angel's Whip' part of the Jute Indie Season in 2008 and Avril Duck's 'When the Wheels Fall off the World' in 2009. For the past 10 years initiating new Cultural Tourism product as Artistic Director of the award winning Opera in the Outback at Undara Experience. Currently Sarah is an independent Dance/ Performing Arts consultant and choreographer.

**Erika Jackson** is a leading Dance Educator in Far North Qld. Erika combines her love of Dance with her

passion for education to provide opportunities for young people to enhance their understanding of culture, the arts and the community. She is committed to connecting and supporting dance educators in the Cairns and Cape regions, embracing her role as the REACH (Regional Excellence in the Arts and Culture Hubs) strand leader for Dance. She graduated from QUT, Brisbane, with a Bachelor of Arts (Drama and Dance)/Bachelor of Secondary Education. Now a long-term resident of FNQ, Erika advocates for Dance education to be accessible and supported in all schools in the Far North.

**Jess Jones** is a contemporary performer/maker, interested in collaborative processes and working across art forms. Locally, Jess has performed as part of *OnEdge*, Cairns (2006 – 09); *See Hear Now*, Townsville (2006 & 07), with *Zane Saunders* for 'Blueprint' (2009), and with *Bonemap* for 'Brink' and 'FpFf', Cairns (2005 & 06). Jess has a Bachelor of Contemporary Art – Dance from Deakin Uni, Melbourne (2004), and she is currently undertaking studies in Community Development and Project Management. Jess teaches contemporary dance on the Far North Queensland Tablelands, and works on Youth & Community Cultural Development projects in the Tablelands region.

**Monica Stevens** mBarburum/ Kuku Yalanji/Yidinji is a Dance Consultant and aboriginal woman from Far North Queensland, Australia. She graduated from the Aboriginal Island Skills Development Scheme, Careers in Dance (now known as the National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association, NAISDA Dance College) Sydney, with an Associate Diploma in dance and dance pedagogy. Monica has built a profession that maintains currency to her networks with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, organisations and individuals. She continues to work on projects that improve dance in the indigenous and Australian community. Monica worked at Deakin University MotionLab in association with Yirrkala and Saibai dance communities. Her and the team created new research work and discussions on technology and future preservation and archiving of indigenous dance movements. Her connections with Ausdance National provided an opportunity to contribute to the Arts Forum with the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) on the initial advice paper for the Australian Curriculum. Monica achieves high competent business results in the workplace by employing a professional and sensible manner in the workplace. She is currently the Dance Teacher delivering the Certificate III in Performing Arts at the Tropical North Queensland TAFE in Cairns.

**Miriam Torzillo** studied at the Laban Centre in London, before returning to Australia to work in the independent dance sector and in education. After having children she spent fifteen years as a teacher and community arts practitioner in FNQ. Since 2001 she has been teaching the Arts Curriculum subjects within pre-service teacher education at James Cook University. She is also a Masters of Education candidate, investigating teacher and student understandings of creative dance in the classroom setting and its benefit to learning. As a result of Miriam's own dance and artistic experiences in community and educational settings she has a strong commitment to creating dance opportunities for all, regardless of their prior experience, talent or training.

**Rebecca Youdell** is choreographer, performer and co-director of Bonemap – creative intermedia arts. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, Rebecca studied movement in Australia, USA and UK attending the Royal Ballet School in London. She has worked with the Royal Swedish Ballet Company in Stockholm, had an Asialink residency in Singapore and a fellowship at The Australian Choreographic Centre. She has a BFA (Dance) - (USA), and an MA (Visual/Performing Arts) - (Aus). Both in Australia and overseas she has toured work in theatrical, gallery, site-specific and public art contexts, via live, screen and print, and received numerous awards. Other roles include producer, director, curator, advocate and artworker across the arts, cultural and corporate sectors over the last twenty years. She is a member of the Cairns Regional Council Public Art Group and an advisor to the 2011 National Dance Forum. Projects from 1996 – 2010 are archived on the Bonemap site: [www.bonemap.com](http://www.bonemap.com)

#### Stakeholders

**Marilyn Miller** B.Bus, National Indigenous Dance Coordinator, Treading the Pathways

**Russell Milledge** MFA, Lecturer School of Creative Arts, Coordinator Bachelor of Creative Industries, Faculty of Law, Business and Creative Arts, James Cook University

**Phil Finkelstein** Manager, Cairns Civic Theatre

**Susan Reid** Executive Officer, Arts Nexus