



12th DEADLYS

SPORT & ARTS

Born to Dance

One of Bangarra's best takes home the Deadly for Dancer of the Year.

The winner of the Deadly for Dancer of the Year is always a close one to call. With so many talented and accomplished Indigenous dancers succeeding both in Australia and overseas, it is always difficult to pick who might be nominated, let alone who will win.

This year the Deadly for Dancer of the Year went to one of Bangarra Dance Theatre's most gifted members
- Patrick Thaiday.

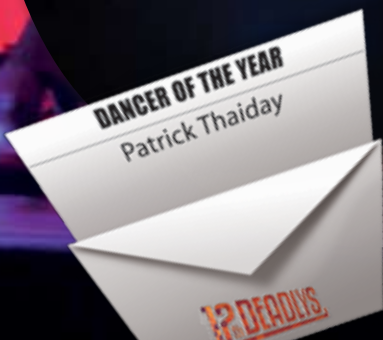
Patrick was born in Biloela, Queensland, and grew up in Mackay. His parents come from Iama and Erub in the Torres Strait Islands. He believes that his in-built desire to dance is derived from his parents' ancestors who originated from Lifu, South Sea Islands and Jamaica. With a strong cultural background, he learnt traditional dances from an early age.

Patrick's family encouraged him to pursue a career in dance and, in 1999 he moved to Sydney to study at NAISDA, performing both traditional and contemporary dance.

In 2002 he joined Bangarra, where his solo in *Walkabout* earned him recognition for his talents. In 2004, he won the Ausdance Award for Best Male Dancer for his performance in *Unaipon* as part of Bangarra's highly successful season of *Clan* in 2004.

Patrick has been a leading dancer in all the company's productions since 2002, including the 2006 production of *Gathering*, Bangarra's collaboration with the Australian Ballet. Although he was unable to attend the Deadlys, he remains a deserved winner.

All the right moves: Patrick Thaiday is flying high.





PREPARATION BEFORE READING

This report tells us that Patrick Thaiday was voted Dancer of the Year at the *Deadlys*. He is a member of the Bangarra Dance Theatre.

ACTIVITY 1: SCANNING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION

From the article, fill in information about Patrick Thaiday and his life below.

Patrick Thaiday was born in _____

and grew up in _____.

His parents came from _____.

His parents' ancestors originated from _____

_____.

In 1999 he moved to _____ to study at _____.

He performed both _____ and _____ dance.

In 2002 he joined _____.

In 2004 he won the _____ Award for _____

_____.

Patrick has been a leading dancer in all of Bangarra's productions since _____.

ACTIVITY 2: UNDERSTANDING WORDS IN CONTEXT

Write your own meaning for the words from the article in the boxes below.

(Read the words from the article as well as the sentences around them).

Words from the article	My words that mean the same thing
Patrick Thaiday believes that his in-built desire to dance is derived from his parents' ancestors.	
With a strong cultural background, he learnt traditional dances from an early age.	
Patrick's family encouraged him to pursue a career in dance.	
His solo in <i>Walkabout</i> earned him recognition for his talents.	
Although he was unable to attend the <i>Deadlys</i> , he remains a deserved winner.	



ACTIVITY 3: BIOGRAPHY

Deborah Brown is a dancer with the Bangarra Dance Theatre. Below is her biography. Look at the way that information is structured in this biography.

DEBORAH BROWN - DANCER

Deborah Brown was born in 1978, Brisbane, a descendant of Wakaid Clan, Badu Island. Her grandmother is a descendant of the Mer people, Murray Island, Baizam Clan. Deborah is also of Scottish descent.

In 1983, aged 5, Deborah began dance classes at the Pamela Le Ray School of Dance, Brisbane. Deborah has been involved in dance for over twenty years, and has worked with such choreographers as Elsie Seaguss, Natalie Weir and Lance Davies.

During her twelve years of study, she gained Honours with Distinction in Tap Dance and High Commendations and Honours in Modern and Classical Dance (RAD). She then changed her focus to acting where she trained at The Actors Conservatory, Brisbane for the following three years.

Deborah joined Bangarra Dance Theatre in 2003, to perform in *Bush*, which she regards as one of her career highlights. She has danced in all of Bangarra's productions since joining the company.

Her inspiration comes from her family, especially her parents. They both come from opposite ends of the world, with cultural backgrounds that enrich her and teach her to be proud of her identity.



Fill in her details in the spaces below:

Birth, heritage	Deborah Brown was born in, a descendant ofClan, Island. Her grandmother is a descendant of the people, Murray Island, Baizam Clan. Deborah is also of descent.
Dance experience	In, aged, Deborah began dance classes at theSchool of Dance, Brisbane. Deborah has been involved in dance for years, and has worked with such..... as Elsie Seaguss, Natalie Weir and Lance Davies.
Achievements and honours	During her twelve years of study, she gained with Distinction in Dance and High Commendations and Honours in Dance (RAD). She then changed her focus towhere she trained at The, Brisbane for the following three years.
Career highlights	Deborah joinedTheatre in 2003, to perform in <i>Bush</i> , which she regards as one of her She has danced in all of Bangarra's productions since joining the company.
Inspiration	Her inspiration comes from her, especially her They both come from opposite ends of the world, with cultural backgrounds that enrich her and teach her



ACTIVITY 4: WRITING A BIOGRAPHY

From the most important information given, write Deborah's biography in your own words.

In your writing, you should include:

- Information about where Deborah was born and her heritage
- Her dance experience
- Her achievements and honours
- Her career highlights
- Her Inspirations.

You should write in full sentences.

You should pay attention to spelling and punctuation.

Give yourself time and space to plan your writing.

Further research

For more information about the dancers at the Bangarra Dance Theatre, head to www.bangarra.com.au