

MEDIA ALERT
29 January 2015

NAISDA DANCE COLLEGE WELCOMES RENOWNED INTERNATIONAL CHOREOGRAPHERS IQUAIL SHAHEED AND SANTEE SMITH

NAISDA Dance College has opened its doors to two internationally renowned choreographers - **Iquail Shaheed**, Founder and Executive Artistic Director of US dance company *Dance Iquail!* and **Santee Smith**, Canadian dancer and Founder of *Kaha:wi Dance Theatre*.

Iquail Shaheed is commencing his cultural residency at NAISDA for the fourth year, where he will be teaching the dynamic Horton technique to NAISDA's Developing Artists, while Santee Smith is visiting the College over two days to share Canadian Aboriginal dance styles.

Both accomplished teachers and artists, Iquail has appeared in various Broadway productions including *Hot Feet* and *The Lion King*, while Santee's significant contributions to dance have earned her a multitude of awards including the Ontario Arts Council's K.M. Hunter Award for Dance.

Chief Executive Officer of NAISDA, Kim Walker, says that he is excited for Iquail and Santee to lend their skills to NAISDA's Developing Artists and share their knowledge of dance.

"Iquail came highly recommended by the Ailey school in New York and has been instrumental in raising the bar in training at NAISDA over recent years," said Mr Walker.

"We are excited to once again welcome Iquail to our College, he is a world-class teacher and makes such a positive impact on our Developing Artists, not simply due to his skill but also his obvious passion for teaching. He will help NAISDA become the leader of Horton delivery in Australia.

"We are also thrilled to welcome Santee to NAISDA. A renowned international performer and one of the most influential Indigenous artists in Canada, our Developing Artists are looking forward to learning this Canadian Aboriginal style," added Mr Walker.

Since its inception in 1976, NAISDA has been setting the standard in Australian Indigenous Contemporary/Cultural Dance. 2016 marks the College's 40th Anniversary, with a series of celebrations planned throughout the year to mark this momentous occasion. For more information, visit www.naisda.com.au.

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MEDIA ARE INVITED TO VISIT NAISDA ON TUESDAY 1 MARCH FOR PHOTO AND INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES WITH IQUAIL SHAHEED AND SANTEE SMITH.

For more information or interviews contact Alison Orren at Brilliant Logic:
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