

For immediate release
2 June 2016

NAISDA's NAIDOC Week program to pay homage to one of its first performances

After taking part in the official opening of The Art House at Wyong earlier this month, Australia's premier training college for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students NAISDA Dance College will be one of the first to stage a show at the new venue when it presents its NAIDOC Week Program of workshops and performances to local schools and the Central Coast community.

WIRAYI (NOW) will take place at The Art House from Wednesday 29 June to Friday 1 July 2016, with a special one-off performance open to members of the public on Thursday 30 June at 8pm sponsored by Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council.

With NAISDA celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2016, the production will pay special homage to one of the College's first performances, which took place on the stage of the Opera House some forty years ago.

1984 NAISDA Graduate and Director of *WIRAYI (NOW)*, Raymond D Blanco, will share the ground-breaking choreography with NAISDA's Students of today through the special one-hour production.

"Wirayi finds its inspiration in the stories of yesterday and brings them to today's audiences in the language of dance," said Mr Blanco.

"The show will take inspiration from *Embassy*, a piece by NAISDA's Founder Carole Y Johnson which marked NAISDA's first shaky steps on the stage of the Opera House.

"*Embassy* set the pace for what has seen 40 years of powerful, confronting and entertaining dance theatre from NAISDA Dance College and it will be a true honour to share this choreography with a contemporary audience," he added.

As part of the program, NAISDA will also be offering three exclusive performances to schools on the Central Coast for a gold coin entry, as well as dance workshops where students will have the opportunity to learn cultural dance. Located in Kariong, NAISDA has been an active part of the Central Coast cultural scene for close to a decade.

"We are thrilled to have an opportunity to give back to our community through these special performances at The Art House and look forward to further developing our NAIDOC celebrations for the Central Coast," said Kim Walker, Chief Executive Officer of NAISDA Dance College.

For more information and bookings, visit www.theearthhousewyong.com.au or contact The Art House on 02 4335 1485.

brilliant logic

Central Coast PO Box 4427 East Gosford NSW 2250
Sydney PO Box 530 Woollahra NSW 1350

P 02 4324 6962 F 02 4321 0762 ABN 11 066 317 771
www.brilliantlogic.com.au

-ENDS-

EVENT DETAILS - Public Performance

Date: Thursday 30 June 2016

Time: 8pm-9pm

Venue: The Art House
19-21 Margaret Street
Wyong NSW 2259

Tickets: Children and Pensioners – \$15.00
Adults – \$20.00

Bookings: (02) 4335 1485 or www.thearthousewyong.com.au

EVENT DETAILS - School Performances

Date: Wednesday 29 June, Thursday 30 June & Friday 1 July 2016

Time: Workshops – 10am-11am
Performances – 12pm-1pm

Venue: The Art House
19-21 Margaret Street
Wyong NSW 2259

Entry: Gold coin donation per student

Bookings: Schools can contact (02) 4324 6962

For more information, photo opportunities and interviews with Raymond D Blanco:

Alison Orren at Brilliant Logic

aorren@brilliantlogic.com.au

(02) 4324 6962

brilliant logic

Central Coast PO Box 4427 East Gosford NSW 2250
Sydney PO Box 530 Woollahra NSW 1350

P 02 4324 6962 F 02 4321 0762
www.brilliantlogic.com.au

ABN 11 066 317 771