

## PATRICK THAIDAY PROFILE



Photo credit: Jason Capobianco

Patrick Thaiday is originally from Iama (Yam Island) and is a descendant of King Kebisu of Tudu (Warrior Island) in the Central Part of the Torres Strait Islands. His totem is Koedal (Saltwater Crocodile) from his Dad's side while his Mother comes from Erub (Darnley Island) their totem Beizam (Shark) and the Frigate Bird. He's been culturally adopted by the Yolngu People of Northeast Arnhem Land into the Dhuwa moiety.



Photo credit: Jason Capobianco

Completing his school education on the mainland in Mackay Patrick saw the need to improve the health and wellbeing of his own community and increase accessibility to such services. He joined the Aboriginal, Torres Strait and South Sea Islander Health Unit at Queensland Health as their Health worker & Relief Hospital Liaison Officer.

During his time in community Patrick managed to juggle his professional work with his dream of dancing performing at Mackay events like the Youth Fringe Festival, Reconciliation Conference, NAIDOC and family engagements.



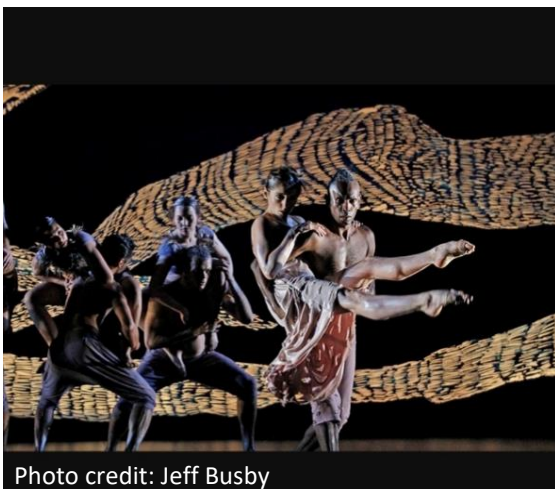
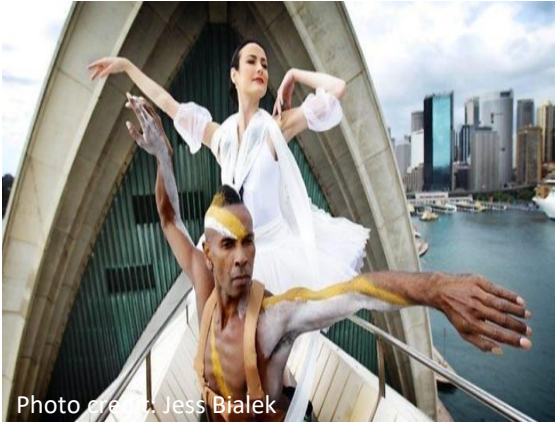
Photo credit: Greg Barrett

His inner desire and first love to dance eventually caught up with him. Patrick found himself enrolled at NAISDA (National Aboriginal & Islander Skills Development Association) Dance College in 1999 touring across rural & remote communities throughout Australia. Graduating in 2001 Patrick was scouted out and joined Australia's leading Indigenous Dance Company 'Bangarra Dance Theatre' in 2002. Receiving prestigious awards for *Australian Dancer of the Year*, *Green Room Award* and *Deadlies Award* for

Best Male Dancer. Patrick quickly sealed his spot in the company as a Principal Artist. He toured internationally performing at the World Dance Forum in Monaco, the Kennedy Centre Washington, North Carolina, Hampton, Hawaii, Hungary, Germany, France, Austria, UK, China, Japan and New Zealand.

Patrick was appointed by NAISDA (National Aboriginal and Islander Skill Development Association) Dance College to do a Cultural residency with the Yolngu People of Galawinku, NT researching their lifestyle and traditions directing and choreographing NAISDA's End of Year Show called "Morning Star" in 2012.

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- Career Highlights include performing at the 2000 Sydney Olympics Opening & Closing Ceremonies.
- Bam Festival in New York and the collaborative dance production with the Australian Ballet called 'Rites' which toured London and Australia. His final swan dance in a Triple Bill 2012 called *Infinity* with the Australian Ballet (Choreographers Stephen Page/Wayne McGregor/Graeme Murphy)
- Choreographing the World Bingham Cup Official Opening Ceremony 2014 and Co-Choreographing for AIME's Mentoring Program.
- Appeared in a films including *The Matrix – Reloaded*, *Fire Starter* and NITV Series *Move it Mob Style* and *One Mob Our Stories* Doco, Channel 10's *So You Think You Can Dance* & *Everybody Dance Now* Jason Derulo's team.
- In 2018 Patrick worked in the production team alongside *Rekindling* and *Bangarra Dancer's* to put on the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Opening - Indigenous Section.

Patrick joined Bangarra's Youth Programs Team at the end of 2012 implementing their Aboriginal Youth Dance program - *Rekindling* across Australia in 33 rural and remote communities. Bangarra's new initiative with the Arts Unit of NSW saw Patrick Co-directing/choreographing and mentoring secondary students for around six years at the NSW Schools Spectacular at Sydney Homebush Stadium and remounting Bangarra works for the NSW Public Schools Aboriginal Dance Company at the State Dance Festivals and Brisbane Creative Generations at the Convention Centre telecast on ch 7 & 9.

In 2019 Patrick left Sydney to be closer to his Community up in Central Queensland returning home to Mackay. Through his new role at PCYC as the Community Indigenous Sports and Recreation officer Patrick has continued to pass on his expertise implementing a range of programs consisting of Cultural, Contemporary Dance, Sports Fitness and the Game of Throws Holiday Programs.

In 2021 Patrick had the privilege of choreographing for the Women's Indigenous Allstar team and was appointed Creative Director of Cast the Net Incorporated production *Star Dreaming*.