

WAKAKIRRI

Australia's Largest Performing Arts Event for Schools

**MEDIA RELEASE
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WAKAKIRRI IS COMING TO BENDIGO!

The biggest performing arts event for Aussie schools reaches the Ulumbarra Theatre

Wakakirri is pleased to announce the addition of Bendigo's Ulumbarra Theatre as a venue for 2018. Local school students will be taking the stage to perform their original Story Dance productions in front of Wakakirri's expert panel and an audience of family, friends and community.

Wakakirri's Story Dance Challenge runs annually from July through September at various venues around the country, asking primary and secondary schools to create 'Story Dances' that reflect the ideas and aspirations of their students. Participating schools are in the running to take out awards at regional and national levels, including the illustrious 'Story of the Year' award.

The Ulumbarra Theatre will be hosting Wakakirri on Tuesday the 31st of July, one of 18 venues hosting Wakakirri events around the country. The challenge involves over 20,000 primary and secondary students across every State and Territory annually.

Experienced schools performing at Ulumbarra Theatre this year include Bendigo South East College and Holy Trinity Lutheran College, who have previously travelled as far as the Frankston Arts Centre in Melbourne and the Geelong Performing Arts Centre to perform in Wakakirri.

Places are still open for local primary and secondary schools interested in performing their own Wakakirri item! Call Wakakirri HQ on 1800 650 979 or register your interest online:

www.wakakirri.com/2018-registration/

Festival Director Adam Loxley says that Wakakirri is always looking for ways to make it easier for schools to participate:

"Reducing the travel distance will certainly help schools minimise their travel time, reduce their costs and have a positive environmental impact, which is a huge part of the Wakakirri vision," says Loxley.

"We're seeing incredible growth after the 2017 season and have had many enquiries from new schools in regional Victoria wishing to participate in 2018."

Wakakirri last year celebrated 25 years of bringing Story Dance and invaluable arts education to Australian youth. This year the national panel of judges includes multi award winning actor Michala Banas (*Nowhere Boys*, *Upper Middle Bogan*), stage and screen star Joshua Horner (*Dancing With The Stars*, *Billy Elliott The Musical*) and actor, writer and singer Alex Papps (*Play School*, *Home and Away*).

www.wakakirri.com

MEDIA INQUIRIES

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