



Inspire: Secondary Workshop Resource

Teaching Artist: Luke Currie-Richardson

INTRODUCTION

Inspire is a professional learning program for dance educators, presented by Ausdance VIC. The 90-minute workshops provide insights into the recent works, processes, and dance-making skills of local artists Luke Currie-Richardson, Amelia Jean O’Leary and Joel Bray.

Created in direct response to feedback from teachers, *Inspire* is designed to offer a unique opportunity for peer-to-peer collaboration and to engage in discipline-based discussions with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island dance. Workshops are designed for primary teachers (F-L6) and secondary teachers of L7-10 and senior years (L11-12, VCE Dance).

Participants receive a recording of their workshop, a bespoke resource providing background information, curriculum-alignment and suggestions for integrating the workshop learnings into classrooms. Each participant will also receive the BIG HEART Education Resource, based on BIG DANCE, BIG HEART, choreographed by Frances Rings and Craig Bary. This resource includes eight choreographer-approved lesson plans, created by Dr Katrina Rank and aligned to the Victorian Curriculum.

Acknowledgements

Inspire is presented by Ausdance VIC in partnership with Dancehouse with the support of the Department of Education, Victoria, through the Strategic Partnerships Program.

Resource material provided by Luke Currie-Richardson and prepared for *Inspire* by Dr Katrina Rank. Choreographic material: Luke Currie-Richardson

Disclaimer

This guide has been created to align with the Victorian Curriculum 2019-2025. Ausdance Vic does not take any responsibility for changes to the Curriculum content descriptions for the relevant year and subject.

URLs

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Acknowledgement of Country

Ausdance VIC acknowledges and respects the Traditional Custodians of the Lands on which we live, work and dance. Sovereignty was never ceded.

We celebrate the history and contemporary creativity of the world's oldest living culture and pay our respect to Elders – past and present.

We acknowledge the right to self-determination for First Nations People and seek to develop strong and lasting partnerships with Victorian First Peoples to achieve equity and prosperity in the communities we serve across the state.



ABOUT LUKE CURRIE-RICHARDSON

Luke Currie-Richardson is a proud descendant of the Kuku Yalanji and Djabugay peoples, the Mununjali Clan of South East QLD, the Butchulla clan of K'Gari, and the Meriam people of the Eastern Torres Strait Islands.

For over 14 years, Luke has been a leading voice in sharing powerful stories of Indigenous resistance, joy, and solidarity across multiple art forms, including dance, film, photography, spoken word, and fashion.

As a dancer, Luke has toured extensively with acclaimed companies such as *Bangarra Dance Theatre* and *Marrugeku*, and has worked with prominent artists like *Ghenoa Gela*, *Wesley Enoch*, and *Joey Bray Dance Company*. He was also part of the *Saltbush* ensemble by *InsiteArts*. In 2023, Luke made his choreographic debut with *GEDOVAIT* as part of the Stephanie Lake Escalator program.

Luke has served as a movement coordinator and mentor with First Nations Fashion & Design since 2019, co-creating the 2022 Australian Fashion Week alongside Grace Lillian Lee.

His photography has been featured in prestigious publications such as *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *Marie Claire*. In 2024, Luke was named a finalist in the National Photographic Portrait Prize and won the People's Choice Award.

In 2022, Luke made his theatre acting debut in *Kalanga Atu* by Tokelauan Fijian storyteller Emele Ugavule at The Art Gallery of New South Wales.

As a poet, he performed *Anti-Social Media* at Sydney Festival's **The Vigil** in 2020, and his work has been published by Red Room Poetry.

Through his multidisciplinary work, Luke honours and amplifies Indigenous culture, challenging societal perceptions of identity and belonging in contemporary Australia.

BEFORE THE WORKSHOP

To prepare for the workshop, we'd like you to complete the following tasks:

1. Consider the following image (by Luke). What thoughts, emotions or sensations does it provoke? Engage in a minute of rapid writing, a quick-fire brainstorming technique, to identify these responses. Just write as much as you can in one minute, then reflect on what you've written. What have your words revealed to you? What would you like to explore further?



2. Now, with the following image, we challenge you to do reverse brainstorming. This time you'll brainstorm questions instead of noting your observations. Try to find at least 10 questions.



3. Prior to the workshop, we'd love you to consider deeply the following questions
- a. What are your thoughts about traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance?
 - b. What are your thoughts about contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance?
 - c. How would you approach traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance?
 - d. How would you approach contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance?

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

This workshop focuses on intercultural collaborations, drawing from Luke's recent experiences with *Marrugeku* and *Saltbush*. It will be conversational, reflective and immersive, inviting questions and embodied responses to the themes offered.

Workshop elements

- *Welcome & Grounding*
- *Saltbush Creative Process & Cultural Foundation*
- *Guided Movement Exploration: Story as Catalyst*
- *Discussion Circle: Teaching with Respect, cultural protocols, consultation and language use*

ALIGNMENT TO VICTORIAN CURRICULUM, THE ARTS, DANCE

This workshop supports teachers to engage with the Victorian Dance Curriculum by providing information and experiences about indigenous culture and approaches. It aims to support the development of a deeper understanding that is communicated or shared with students. Consequently, it may affect engagement with the following content descriptors:

Level	Relevant content descriptors
Level 7-8	Structure dances using choreographic devices and form (VCADAD036)
	Analyse how choreographers use elements of dance and production elements to communicate intent (VCADAR038)
Level 9-10	Manipulate combinations of the elements of dance and choreographic devices to communicate their choreographic intent (VCADAE041)
	Structure dances using movement motifs, choreographic devices and form (VCADAD043)
	Analyse a range of dance from contemporary and past times, including dance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, to explore differing viewpoints and develop understanding of dance practice across local, national and international contexts (VCADAR046)