## TRACKS STAFF 2002

**Artistic Directors:** David McMicken and Tim Newth
**Multicultural Artist-in-Residence:** Betchay Mondragon
**Administration:** Heather Richards
**Grey Panthers Director:** Merrilee Mills
**Publicist:** Sue Camilleri

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Northern Territory Government
Department of Community Development, Sport & Cultural Affairs

Darwin Entertainment Centre

2002 Year of the Outback

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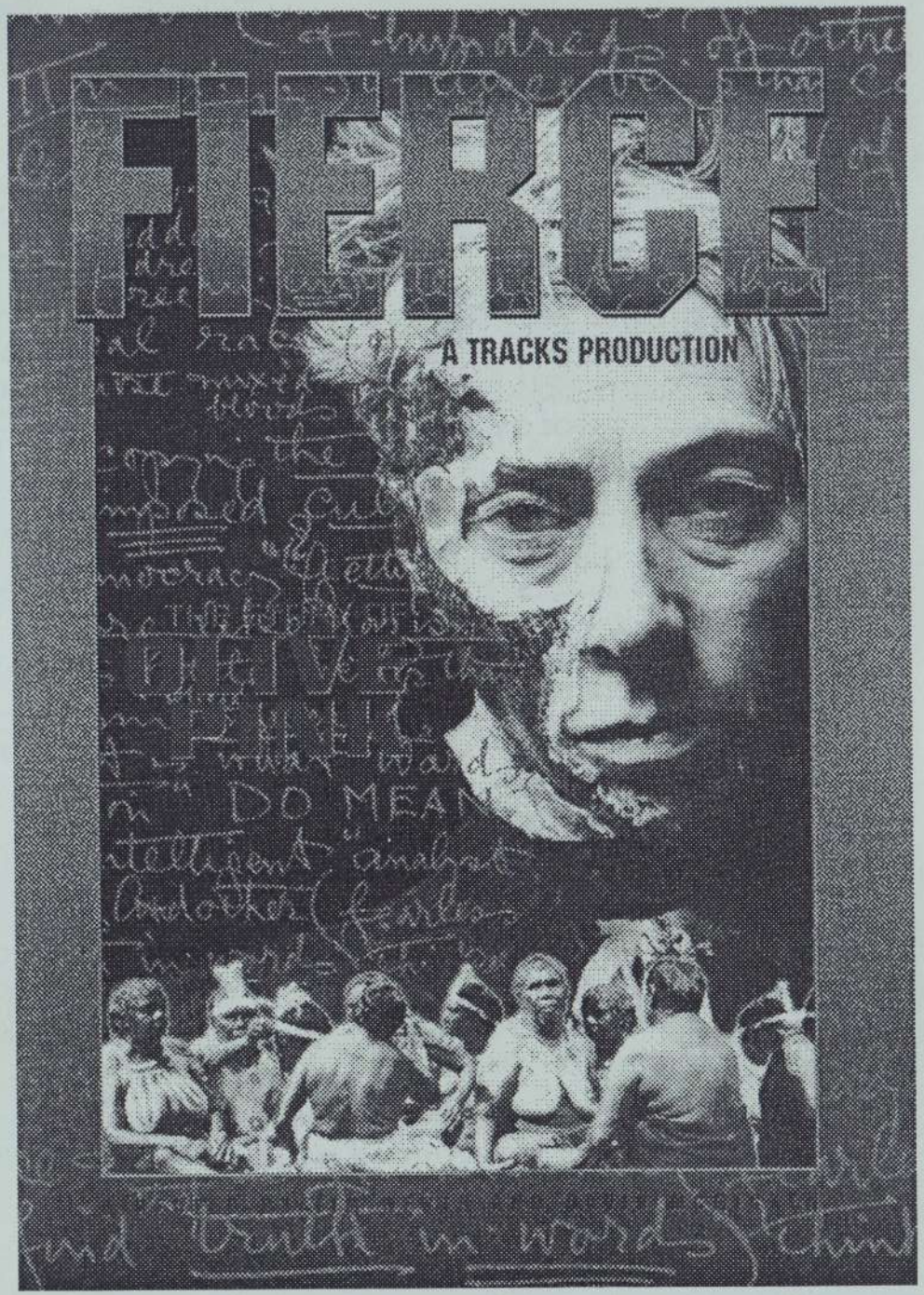

# FIERCE - DIRECTORS' NOTES

This performance is about connections: between a white world and a Warlpiri Aboriginal world, our first contacts and ongoing relationships. Fierce comes from a distillation of hundreds of stories about Olive Muriel Pink, not all of them in concordance. We first heard of Miss Pink when sitting in the shade of a scrubby bush in the middle of the Tanami desert.

In many ways, Miss Pink has reflected something of our own contemporary lives. She paved the way for our relationship with the Warlpiri people of Lajamanu. As one Warlpiri woman told us: "Miss Pink was a good woman, she didn't shoot us."

Now praised as a land rights pioneer and Aboriginal rights activist, in her day, Olive Pink was labelled as 'mad', 'communist', 'nigger lover' and the 'fiercest white woman in captivity'. Miss Pink rode life on the edge, her passion more than once bringing her to the brink of death.

This performance draws together a 14-year working relationship between Tracks and the Warlpiri Ceremonial Dancers of Lajamanu, some of whom were present at the first contact with Olive Pink. The Warlpiri tribe of the Tanami Desert has also been labelled as 'fierce'. Injustices against them are also in living memory as they were one of the last tribes to be invaded by the white world.

As a child Claire Kilgariff lived across the (dry) Todd River from Miss Pink. When Miss Pink died she left Claire's mother a folio of nineteenth century drawing room songs. The songs within Fierce come from this folio.

Fierce merges images of country, painted bare breasted women, desert flora, broken hearts, and dust dragging Edwardian skirts. skirts.

# BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

**Olive Pink** was born Hobart, Tasmania. **17 March 1884**: Quaker education, **1915**: Fiancee, Ltd. Harold Southern, killed at Gallipoli. **Late 20s / Early 30s**: Trained at Julian Ashton School of Art, Sydney. Employed as draughtswoman State Government NSW working on amongst other things, drawing of Sydney Harbour Bridge. **June-December 1930**: Travelled the railway between Quorn, SA and Alice Springs after a drought had broken, stopping to sketch flowers wherever railway workers reported them. Made further sketches around Alice 1932/33: Studied Anthropology, University of Sydney (urged not to complete degree but to undertake field research instead). **1933/34**: First major funded field expedition to Central Australia. Moved to Alice Springs. Almost dies of dysentery. **1935**: First Anthropological articles. Begins her calls for Aboriginal autonomy (especially from the 'civilising' influences of the missions). Develops her controversial notion of 'full bloods' being the only 'authentic' Aborigines. Believes miscegenation and assimilation are attempts to extinguish the Aboriginal people. **1942/44**: Travels to Thompson's Rock Hole (Pridi Pridi), the Granites, Western Tanami and lives among the Warlpiri. Galvanised her political fight against the Assimilation Policy and lobbies for a 'secular sanctuary' - one of the first calls for Aboriginal Land Rights. Here she nearly dies of malnutrition and dehydration. **1944**: Moves permanently to Alice Springs. Devotes energy to 'full bloods' rights and to setting up an arid zone flora reserve. **1956**: Arid Zone Flora reserve is officially gazetted. Miss Pink becomes curator with the help of (Warlpiri) Johnny Jampijinpa. **1967**: Campaigns against building Pine Gap facility. **1975**: Dies in Alice Springs aged 91. Buried in town cemetery with grave facing the opposite direction to everyone else. Preferred to look on her 'beloved McDonnell Ranges' rather than the township. Her correspondence is kept at the National Archives and several feet deep.

**Tracks** was founded in 1994, growing out of a community dance program established in 1988. The company's Artistic Directors, **Tim Newth and David McMicken** divide their time between working with many diverse people and cultural groups that call Darwin and the NT home: from young to old, urban and remote.

The Territory has afforded the directors a particular opportunity to work in remote communities, allowing a connection with culture that, unlike western practice, has less boundaries between its art forms, and which deeply connects people to place. **Tracks** has developed a unique style of performance that can be understood by people regardless of language or culture: strongly visual, physically based and the foundation of the company's philosophy and values. The creation of performances that are site and people specific ensures that the company always maintains a connection to its community.

With dance, theatre, literature and music **David** completing his Tertiary training in 1980 and began a successful career as a performer and director, founding several companies along the way. He has lived and worked in the Territory since 1991.

**Tim** trained as a visual artist but quickly began work with Dance companies around Australia. He settled in the Territory in 1988. Tim has a particular love of space and of placing movement and visual imagery within it. The results are often large scale outdoor events.

Together **David and Tim** use their multi-artforms to inspire a wide range of Territorians of diverse cultural backgrounds: from youth through to the elderly, from city to remote community.

**Trevor Patrick** is a dancer, performer & choreographer involved in the research & development of human movement. He is a graduate in Art & Design (RMIT), & Dance (Victorian College of he Arts), & is a Master of Arts in Performance from Victoria University, Melbourne.

**Merrilee Mills** has a Bachelor of Music and Education from the NSW Conservatorium of Music (1984) and extensive post-graduate experience in arts and education related fields. She has worked in Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK, and has worked in the Northern Territory since 1990

**Lynette Lewis**: Lynette was born in Tennant Creek and is a descendant of the Warrumungu/Wmbaya tribes in North Central Australia. She studied dance at the Aboriginal Dance Theatre in Redfern and drama at the National Institute of Dramatic Art, Sydney. She established the Arid Zone Dance Theatre in Tennant Creek

**Yoris Wilson** (Degree in Fine Art - Photography & Video). Has performed for all of the major arts organisations in the Territory including Tracks. His performance skills are in acting, musicianship, movement & visual arts. Extensive freelance work in music performance & art direction & documentation.

**Kay Brown** has been a performer for more years than she wishes to remember including singing and dancing. She has been part of the Arts in Darwin since 1972. Kay is thrilled and excited to be taking part in Fierce.

**Claire Kilgariff** Dip T, B Ed, B A (Music), L Music A (Flute) A graduate in Music and Fine Arts from SA College of the Arts, Claire has worked as a school teacher, lecturer in flute at the NT University, flute teacher, musician, principal flautist of the Darwin Symphony Orchestra from '86 to '95 and won the NT Women's Fellowship Award in '89. She is currently the Coordinator of the Arafura Ensemble.

**Bronwyn Myers** is a botanist gone astray. She moved from Melbourne to Darwin in 1991. Fortunately, she brought her cello with her. She is a founding member of the Arafura Ensemble, and has played in many DTC and Tracks productions. She has more in common with Miss Pink than she is prepared to admit.

**Rosie Napurrula** is a highly regarded Aboriginal Elder who carries a wealth of knowledge. Born at Yaturlu-yaturlu around '35. Her country is Miya-miya & Malangurru & her Dreamings are Ngurlu, & Kalajirri & Karangu (name of country). Member of the Lajamanu Yawalyu Women, she is an amazing performer & storyteller.

**Molly Napurrula Tasman** was born at Miya-miya around '36. Her country is Miya-miya & Malangurru & her Dreamings are Ngurlu, Jungungpa & Kalajirri. Member of the Lajamanu Yawalyu Women. She was a key artist in the Ngapa-Two Cultures One Country project.

**Maisie Napangardi (Kajingarra)**, born at Janyinki around '30. Her country is Janyinki & Dreamings are Mardukuja-mardakuja, Kanakurkangu & Yunkaranyi (Pirrkanji). With the Yawalyu women, she has danced from one end of the Northern Territory to the other, Melbourne, Country Victoria, Adelaide & Sydney.

**Gladys Napangardi Kelly (Kangariya)**'s place of birth is Mamingirri, (c. 1940) her country is Jarrardajarrayi and her dreamings are Yarla, Ngayaki and Wardipi. She is renowned in Lajamanu as an extraordinary dancer of the goanna ceremony.

**Myra Nungarrayi Herbert** was born at Willowra. Her country is Wiriyajarrayi (Two Feet) which is the Warlpiri name for Willowra. She paints & performs Mala, Juwarrpa, Ngatijirri, Witi/Kurlada, Jurdiya, Ngalyipi, Jurlpa, Watiya & Karrkarrdu Dreamings. Myra has become a key player within the Tracks & Lajamanu collaborations.

**Margaret Nungarrayi Martin**. Margaret is an artist and storyteller. This is her first performance with Tracks.

**Alice Napaljarri Kelly**. toured with Tracks to Melbourne (1995), performed in Ngapa - two cultures one country (1996), and in Fierce (2001).

**Judy Napaljarri Walker**. Born at Mount Doreen, her country is Jilla Well and her dreamings are Warna, and Mala. Napaljarri first performed with Tracks in Lajamanu Kurra Karna Yani, (1992).

## CREATIVE PERSONAL

**Directors**:
Tim Newth and David McMicken

**Performers:**
Trevor Patrick, Lynette Lewis, Yoris Wilson, Kay Brown and David McMicken with the **Lajamanu Yawalyu Women:** Molly Napurrula Tasman, Rosie Napurrula Tasman, Margaret Nungarrayi Martian, Myra NungarrayiHerbert, Judy Napaljarri Walker, Granites, Alice Napaljarri, Gladys Napangardi Tasman, Kajingarra Napangardi Granites. And the **Arafura Ensemble** : Claire Kilgariff, Merrilee Mills and Bronwyn Myers.

**Choreography:**
David McMicken and Trevor Patrick
**Original Music and arrangements:**
Claire Kilgariff, Scott Trenwith and Merrilee Mills

**Slides:** Matthew Mainsbridge
**Costumes:** David Taylor, Dixi Joy
**Props**: Gaye Hawkes, Tim Newth and Tania Leiman.
**Additional Text:** Stephen Carleton
**Lighting Designer:** Greg Thompson
**Sound Engineer:** Matthew Cunliffe
**Voice-over:** Ken Conway
**Publicity:** Katherine Kilgariff
**Graphic Design:** Mark Marcelis, Studio 7

**Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off. The taking of photographs is not permitted during this performance.**

## SCENARIO & MUSIC

**White World**

Thou Wilt - C. Kilgariff

Nothing Else to Do (from Miss Pink's Music Folio).

Small Town: Peter Sculthorpe

War time medley arranged by Merrilee Mills

Rose Red - traditional

**Journey into the Desert**

Various songs from Miss Pink's personal collection:

Oh, Oh, Hear the wind blow, A Warrior Bold, Thoughts

**Miss Pink Meets the Warlpiri**

Traditional Warlpiri songs from Pridi Pridi

The Wearing Down of Miss Pink - Scott Trenwith

(Commissioned for Fierce)

**Standing up for Miss Pink**

Also Spracht Zarathustra - R. Strauss

History repeating - Propella Heads and Shirley Bassey

**Mind and Heart - Between Two Worlds**

Colours of Pink - Clare Kilgariff (Commissioned for Fierce)

Mirages - Allan Lamb.

## THANK YOU

We would like to acknowledge our supportive Committee of Management: David Taylor, Jackie Wurm, Glenn Bernardin, Kyleigh Hindson, Ken Conway, Nicole Cridland and Kay Brown.

Many people and organisations from Lajamanu have contributed to this work, in particular Jerry Jangala Patrick, Steve Jampijinpa Patrick, Abie Jangala, Carmel O'Shanessy and Lajamanu CEC.

Tonight's performance evolved from a creative development project Shades of Pink (Brown's Mart 1999). **Fierce the story of Olive Pink** premiered in Darwin at the 2001 Festival of Darwin. Our sincere thanks to the artists involved in those productions: Gaye Hawkes, Stephen Carleton, Nicky Fearn, Tania Lieman, Bilha Smith, Jeannie Napurrula Birrell, Peggy Napaljarri Rockman, Kath Baldwin, Adie Bruce, Audrey Gorring, Crena Hemmings, Bobby Johnstone, Barb Quinlan, Shirley Sommers, Hannah Stamm, Audrey Svara, Mavis Waddell, Rangarajan Parimala and Sally Crawford.

Miss Pink would not have travelled to Alice Springs without the support of the Year of the Outback and Araluen Centre, especially staff Suzette Watkins, David Lloyd, Katherine Kilgariff and Greg Thompson.

Tracks is assisted by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body and the Northern Territory Government through the Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs. Tracks is Company in Residence at the Darwin Entertainment.

Thankyou to family and friends