

## **A Lifetime's Collaboration – Presentation at National Dance Forum, Sunday 17 March, 2013**

Questions asked of Wanta Jampijinpa Patrick and David McMicken by Tim Newth.  
Slide show, photos by Peter Eve.

### **Intro**

Introduce speakers

Today we are going to talk about a collaboration in our lives, and in doing so draw attention to the different reasons someone may choose to dance in a contemporary western Australian world or to a contemporary Warlpiri Australian world.

Introduce Steve and David by recalling the first time I meet them.

**Steve and David:** can you tell us about your Childhood? Your environment and whos around you?

### **Early memories of Dancing**

**Steve and David:** Early memories of you dancing

Talk about early 20's

- David taking up dance as a profession
- Steve you are now a man in Aboriginal terms what is dance now, have your responsibilities changed

Can you describe the place where you danced? Your teachers  
What defines when you dance and how long for?

How did you learn a dance and can you tell us a story of you being taught that dance?

Is it ok for you to show that dance to anyone you like and or would it be ok for you to teach that dance to someone?

### **Seeing each others Work**

**Steve:** Can you talk about the first time you saw the show we did in Lajamanu in 1988.

**David:** Can you tell us about the first time you saw Lajamanu dance

Can you talk about experiencing the business ceremony?

**Steve:** Outside of Lajamanu you have now seen a few of Tracks works, like the Melbourne tour, Lipstick and Ochre and You Dance Funny. Can you describe what you saw and how did it affect you, make you feel?

### **Talk about Ngapa two Cultures one country 1995/1996**

**Steve and David:** talk about what you learnt from the Ngapa project

### **Milpirri**

**Ten years later, Steve working at school** - lack of understanding between white fella education and Warlpiri education. **First suicide in Lajamanu** - questioning in the community about why did this young person feel such a sense of not belonging that he took his life. **Out of this Steve had an idea for a project**

**Steve:** can you talk about how Milpirri came about, the meaning of the word Milpirri and why you chose this metaphor

**In 2005 Tracks and the Lajamanu** community collaborated to create the **Milpirri**. This is now a biannual event that embraces and celebrates what it means to live with and upon this land as Australians. **Dance is its main focus.**

**David:** could you explain what the Milpirri performance is, who's in it, what would people see if they stumbled across it

**Steve and David:** How does the dancing come about for Milpirri, who decides what will be danced, who creates it, how long does it take?

### **Collaboration**

**The three of us have now known each other and worked together for over two decades, let's talk about collaboration**

Steve why do you chose to work with Tracks in the first place

David, why does Tracks as a dance company choose to continue to work in Lajamanu?

**Steve and David:** how has your world changed by knowing each other and working together over such a long time?