



A close-up photograph of a silver teapot pouring water into a glass cup. The water is captured mid-pour, creating a dynamic arc. The background is blurred with warm, bokeh light spots, suggesting an indoor setting with soft lighting.

*Welcome* to our first newsletter for 2014. We have an exciting program for this year and hope that you will be able to join us for some of the events. Be sure to mark them in your diary.

Since our last newsletter we have had two very successful events – our Christmas/Shavuot party and Dance Spot which was initiated by us but organised by a collaboration between CDFA and the Uniting Church.

### **Dance Spot 2014**

*Dance Spot 2014* was a wonderful mixed dance program for all dancers –of different cultural backgrounds, styles of dance and technical proficiency. A collaboration of styles and ages combined to deliver a tasty mix of dance 'spots'. Held at the Elm Centre in Parramatta, the geographical centre of Sydney, the program centred on a rich mix of works from differing ethnic backgrounds, by the professional to the beginner.

The program was inclusive, showcasing the often celebrated and cute beginner, to the less celebrated and often more thought provoking older dancer



The program was a collaboration of two organizations – the Uniting Church and the ChristianDance Fellowship of NSW. The intersection of these organizations produced an outpouring of dance works that could hardly be contained within a 2 hour program.

The program included works that presented a large cast of multi cultural dancers. For example about a dozen dancers from the Chinese Gospel Blossom Dance community, presented a graceful fan dance, called *You and Me*.

Men and women of the Dee Why Tonga community , together with dances lead by Lofa, filled the space with strong Tonga vocal and percussive dance works, that was so exhilarating that members of their family pressed money on their bodies as a sign of respect and support.



Jasmine Urquhart, an emerging young ballet student presented a crisp Mazurka from *Les Sylphides*. Younger modern and jazz students from Genesis Dance Academy stole our hearts with energy and spirit with a number of works. More thoughtful teenage works came from Jemima Smith on leaving childhood behind and Esther Perry on the challenges of Christian commitment.



What tied the production together was the common Christian focus of the works- some expressing community, Christian themes or the joy of dance.

The program also enabled the boundary between audience and performer to be blurred, with a few opportunities for the 'sitter' to try a few 'street moves' lead by *Go D' Artiz*, to join in a 'worship stretch or two' by the West family or a scripture movement meditation with Mary Jones. Apart from relieving the watcher from becoming stagnant, it enabled the audience to 'join in' with the spirit of the event and to worship God in the language of dance.



This event was not just for dancers but obviously those who love dance would love it best. It is for everybody, particularly those who love community and value getting involved or watching others getting involved.





*BOOK NOW FOR  
BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE OUTING*



*Previous productions*

**SATURDAY 28 JUNE at Sydney Opera House 2pm**

***Patyegarang – a new production***

**Tickets: Adults \$65 Under 30/Student \$35**

**Please contact Jenny Dennis at [jenny\\_dennis@yahoo.com](mailto:jenny_dennis@yahoo.com) by April 29**

**Tickets are limited so book early.**

**[www.icdf.com](http://www.icdf.com)**

*ICDF Foundation is building a financial support basis for the work of ICDF*