

## Dancers take Dreamtime to Stonehenge

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Cultures meet: The WA dancers have performed at Stonehenge for the Salisbury Arts Festival. ABC TV  
By Stephanie Kennedy in England

One of the world's most sacred sites has played host to one of the world's oldest cultures.

A group of Aboriginal dancers from the northern tip of Western Australia has taken the Dreamtime to Stonehenge in England.

The Bardi dancers related their traditional stories as they performed in the twilight to a sell-out audience at the Salisbury Arts Festival.

Festival director Jo Metcalf says Stonehenge is a traditional meeting place.

"And tonight what we're seeing is basically in the format of a corroboree, which is a traditional Aboriginal meeting," she said.

"So [the audience] liked the links between the ancient meeting place and the oldest living culture in the world."

The Bardi dance troop lives 200 kilometres north of Broome in Western Australia but despite the distance from home, dancer Frank Davey says he feels an affinity with the stones.

"We actually felt a bit back home after we went through the rocks," dancer Frank Davey said.

"And walking around this area, we sort of felt some sort of relationship with the rocks, actually."

He says the performance is a gentle reminder that past injustices are not forgotten.

"The first settlers did come from England and we came back here to let people know that we still survived," he said.

A similar event has only been staged once before at Stonehenge.

This time, the Bardi dancers were given permission to perform their traditional dances amongst the sacred and ancient stones on the site.

Made for the worship of ancient earth deities, the stones of the 5,000-year-old temple symbolise mystery, power and endurance.