



Closing the divisions

200-strong dance troupe puts on a suburban love story

Dance | Saeed Saeed

A NEW show by the Fawkner-based Anti Racism Action Band sees it cross both physical and personal borders.

As part of the Melbourne Festival, the 200-strong dance troupe ensemble will take its unique brand of theatre and dance to the CBD.

Artistic co-ordinator Jeremy Angerson said the show, *Northern Trax*, was about the social divide between Melbourne's zone two and zone one public transport regions.

Anderson said while that distance might not be much geographically, it was a journey

often denied to many northern suburbs' youth due to finance and privilege.

"I have spoken to about 15 kids from this group and they told me there is this strange ethos that you never cross the Bell St border," he said.

Through a series of performances across Flinders St, Degraives Lane and Northbank, *Northern Trax* tells the tale of a group of youths who travel from the northern suburbs to zone one to perform at a friend's wedding.

Due to a delay with a connecting train, the group decides to practise to pass the time.

Fifteen-year-old Glenroy student and ARAB actor Bree Synot, who has brittle bones disease and is often wheelchair-bound, said the group was often the only point of call for disaffected youths with creative steam to blow.

"We want to prove to people that we are not what they think we are," she said.

"We have heart and there are beautiful stories that come out from where we come from."

► **Northern Trax is performing across various venues around Melbourne CBD from Monday, October 18, to Saturday, October 23. Details, go to a.r.a.b-vass.com.**



Anti Racism Action band members Philip, Bree, Zein and Bridget.

Picture: MITCH BEAR N16ME101