

SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY ANNOUNCES FIRST EUROPEAN CO-PRODUCTION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DRESDEN FRANKURT DANCE COMPANY



Sydney Dance Company is thrilled to announce its first European co-production, in partnership with the acclaimed Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company.

Rafael Bonachela's *Lux Tenebris* will premiere in Sydney on February 29 2016, and will tour nationally to 19 venues across six states and territories, as part of Sydney Dance Company's double-bill program *CounterMove*.

The work will subsequently be set on the Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company, ahead of a premiere European season in September.

This co-production with one of the world's leading contemporary dance companies is a landmark achievement for Sydney Dance Company, which in its 46-year history has become recognised as one of Australia's most-prized cultural institutions.

The partnership acknowledges the Company as a major creative force in global contemporary dance, and recognises the synchronicity between two remarkable 21st Century artistic directors/choreographers, Rafael Bonachela and Jacopo Godani.

Lux Tenebris will also be an international showcase of Australian-based creative talent, bringing Rafael Bonachela's choreography and the work of regular Sydney Dance Company collaborators - composer Nick Wales and stage/lighting designer Benjamin Cisterne - to established Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company audiences.

Rafael Bonachela says, "I'm really excited to be collaborating with such an amazing company on the creation of this new work, and to present a European premiere in September. This new partnership represents a momentous achievement in our international programming activity, and a prized opportunity for showcasing Sydney Dance Company as a creative force on the world stage."

Jacopo Godani says, "I would like to express my pride about this future collaboration between the Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company and Sydney Dance Company in 2016. It represents a bridge of art communication, not only with another country but also with another continent."

The world premiere performance of *Lux Tenebris* by Sydney Dance Company will take place on Monday February 29 2016, at the Roslyn Packer Theatre Walsh Bay, Sydney, Australia.

The European premiere, by Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company, will be held in September 2016, at the Bockenheimer Depot, Frankfurt am Main / HELLERAU – European Center for the Arts, Dresden, Germany.

Sydney Dance Company is also set to present Godani's *Raw Models* as part of its *Interplay* program, at Switzerland's STEPS Festival in April 2016.

Tickets for Sydney Dance Company's *CounterMove* are now on sale at <http://www.sydneydancecompany.com/productions/countermove/#dates-and-times>

For further information visit www.sydneydancecompany.com, or follow us at:

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www.instagram.com/sydneydanceco

www.youtube.com/sydneydancecompany

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Lux Tenebris is a co-production of the Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company and Sydney Dance Company.

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Image: Rafael Bonachela and Jacopo Godani in the Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company rehearsal studio in Frankfurt last week. Photo by Raffaele Irace.

MEDIA CONTACT

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LUX TENEBRIS CREDITS

Artistic Director & Choreographer: Rafael Bonachela

Composer: Nick Wales

Costume Designer: Rafael Bonachela

Set and Lighting Designer: Benjamin Cisterne

LUX TENEBRIS AUSTRALIA SEASON DATES

AUSTRALIA

Performed by Sydney Dance Company, as part of their double-bill *CounterMove*.

Seasons

Sydney, Australia – Roslyn Packer Theatre, February 26 to March 12 (Previews February 26, 27, World premiere February 29)

Canberra, Australia – Canberra Theatre Centre, May 19 to 21

Melbourne, Australia – Southbank Theatre, May 25 to June 4

Regional tour dates - venues to be announced

Wollongong, Australia - June 17 to 18

Orange, Australia - June 22

Newcastle, Australia - June 25

Port Macquarie, Australia - June 29

Rockhampton, Australia - July 2

Gladstone, Australia - July 6

Cairns, Australia - July 9 to 10

Gold Coast, Australia - 15 to 16 July

Darwin, Australia - July 29

Geraldton, Australia - August 3

Mandurah, Australia - August 6

Albany, Australia - August 9

Bunbury, Australia - August 13

Bathurst, Australia - August 20

Griffith, Australia - August 24

Dubbo, Australia - August 27

ABOUT SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY

Sydney Dance Company is Australia's leading contemporary dance company, employing a full-time ensemble of 16 elite dancers, presenting new works in Sydney, around Australia and internationally, under the Artistic Direction of Rafael Bonachela.

Since 1985 Sydney Dance Company has been resident in purpose-built studios at Pier 4 in Sydney's Walsh Bay, minutes from the city's famed Harbour Bridge, which house the largest public dance class program in Australia, attracting nearly 80,000 participants each year.

A legendary force in contemporary dance in Australia, Sydney Dance Company will celebrate its 50th year in 2019.

More information, www.sydneydancecompany.com

ABOUT THE DRESDEN FRANKFURT DANCE COMPANY

The Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company is based in equal measure in the cities of Dresden and Frankfurt am Main, Germany. The Company is supported by the city of Dresden and the state of Saxony, as well as the city of Frankfurt am Main and the state of Hesse, and Company-in-Residence at HELLERAU – European Center for the Arts Dresden, and the Bockenheimer Depot in Frankfurt am Main.

Akin to Sydney Dance Company, the Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company employs a full-time ensemble of 14 elite level contemporary dancers and one apprentice, creating and presenting new works both nationally and internationally.

Since summer 2015, the Company is under the artistic direction of Jacopo Godani.

More information, <http://www.dresdenfrankfurtdancecompany.com/en/home/>

ABOUT RAFAEL BONACHELA

Rafael Bonachela's appointment as Artistic Director of Sydney Dance Company made international headlines around the dance world in 2009. His vision for the Company embraces a guiding principle that has seen the repertoire grow, with the addition of commissioned dance works from Australian and visiting international guest choreographers. These premiere works are often programmed alongside Bonachela's own creations, ensuring diversity for audiences and providing much sought after opportunities for his remarkable ensemble of dancers to be exposed to the work of some of the most in-demand choreographers of our time.

Full bio available at www.sydneydancecompany.com/artistic-director