

NEW FACES - SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY 2016 JOSEPHINE WEISE AND NELSON EARL



New year, new faces... Sydney Dance Company welcomes dancer Josephine Weise and trainee Nelson Earl.

Sydney Dance Company is excited to confirm that following the completion of her 2015 traineeship, dancer Josephine Weise has been offered a full time contract with the Company in 2016.

Originally from Longreach Queensland, 19-year-old Josephine commenced her dance training at the Pamela Marshall Academy of Dance, in Pialba, Hervey Bay. In 2013 she graduated from the Queensland Dance School of Excellence (QDSE) in association with Kelvin Grove State College.

In 2014, Josephine undertook full-time study as part of Sydney Dance Company's inaugural Pre-Professional Year program, and was selected to tour with the Company on a two-month understudy contract performing Rafael Bonachela's *2 One Another* in Western Australia, Queensland and regional New South Wales.

Last year Josie was offered an official traineeship with the Company, which saw her perform in Mira Calix's *Inside There Falls* at Sydney Festival; in Rafael Bonachela's *Frame of Mind* in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne; and in Rafael Bonachela's *Emergence* and Alexander Ekman's *Cacti*, as part of the Company's 2015 *De Novo* tour to the Northern Territory, South Australia, regional Victoria and Tasmania.

Sydney Dance Company Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela says, "I am delighted to officially bring Josie on board as part of the Company. It has been a pleasure to watch this exceptional young dancer grow and develop through her experience with us over the past two years. I look forward to working with her throughout this amazing year we have ahead."

In 2016 Sydney Dance Company is also thrilled to offer a five-month traineeship to recent Pre-Professional Year graduate, Nelson Earl.

Nineteen-year-old Nelson is a local dancer from Sydney's North Parramatta, and a graduate of Newtown High School of the Performing Arts.

Following his high school studies, Nelson completed Sydney Dance Company's Pre-Professional Year program in 2015, during which time he was selected to tour with Company on a three-month understudy contract performing Rafael Bonachela's *Emergence* and Alexander Ekman's *Cacti*, as part of the Company's 2015 *De Novo* tour to the Northern Territory, South Australia, regional Victoria and Tasmania.

Josephine and Nelson join Sydney Dance Company dancers Bernhard Knauer, Cass Mortimer-Eipper, Charmene Yap, Chloe Leong, Daniel Roberts, David Mack, Fiona Jopp, Holly Doyle, Janessa Dufty, Jesse Scales, Juliette Barton, Petros Treklis, Richard Cilli, Sam Young-Wright and Todd Sutherland.

The ensemble returned to the Company's Walsh Bay studios last week, going straight into rehearsals for the upcoming double bill season, *CounterMove*. The show opens at Roslyn Packer Theatre Walsh Bay February 26; Canberra Theatre Centre May 19; Southbank Theatre, Melbourne May 14; and will also tour to regional New South Wales, Queensland, Darwin and regional Western Australia this year.

Sydney Dance Company is Australia's premier contemporary dance company, employing 16 professional dancers and supporting the development of up and coming professionals through traineeships, secondments and intensive workshops.

For further information on the Company's dancers, go to www.sydneydancecompany.com/people/.

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Images: Nelson Earl and Josephine Weise in rehearsal for *CounterMove*. Photo by Peter Greig.

MEDIA CONTACT

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ABOUT SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY

Sydney Dance Company is Australia's leading contemporary dance company, presenting new works in Sydney, around Australia and internationally, under the Artistic Direction of Rafael Bonachela. Since 1985 the Company has been resident in purpose-built studios at Pier 4 in Sydney's Walsh Bay, minutes from the city's famed Harbour Bridge. Its studios 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

SEASON INFORMATION - CounterMove

A double bill comprising Alexander Ekman's *Cacti* and the world premiere of Rafael Bonachela's *Lux Tenebris*

Sydney season

Venue: Roslyn Packer Theatre, Walsh Bay

Dates: February 26 to March 12

Bookings: <https://www.roslynpackertheatre.com.au/whats-on/productions/2016/countermove/>

Canberra season

Venue: Canberra Theatre Centre

Dates: May 19 to 21

Bookings: <https://canberratheatrecentre.com.au/show/sydney-dance-company-countermove/>

Melbourne season

Venue: Southbank Theatre, Melbourne

Dates: May 25 to June 4

Bookings: <https://www.southbanktheatre.com.au/countermove>

National tour – Regional New South Wales, Queensland, Darwin, regional Western Australia

View full tour details at <http://www.sydneydancecompany.com/productions/countermove/#dates-and-times>