

MEDIA RELEASE

22 January 2014

Sydney Dance Company is excited to launch its 45th Anniversary Celebrations with the world premiere of...

INTERPLAY

Rafael Bonachela, Jacopo Godani, Gideon Obarzanek

Sydney, March 15 to April 5
Canberra, April 10 to 12
Melbourne, April 30 to May 10



Sydney Dance Company presents works from three prodigiously talented internationally acclaimed choreographers, bringing these super-talents together for an un-missable tour de force triple bill contemporary dance season.

Interplay opens in Sydney on March 15 until April 5, followed by performances in Canberra April 10 to 12, and Melbourne April 30 to May 10.

This is a not to be missed opportunity to experience the majesty of Australia's finest contemporary dancers, directed by three of the most visionary dance voices of our generation.

Interplay opens with the world premiere of Sydney Dance Company Artistic Director, Rafael Bonchela's latest work, *2 in D Minor*, set to the majestic sounds of one of Johann Sebastian Bach's renowned Partitas for solo violin. Inspired by musical discoveries made during his 2012 collaboration on *Project Rameau*, this new piece has been two years in the making and sees dancers from the Sydney Dance Company ensemble joined on stage by acclaimed violinist Veronique Serret.

In 2011 Sydney Dance Company invited esteemed Frankfurt based Italian dancer/choreographer Jacopo Godani to create a new work as part of their season *Shared Frequencies*. The Company is thrilled to bring this incredible artist back to Australia to restage his acclaimed production of the 'sleek and super sexy' (*The Australian*) *Raw Models*, for Sydney audiences, and introduce the show to Canberra and Melbourne for the first time.

For the finale performance of the evening, former Sydney Dance Company dancer, Gideon Obarzanek - who went on to found and direct contemporary dance company Chunky Move, returns to his beginnings, presenting a new work commissioned as part of Sydney Dance Company's 45th Anniversary celebrations. Created in collaboration with dramaturg David Woods, *L'Chaim!* (which translates from Hebrew and Yiddish to 'To Life!') is a playful and epic piece showcasing Obarzanek's genius for choreographing movement on a grand scale, employing the force of the full Sydney Dance Company ensemble, joined by actor Zoe Coombs Marr. (Note Zoe Coombs Marr will perform in Sydney only; David Woods will fill this role in Canberra and Melbourne).

Drawing together three distinct visions for dance, *Interplay* presents a triple bill of breathtaking ambition – a glorious salute to the state of contemporary dance, and an exhilarating reminder that sometimes the things that set us apart are the things that bind us closest together.

15 March – 5 April Sydney Theatre
10 – 12 April Canberra Theatre Centre
30 April – 10 May Southbank Theatre, Melbourne

BOOKINGS

Sydney: sydneytheatre.org.au or 02 9250 1999
Canberra: canberratheatrecentre.com.au or 02 6275 2700
Melbourne: mtc.com.au / 03 8688 0800

ENDS

Image: Sydney Dance Company's *Interplay*, featuring Charmene Yap and Andrew Crawford. Photo by Wendell Teodoro.

MEDIA CONTACT

For more information, images or interviews contact:

Julie Clark, Publicist, Sydney Dance Company / juliec@sydneydancecompany.com / 02 9258 4806 / 0409 517 738

ABOUT SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY

Sydney Dance Company is Australia's leading contemporary dance company, employing a full-time ensemble of sixteen dancers from around Australia and overseas, led by Artistic Director, Rafael Bonachela. In 2014, the Company celebrates its 45th year with three premiere seasons and an extensive touring program, taking in five of the country's capitals, in addition to regional centres across Queensland, Western Australia and New South Wales. For more information including the full program and booking details, go to www.sydneydancecompany.com.

SEASON INFORMATION

Sydney Dance Company presents

Interplay

Triple bill with 2 world premieres

Works by Rafael Bonachela, Jacopo Godani and Gideon Obarzanek

Duration approximately 2 hours including interval



Sydney Theatre
Season 15 March – 5 April 2014
Wednesday to Saturday 8pm
Preview Saturday 15 March 8pm
Early shows Tuesday 18 March and 1 April 6.30pm
Matinee Saturday 5 April 2pm
Secondary school matinee Tuesday 25 March 12pm
Bookings: sydneytheatre.org.au / 02 9250 1999

Canberra Theatre Centre
10 – 12 April 2014
Thursday to Saturday 7.30pm
Secondary school matinee Friday 11 April 12.30pm
Bookings: canberratheatrecentre.com.au / 02 6275 2700

Southbank Theatre, Melbourne
30 April – 10 May 2014
Wednesday to Saturday 8pm
Matinee Saturday 10 May 2pm
Secondary school matinee Tuesday 6 May 12pm
Bookings: mtc.com.au / 03 8688 0800

CHOREOGRAPHER BIOS

Rafael Bonachela (Sydney) Artistic Director, Sydney Dance Company

Rafael Bonachela was born in Barcelona where he began his early dance training before moving to London, and in 1992 joined the legendary Rambert Dance Company. He remained with Rambert as a dancer and Associate Choreographer until 2006 at which time he successfully set up the Bonachela Dance Company (BDC) to concentrate on the rapid rise of his choreographic career. As a choreographer, Rafael has been commissioned to make works for Candoco, George Piper Dances, ITDANSA Danza Contemporanea de Cuba, Transitions Dance Company and Dance Works Rotterdam amongst others. In 2008, Rafael premiered his first full-length production *360°* for Sydney Dance Company. Less than six months later, he was appointed Artistic Director making headlines around the dance world. 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. The premiere works are often programmed alongside Rafael'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. Bonachela is renowned for his collaborations with other contemporary artists including musicians such as Katie Noonan and Sarah Blasko and fashion designers including Dion Lee, Toni Maticevski and Josh Goot. Such collaborative efforts reflect the inspiration he finds and utilises from culture today. Since the premiere of *360°*, Rafael has created numerous works for Sydney Dance Company including *we unfold* (2009), *6 Breaths* (2010), *LANDforms* (2011), *2 One Another* (2012), *Project Rameau* (2012), *Emergence* (2013) and *Les Illuminations* (2013). In addition, he has remounted outstanding repertoire from BDC such as *Soledad* and *Irony of Fate* (2010) and *The Land of Yes & The Land of No* (2011). In April 2013, Kaldor Public Art Projects brought Rafael on board to develop the choreography for artists Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla's work *Revolving Door*, which was part of the acclaimed live performance art exhibition *13 Rooms*. Rafael was named one of *the (sydney) magazine's* Top 100 Most Influential People in 2012 for his efforts to popularise dance since taking on the job of Artistic Director with Sydney Dance Company and as curator of Australia's international festival of contemporary dance, Spring Dance at the Sydney Opera House in 2012. Rafael was named in the 2012 *Dance Australia* Critics Survey for the 'Most Outstanding Choreographer' and 'Best New Work' for *2 One Another*. This work won the 'Best Ensemble' Award in the 2012 Green Room Awards and the 2013 Australian Dance

Award for 'Outstanding Achievement in Choreography' and 'Outstanding Performance by a Company'. In February 2013, Rafael was honoured with an Officer's Cross of the Order of Civil Merit by His Majesty the King of Spain.

Jacopo Godani (Frankfurt)

Italian-born dancer-choreographer Jacopo Godani began studying classical ballet and modern dance techniques in 1984 at the Centro Studi Danza of La Spezia under the direction of Loredana Rovagna. He also pursued studies in the visual arts at the Fine Arts High School of Carrara. In 1986, Godani was accepted to further his studies at Maurice Bejart's international dance centre, Mudra, in Bruxelles, Belgium. Godani made his professional debut in 1988 performing with several Paris-based contemporary dance companies. As a dancer, he has worked with a range of international choreographers. In 1990, Godani formed his own Bruxelles-based company and began his choreographic career. His work in Bruxelles was produced by the theatre Atelier Saint'Anne and was supported by the arts festival Bruxelles Centra(a)l and the Plateau theatre. From 1991 to 2000, Godani was a leading soloist with William Forsythe's Ballett Frankfurt and has collaborated with Forsythe on the choreographic creation of many of Ballett Frankfurt's most representative pieces. Godani developed his career as a choreographer creating original works for a vast range of international companies. Sydney Dance Company presented the Australian premiere of Jacopo's work, *Raw Models*, in 2011.

Gideon Obarzanek (Melbourne)

Gideon became interested in dance towards the end of high school and after graduating deferred science at university to study at the Australian Ballet School. He later danced with the Queensland Ballet and the Sydney Dance Company before working as an independent performer and choreographer with various dance companies and independent projects within Australia and abroad. Gideon founded Chunky Move in 1995 and was the company's Artistic Director until 2012. His works for Chunky Move have been diverse in form and content including stage productions, installations, site-specific works and film. Gideon's works have been performed in many festivals and theatres around the world in the U.K, Europe, Asia and the Americas. Gideon's film, *Dance Like Your Old Man*, co-directed with Edwina Throsby, won best short documentary at the 2007 Melbourne International Film Festival, 2008 Flickerfest International Film Festival and the 2008 Cinedans Film Festival in Amsterdam. In collaboration with Lucy Guerin and Michael Kantor, Gideon has also received a New York Bessie award for Outstanding Choreography and Creation for Chunky Move's production of *Tense Dave*. In 2008 he received two Australian Helpmann Awards for *Glow* and *Mortal Engine*. In 2012, Gideon created a new work for The Australian Ballet's 50th anniversary season. *There's Definitely a Prince Involved* meshed classical and contemporary dance with documentary-style commentaries to popular and critical acclaim. In the same year, Gideon was also an Associate Artist of Sydney Theatre Company. He wrote and directed, *Dance Better at Parties*, which premiered during their 2013 season. With filmmaker, Mathew Bate, Gideon will also co-direct a documentary/ drama film of the same work to premiere at the Adelaide Film Festival and broadcast on ABC Television.