

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11 September 2013

SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY CELEBRATES 45 YEARS IN 2014 WITH THREE WORLD PREMIERE SYDNEY SEASONS



Sydney Dance Company celebrates its 45th year in 2014 with three premiere seasons and an extensive touring program, which will see Australia's leading contemporary dance company perform in five of the country's capitals, in addition to regional centres across Queensland and Western Australia.

The Company will commission eight new works in the coming 12 months, including two works from Sydney Dance Company Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela, alongside works from renowned Greek choreographer Andonis Foniadakis and celebrated Melbourne choreographer Gideon Obarzanek.

Four up and coming choreographers, who are yet to be chosen, will be given the opportunity to create works on the Company's dancers for the November season of ***New Breed***.

The Company opens 2014 with an exciting triple bill season, ***Interplay***, which will premiere in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne.

The show brings together three internationally esteemed contemporary choreographers - Rafael Bonachela, Melbourne's Gideon Obarzanek and Italy's Jacopo Godani, for what promises to be a breathtaking presentation.

For his new work Bonachela will re-imagine Bach's majestic *Partitas for solo violin in D Minor*, to live music performed by violinist Veronique Serret, whilst Obarzanek will debut a spirited, epic work for the entire Company.

Sydney Dance Company is also thrilled to be bringing Jacopo Godani back to Australia to restage his acclaimed production of the 'sleek and super sexy' (*The Australian*) ***Raw Models***, which makes its return to the Sydney stage, following its explosive 2011 premiere.

In October the Company presents ***Louder than Words***, a double bill featuring new works by Rafael Bonachela and award-winning Paris-based choreographer Andonis Foniadakis, whose previous collaborations have included commissions for Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, Geneva Ballet, Lyon Opera Ballet and many more.

The Company will end the year in Sydney by partnering with Carriageworks to present ***New Breed***, featuring works from four emerging choreographers, who are yet to be selected.

Sydney Dance Company Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela says, "I am thrilled to be presenting this exciting program in the Company's 45th year, featuring eight newly commissioned works that will give audiences a taste of the contemporary and the now from a diverse range of artistic voices from around the country and the world."

"From internationally renowned artists to Australia's own choreographers of the future, I look forward with much anticipation to working with each of these unique talents on the creation of new works that will inspire and delight," Bonachela concludes.

Also in 2014, Sydney Dance Company will also tour its critically acclaimed production of Bonachela's ***2 One Another*** throughout Queensland and Western Australia. This stunning performance has won multiple awards including Most Outstanding Choreography, Most Outstanding Performance by a Company and Most Outstanding Female Dancer (Australian Dance Awards 2013), Best Ensemble and Best Female Dancer (Green Room Awards 2012) and Best Female Dancer (Helpmann Awards 2012). In September and October 2013 the show will tour to North, and South America, Mexico and Russia.

A partnership with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra will see eight of the Company's dancers perform as part of a limited season presentation of Richard Strauss' one-act opera, ***Elektra***, featuring newly commissioned choreography by award-winning dancer and choreographer Stephanie Lake.

And the Queensland Symphony Orchestra will present a Brisbane performance of Sydney Dance Company's acclaimed ***Les Illuminations***, featuring the illustrious Katie Noonan, which sold out prior to opening for its premiere season in Sydney this August.

Additional national and international tour dates are to be announced in the near future.

To view the full Sydney Dance Company 2014 Program, go to www.sydneydancecompany.com.

Limited tickets go on sale Wednesday September 11.

BOOKINGS

Sydney Theatre, sydneytheatre.org.au / 02 9250 1999 or
Melbourne Southbank Theatre, mtc.com.au / 03 8688 0800

See sydneydancecompany.com for booking details for all other venues.

ENDS

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

MEDIA CONTACT

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ABOUT SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY



MEDIA RELEASE

10 September 2013

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, the company celebrates its 45th year in 2014.

More information, www.sydneydancecompany.com



**SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY
CELEBRATING 45 YEARS IN 2014
PROGRAM**

***Note further national and international tour dates to be announced*

Sydney Dance Company presents

Interplay

Triple bill with 2 world premieres

Works by Rafael Bonachela, Gideon Obarzanek and Jacopo Godani

Sydney Theatre

15 March – 5 April 2014

Tickets on sale now: sydneytheatre.org.au / 02 9250 1999

Canberra Theatre Centre

10 – 12 April 2014

Tickets on sale 13 October: canberratheatrecentre.com.au / 02 6275 2700

Southbank Theatre, The Sumner, Melbourne

30 April – 10 May 2014

Tickets on sale now: mtc.com.au / 03 8688 0800

Sydney Dance Company on tour!

2 One Another

Choreography by Rafael Bonachela

His Majesty's Theatre, Perth

18 – 21 June 2014

Tickets: hismajestystheatre.com.au / 08 9625 0900

Mandurah Performing Arts Centre

25 June 2014

Tickets: manpac.com.au / 08 9550 3900

Albany Entertainment Centre

28 June 2014

Tickets: albanyentertainment.com.au / 08 9844 5000

Bunbury Entertainment Centre

2 July 2014

Tickets: bunburyentertainment.com.au / 1300 661 272

Queens Park Theatre, Geraldton

5 July 2014

Tickets: queensparktheatre.com.au / 08 9956 6662

Cairns Civic Theatre

11 – 12 July 2014

Tickets: cairnscivictheatre.com.au / 07 4050 7777

Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre

16 July 2014

Tickets: mackayecc.com.au / 07 4961 9700

Pilbeam Theatre, Rockhampton

19 July 2014

Tickets: pilbeamtheatre.com.au / 07 4927 4111

Townsville Civic Theatre

23 July 2014

Tickets: townsville.qld.gov.au/facilities/theatres/civictheatre/pages/default.aspx / 07 4727 9797

The Arts Centre Gold Coast

26 July 2014

Tickets: theartscentregc.com.au / 07 5588 4000

Sydney Dance Company presents

Louder than Words

Works by Rafael Bonachela and Andonis Foniadakis

Double bill

2 world premieres

Sydney Theatre

8 – 18 October 2014

Tickets on sale now: sydneytheatre.org.au / 02 9250 1999

Sydney Dance Company and Carriageworks present

New Breed

Works by four upcoming choreographers to be selected by Rafael Bonachela

Created on the Sydney Dance Company dancers

4 world premieres

Bay 20, Carriageworks

5 - 8 November 2014

Tickets on sale NOW when you purchase a 2014 Sydney Season Package through Sydney Theatre:
sydneytheatre.org.au / 02 9250 1999

SPECIAL PROJECTS

You can also see Sydney Dance Company perform at:

Sydney Symphony Orchestra presents

Elektra

World premiere featuring dancers from the Sydney Dance Company ensemble

Choreography by Stephanie Lake

A semi-staged production of Richard Strauss' one-act opera

22 + 24 February 2014

Sydney Opera House Concert Hall

Tickets on sale now: sydneyopera.com or 02 8215 4600



MEDIA RELEASE

10 September 2013

Queensland Symphony Orchestra presents

Les Illuminations

Featuring dancers from the Sydney Dance Company ensemble and Katie Noonan

Choreography by Rafael Bonachela

Created in celebration of 100 years of British composer Benjamin Britten

QPAC Concert Hall

14 June 2014

Tickets on sale now: qso.com.au / 136 246



**SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY
CELEBRATING 45 YEARS
2014 CHOREOGRAPHERS**

Rafael Bonachela (Sydney)

Artistic Director, Sydney Dance Company

Interplay/ New work, World premiere

March – May

Les Illuminations/ Brisbane premiere

June

2 One Another/ Western Australia and Queensland tour

June - July

Louder than Words/ New work, World premiere

October

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.

Gideon Obarzanek (Melbourne)

Interplay/ New work, World premiere

March - May

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.

Jacopo Godani (Italy)

Interplay/ Raw Models, Melbourne and Canberra premieres
March - May

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) 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.

Andonis Foniadakis (Paris)

Louder than Words, New work, World premiere
October

Andonis Foniadakis is from the small city of Ierapetra in the south of Crete, Greece. He began his early dance training with Niki Papadaki at a local dance school and from 1990-1992 he continued his studies at the State Dance School of Athens. Prior to his graduation he received the prestigious Maria Callas Scholarship, which allowed him to train at Rudra Bejart Lausanne, Switzerland from 1992-1994. As a dancer Andonis has performed with Béjart Ballet Lausanne (1994-1996) under the direction of Maurice Bejart; Lyon Opera Ballet (1996-2002) under the direction of Yorgos Loukos; Saburo Teshigawara / Karas Company (2004) under the direction of Saburo Teshigawara; and his own dance Company, Apotosoma. He has also performed works by choreographers such as Maguy Marin, Jiri Kylian, William Forsythe, Dominique Boivin, Nacho Duato, Mats Ek, Maurice Bejart, Ohad Naharin, Frederic Flamand, Bill T Jones, Herve Robbe, Tero Saarinen, Lionel Hoche, Joachim Schlomer, John Jasperse and Saburo Teshigawara. As a freelance choreographer Andonis has created works for Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, Geneva Ballet, Lyon Opera Ballet, Bern Ballet, Ballet du Rhin, MaggioDanza, National Dance Company of Wales, Dansgroep Amsterdam, Cia Sociedade Masculina-Brazil, Bale da Cidade of Sao Paulo Brazil, Helsinki Dance Company Finland, National Ballet of Greece, National Theater of Northern Greece, Benjamin Millepied Dance Company USA, Washington Ballet, Bejart Ballet Lausanne, Ballet Junior Geneva, Hellenic Dance Company, CNSMD Lyon and Copenhagen International Dance Festival. He has also been commissioned to choreograph two operas: Opera National du Rhin's *Les boreades of Rameau* and Graeme Lyon's *Il canto de la pelle of Claudio Ambrosini*. In 2012 he received the Danza and Danza Award for Best Choreography 2012 in Italy for the creation of *Les Nocces* with MaggioDanza. He has also worked as movement coordinator for the highly anticipated film *Noah* by Darren Aronofsky which will premiere in 2014. In addition to

creating and performing, Andonis regularly teaches seminars centred on his own dance technique for institutions such as the State Dance School of Greece, DAN.C.CE Studios and Baile de Barrio in Athens, Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv, DOCK11 in Berlin, CND and CNSMD in Lyon, Dansgroep Amsterdam, Henny Jurriens Studio Amsterdam and Kuopio Dance Festival. Adonis's dance company Apotosoma started in 2003 in Lyon France. His works have been performed in France, Greece, Italy, Finland, Luxembourg, England and USA.

Stephanie Lake (Melbourne)

Elektra, World premiere

February

Stephanie Lake is an award winning dancer and choreographer based in Melbourne. Having danced with some of Australia's best contemporary dance companies over the past ten years, Lake now brings focus to her choreographic work. In 2012 she created *Dream Lucid* for Sydney Dance Company's *Contemporary Women*. She has also had commissions from Chunky Move, Lucy Guerin Inc., Stompin and Melbourne International Arts Festival, as well as independent projects including music film clips, advertising and several large-scale public dance works involving nearly one thousand participants. Her work, *Mix Tape*, was winner of the Green Room Award for Best Choreography in 2011 and she has been nominated for Best Choreographer for her work *Dual* at the 2013 Helpmann Awards. Lake's unique movement style combines recklessness and precision, marrying abstraction and emotion. She reaches for the extremity of physical exploration in her works. Bodies are flung, made molten and cascade into percussive phrasings that lead to moments of delicacy. She strives for complexity and beauty.