

MEDIA RELEASE

May 26, 2014

For immediate release

**Join in the world's biggest dance event
BIG DANCE - Australia
Sunday July 13, Sydney Opera House**



Join in the world's biggest dance event when Big Dance hits Sydney, Australia for the first time in July 2014.

This biennial event, which began in the UK in 2006, has quickly grown into an international dance sensation, with more than two million people around the world taking part since it began.

And this year, for the first time, Australians have the chance to join in when Big Dance comes to the Sydney Opera House, on Sunday July 13.

Proudly presented by Sydney Dance Company as part of their 45th Anniversary celebrations, and as a way of saying thank you to the city that has supported them since their inception, Big Dance is a free event open to people of all ages and all dance abilities.

Participants are invited to register online so they can access videos of the specially commissioned Big Dance choreography, created for Big Dance UK by Australia's own Rafael Bonachela, Artistic Director of Sydney Dance Company.

"It's an honour to be invited to create the choreography for this incredible international event," says Bonachela of Big Dance, which has previously been choreographed by Wayne McGregor, Luca Silvestrini, Aletta Collins and Jeanfer Jean-Charles.

"Big Dance is an opportunity to share the joy of dance with the wider community. I just love to dance and I believe everyone can have that feeling, at whatever age. You don't need to be a dancer to dance!" he continues.

"For this commission I wanted most of all to celebrate the shared joy of dancing together - the moment when you realise that human energy spent on a creative output must put positivity into the world. So the piece is both fun and accessible. It isn't about technique or precision, it is just about energy, movement and bridging the distance between us all."



**CELEBRATING
45 YEARS
1969-2014**

Bonachela's new five-minute dance work incorporating more than 2,000 dancers will premiere simultaneously at 9am on Sunday July 13 on the Northern Broadwalk at Sydney Opera House, and midnight in London's Trafalgar Square and Glasgow.

With all three sites being linked via a live stream satellite hook up, this is an opportunity for Sydneysiders to help make dance history as part of this massive international performance featuring more than 6,000 dancers, and most importantly, as a member of the inaugural Big Dance Australia team!

Free Big Dance classes will be held throughout the city in the weeks leading up to the performance – visit www.sydneydancecompany.com/BigDance for details.

Sydney Dance Company is proud to join forces internationally with the Mayor of London, founder of the Big Dance initiative, and locally with the Australia Council, Sydney Opera House, the City of Sydney and Ausdance NSW, to present this opportunity for Sydneysiders to connect to the international community through dance and put Australian dance onto the world stage.

Register now at www.sydneydancecompany.com/BigDance. You can register as an individual or as a dance or community group.

facebook.com/sydneydanceco
twitter.com/sydneydanceco
instagram.com/sydneydanceco
youtube.com/sydneydancecompany

Image: You're invited to join in Big Dance Australia! Photo by Peter Greig.

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MEDIA CONTACT

For more information, images or interviews contact:

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ABOUT BIG DANCE

Big Dance is a biennial festival, which was founded by the Mayor of London in 2006. In the UK it is led by the Mayor of London and Foundation for Community Dance and produced in partnership with a network of Big Dance hubs across London and the regions and nations of the UK. Big Dance 2014 is a partnership initiative led by the Greater London Authority, The Foundation for Community Dance, Sydney Dance Company, Get Scotland Dancing, Arts Council England and the British Council.

Big Dance Australia 2014 is produced by Sydney Dance Company, assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body; in partnership with The City of Sydney; Sydney Opera House; and Ausdance NSW.

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 the full program and booking details, go to www.sydneydancecompany.com.



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Sydney Dance Company also offers an Open Program comprising more than 70 dance and fitness classes each week for ages 16 and up, at their world-class dance studios overlooking Sydney Harbour in Walsh Bay.