

**MEDIA RELEASE**

August 20, 2014

For immediate release

Sydney Dance Company presents  
**Louder Than Words**  
Andonis Foniadakis and Rafael Bonachela  
Two world premieres  
Sydney Theatre, October 4 to 18



Sydney Dance Company is proud to present an exclusive Sydney season featuring world premiere works from two modern masters - esteemed Greek choreographer Andonis Foniadakis, in his debut presentation to Australian audiences, and Sydney Dance Company Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela. From measured grace to explosive power, **Louder Than Words** is beautiful, brash, bold and unapologetic, a showcase of movement that's impossible to contain.

One of Europe's most exciting young dancer/choreographers, Andonis Foniadakis has danced with Béjart Ballet Lausanne, Lyon Opera Ballet, Saburo Teshigawara / Karas Company and performed works by choreographers including 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 and John Jasperse. In 2003 he formed his own dance company, Apotosoma, based in Lyon.

As a choreographer he has created works for some of the world's most distinguished and recognised dance companies including Martha Graham Dance Company, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, Geneva Ballet, Lyon Opera Ballet, Bern Ballet, Ballet du Rhin and MaggioDanza. He has also been commissioned to choreograph two operas: Opera National du Rhin's *Les boreades of Rameau* and Grame's *Il canto de la pelle of Claudio Ambrosini*. In 2013 he made his film industry debut, collaborating with Darren Aronofsky, as movement coordinator for the epic film *Noah* starring Russell Crowe.

In ***Parenthesis***, his new work for Sydney Dance Company, Foniadakis focuses on the relation of duality in an intimate relationship, creating an environment of sensuality, comfort and ease, whilst also exploring the feelings of disorder, discomfort and chaos that results when the balance is disrupted.

The production features an original score by French composer Julien Tarride and costumes by renowned Greek fashion designer/ photographer Tassos Sofroniou. Both are regular collaborators with Foniadiakis, and join him in Sydney to contribute to the creation of the piece, ahead of its October premiere.

Rafael Bonachela's new work takes inspiration from poetry and music, drawing on the words of fourteenth-century Italian scholar and poet Petrarch (Francesco Petrarca), as interpreted by acclaimed GRAMMY® nominated British composer Tarik O'Regan and Australian composer Nick Wales.

***Scattered Rhymes*** takes its name from O'Regan's acclaimed choral composition *Scattered Rhymes*, originally commissioned for London's Spitalfields Festival, in which sonnets from Petrarch's famous *Canzoniere* are interlaced with stanzas from an anonymous poem found in a fourteenth century collation of English love songs. Each piece of writing toys with the ambiguities of unrequited, sensuous and divine love.

The final score, commissioned by Sydney Dance Company for Bonachela's new piece, brings together this very pure element of achingly beautiful poetry being sung a cappella, with more dark electronic interludes created in the studio by Nick Wales.

O'Regan will return to Sydney in October for the production's world premiere.

Book now for *Louder than Words* at Sydney Theatre, 11 shows only, October 4 to 18. Tickets from \$45, group concessions for six people or more. Book at [www.sydneytheatre.org.au/whats-on/productions/2014/louder-than-words](http://www.sydneytheatre.org.au/whats-on/productions/2014/louder-than-words) or phone 9250 1999.

For the latest information, behind the scenes news and updates subscribe at [www.sydneydancecompany.com](http://www.sydneydancecompany.com), or follow us at:

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Image: Sydney Dance Company's Fiona Jopp. Photo by Justin Ridler

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See season information and background info over page

**MEDIA CONTACT**

**For more information, images or interviews contact:**

Julie Clark, Publicist, Sydney Dance Company, / [juliec@sydneydancecompany.com](mailto:juliec@sydneydancecompany.com) / 0409 517 738

**SEASON INFORMATION**

***Louder than Words***

Sydney Theatre, 22 Hickson Road, Walsh Bay  
4 – 18 October 2014

***Parenthesis*** by Andonis Foniadakis

**Music** Julien Tarride

**Costume Design** Tassos Sofroniou

**Lighting and Stage Design** Andonis Foniadakis and Benjamin Cisterne

***Scattered Rhymes*** by Rafael Bonachela

**Music** Tarik O'Regan and Nick Wales

**Costumes** Rafael Bonachela

**Costume Design Realisation** Fiona Holley

**Lighting and Stage Design** Benjamin Cisterne

Preview Saturday 4 October, 8pm

Preview Tuesday 7 October, 6.30pm

Opening Wednesday 8 October, 8pm

Thursday 9 – Friday 10 October, 8pm

Saturday 11 October, 2pm & 8pm

Wednesday 15 – Saturday 18 October, 8pm

Duration approximately 100 mins including interval

Premium \$75 | A Reserve \$60 | B Reserve \$45 | Concession A Reserve \$45 | Under 30 A Reserve (Tues-Thur) \$30  
Groups 6+ Premium \$65 | Group 6+ A Reserve \$50 | Group 6+ B Reserve \$35

Book at [www.sydneytheatre.org.au/whats-on/productions/2014/louder-than-words](http://www.sydneytheatre.org.au/whats-on/productions/2014/louder-than-words) or phone 02 9250 1999

Secondary school matinee, Tuesday 14 October, 12pm

Primary school matinee, Thursday 16 October 10.30am

For school matinee bookings visit <http://www.sydneydancecompany.com/ltw-school-matinee-registrations>.

## **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. The Company celebrates 45 years in 2014. More information, [www.sydneydancecompany.com](http://www.sydneydancecompany.com)

## **CHOREOGRAPHER BIOS**

### **Andonis Foniadakis**

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 to 1992 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 Theatre 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 Grame 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 Noces* 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.

### **Rafael Bonachela**

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. Rafael Bonachela's internationally recognised talent has seen him work not only with contemporary dance at the highest level but also with artists from popular culture, such as Kylie Minogue, Tina Turner, Sarah Blasko and Katie Noonan as well as leading fashion designers Dion Lee and Toni Matceviski. Such collaborative efforts reflect the inspiration he finds and utilises from culture today. Since the premiere of *360°*, Rafael has created several pieces for Sydney Dance Company including *we unfold* (2009), *6 Breaths* (2010), *LANDforms* (2011), *2 One Another* (2012), *Project Rameau* (2012), *Emergence* (2013), *Les Illuminations* (2013) and *2 in D Minor* (2014). 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 winner of the dance category for *The Monthly's* 2013 Arts Awards and listed as 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 February 2013, Rafael was honoured with an Officer's Cross of the Order of Civil Merit by His Majesty the King of Spain. Rafael's *2 One Another* 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'. His work *Emergence* has recently been nominated for an Australian Dance Award for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography and *Les Illuminations* was nominated for Best Choreography for a Dance Work for the 2014 Helpmann Awards.