

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY AND CARRIAGEWORKS PRESENT

NEW BREED

Five up and coming Australian choreographers create works on Sydney Dance Company's dancers
Five shows only, 5 to 8 November 2014



In this exclusive season of ***New Breed***, presented by Sydney Dance Company and Carriageworks, five up and coming Australian choreographers present new works, created on and performed by the country's most exceptional and versatile contemporary dancers, from the Sydney Dance Company ensemble.

Juliette Barton's *Scrutineer* is a personal exploration into a central theme of dissection. Under watchful eye from the inside and out the dancer is lead to morph, dissect and reconfigure.

Inspired by the theme of portion-sized friendship, **Cass Mortimer Eipper's, *Dogs and Baristas*** is a comical work exploring the affection generated by small or limited interactions. Whether it's a little attention from our impossible-to-ignore barista, or Rex the dog's over-eager enthusiasm, we'll take it. Featuring Tom Bradley, Charmene Yap, David Mack, Jesse Scales and Holly Doyle.

In Gabrielle Nankivell's *Wildebeest* a horse twitches and paws the dark, past flickers from the edge; Arrive awaiting wildebeest, seek stardust for your end; Slivered shards of splintered thought falling to reform, shattered light of whirring force illuminate the storm. Featuring music by Luke Smiles motion laboratories, with dancers Janessa Dufty, David Mack, Thomas Bradley, Charmene Yap, Chris

Aubrey, Holly Doyle, Fiona Jopp, Jesse Scales, Cass Mortimer-Eipper, Paul Knobloch, Jessica Thompson, Bernhard Knauer and Chen Wen.

The works of Australian painter Stephen Bush are re-imagined into performance in Lee Serle's **White Elephant**. The elephant, a reoccurring figure in Bush's paintings, is drawn irresistibly into a surreal moving landscape saturated in colour, which the dancers inhabit and embody. Danced by Chris Aubrey, Juliette Barton, Janessa Dufty, Chen Wen, Fiona Jopp, Jessica Thompson and Bernhard Knauer.

Charmene Yap's, *Do we?* is a playful and precise interaction of personalities informed by music and movement, featuring Cass Mortimer Eipper and Holly Doyle.

Showcasing a rich diversity of ideas, this incredibly talented quintet of choreographers, hand picked by Sydney Dance Company Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela, have each been given four weeks in the studio to turn their concept into reality. Join us to discover just how deep their talent runs.

Limited season, five shows only at Carriageworks, November 5 to 8, 2014. Tickets are on sale now at sydneydancecompany.com/newbreed and carriageworks.com.au/. All tickets \$35.

This exclusive season of **New Breed** is supported by the Balnaves Foundation.

For the latest **New Breed** information, behind the scenes news and updates subscribe at sydneydancecompany.com, or follow us at facebook.com/sydneydanceco | twitter.com/sydneydanceco | instagram.com/sydneydanceco | youtube.com/sydneydancecompany.

ENDS

Image: Juliette Barton, Scrutineer. 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. More information, www.sydneydancecompany.com.

ABOUT CARRIAGEWORKS

Carriageworks is the largest and most significant contemporary multi-arts centre of its kind in Australia. Engaging artists and audiences with contemporary ideas and issues, Carriageworks has a reputation for presenting large-scale immersive programs that are artist led and emerge from Carriageworks' commitment to reflecting social and cultural diversity. The Carriageworks artistic program is ambitious, risk taking and unrelenting in its support of artists. carriageworks.com.au

ABOUT NEW BREED

Sydney Dance Company's *New Breed* program debuted in 2009, as a platform for the 'New Breed' of Australian choreographic talent to introduce their work to local audiences. The program is being continued in 2014 – 2016, thanks to a new partnership with Carriageworks, and generous support from the Balnaves Foundation. Being given such an opportunity to work with the Sydney Dance Company dancers has been likened to 'being taken into a Rolls-Royce showroom [and] ... given a bunch of keys' (The Australian). Set to be a wonderful exploration of fresh ideas and movement, *New Breed* will unleash the prowess of our dancers through five short works.

See choreographer bios and quotes overpage

CHOREOGRAPHER BIOS + QUOTES

Juliette Barton

Juliette was born in Perth, where she completed the majority of her dance training, first at the Graduate College of Dance with Terri Charlesworth, and then at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) with an Advanced Diploma in Dance in 2003. Her studies followed with a Bachelor of Arts in Dance in 2004, obtained as a member of LINK Dance Company in affiliation with Edith Cowan University. She also studied at Purchase College Dance Conservatory in New York for 6 months through the exchange program at WAAPA.

In her early professional career Juliette worked with Australian choreographers Sue Peacock and Olivia Millard before heading overseas in 2006. During this time she performed with Diversions Dance Company in Wales before joining Russell Maliphant Company, with whom she toured extensively over a period of three years. Throughout 2008 Juliette worked on a new creation with London based choreographer Zoi Dimitriou, *Goddesses in Exile*, a duet which premiered at The Robin Howard Dance Theatre, The Place, London, followed by performances at the Athens Festival and at the Bonnie Bird Theatre, Laban, London. She also performed in The Place Prize with choreographer Kyoung Shin Kim in his new creation, *Oblivion*, and was employed as a dancer for a choreographic research project directed by Wayne McGregor at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden.

Juliette joined Sydney Dance Company in 2009 and has since worked with choreographer / director Rafael Bonachela as well as guest choreographers Aszure Barton, Kenneth Kvarnstrom, Adam Linder, Emanuel Gat, Lisa Wilson, Emily Amisano, Alexander Ekman, Jacopo Godani and Gideon Obarzanek. Juliette has toured with the Company to Venice, New York, Barcelona, London, South America, North America, Russia and China.

Juliette Barton:

'Throughout my career I have had the opportunity of working with many different choreographers, in a multitude of creative processes. I have come to a place where I am keen to spend time exploring my own stylistic, choreographic voice. I have decided to explore some of my ideas in the solo realm. It will no doubt be a challenge and a learning curve. However it is a challenge that I felt compelled to take on and I am excited to see what new and updated information I discover about myself in the process.'

Cass Mortimer Eipper

Born in Melbourne, Cass trained at the Australian Ballet School and performed with the West Australian Ballet from 2006-2009 being named Most Outstanding Dancer and Choreographer to Watch in *Dance Australia's* Critics Survey 2009. While working with the West Australian Ballet, Cass was commissioned to choreograph numerous works, including *It Is*, *Soul Searching*, *Adaptation*, *Ludwig Ravelling* and in 2013, *Yes I'll move for you* which was recently mentioned in the 2013 *Dance Australia* Critics Survey for Best New Work and Most Outstanding Choreographer.

In 2010 Cass became co-director of the Australian dance/media company, Ludwig, where he created and performed in several dance works including *Solo 1.5*, which was awarded Most Outstanding Performance at the 2011 Rome International Choreography Competition. In 2012 he was awarded 3rd prize at the Stuttgart International Dance Theatre Festival for his performance in *BodySong*, choreographed by Emma Sandall. In 2012 Cass co-created and performed *Fleck&Flecker* with Emma Sandall, which in 2013 was awarded Most Outstanding Choreography at the West Australian Dance Awards and named Best New Work in *Dance Australia's* 2013 Critics Survey. Cass has also choreographed on Link Dance Company, *So You Think You Can Dance Australia* and for various commercial events.

Cass joined Sydney Dance Company in January 2013 and has since worked with choreographer / director Rafael Bonachela as well as guest choreographers Larissa McGowan, Alexander Ekman, Jacopo Godani and Gideon Obarzanek. In 2013, Cass was part of the acclaimed international tour of Bonachela's *2 One Another* to North America, South America and Russia.

Cass Mortimer Eipper:

"At the age of 21 I was fortunate to be commissioned by West Australian Ballet, (the company I danced with at the time.) I had never considered myself a choreographer until this point. From here a new passion grew and several choreographic opportunities followed. Four years later I decided to take the risk of leaving my secure job to co-direct the dance/media company Ludwig. This was a huge learning curb that changed my understanding of dance and contemporary performance as a whole. I started to become aware of the many elements that could infiltrate my work and that all facets of creativity can meet and blend. On joining Sydney Dance Company I had secretly hoped to get a chance to create on these incredible artists and feel very fortunate to have been granted the opportunity to continue developing my choreographic voice."

Gabrielle Nankivell

Gabrielle's performance and collaboration credits since 2000 include an eclectic selection of internationally renowned companies and artists. Honing her career in Europe with Belgian artists Alexander Baervoets and Ultima Vez/Wim Vandekeybus, she has also lived and worked in Germany, Denmark, Slovenia and Portugal. She has toured extensively with a variety of dance and physical theatre productions. Since re-connecting with Australia through her own projects, Gabrielle has collaborated, performed and toured internationally with Australian Dance Theatre, Splintergroup, Animal Farm Collective, Torque Show, Chunky Move, KAGE and Branch Nebula.

Gabrielle's choreographic work has been presented in 10 countries. She was co-founder/director of the Slovenian-based project initiative OX with Jurij Konjar from 2003-2007 and has also worked collaboratively with Raul Maia (Portugal) and Thomas Steyaert (Belgium). She is currently working on several new choreographic projects supported by Adelaide Festival Centre's inSPACE development program and Strut Dance - The National Choreographic Centre of Western Australia.

In 2011 Gabrielle's solo *I left my shoes on warm concrete and stood in the rain* toured nationally through Mobile States earning her a 2012 Australian Dance Award nomination for Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer. Gabrielle was choreographer for Windmill Theatre's Helpmann Award-winning *School Dance* in 2012 and Movement Coordinator for *Girl Asleep* and the 2014 Adelaide Festival *Trilogy* commission.

Alongside her performance work, Gabrielle leads classes and workshops for professional dance companies and training institutions in Australia and abroad and has created numerous performance works as a guest choreographer for the Adelaide College of the Arts and the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. In 1999 Gabrielle was awarded a Marten Bequest Travelling Scholarship. She also received scholarships for Vienna's Impulstanz Festival in 2001 & 2005.

Gabrielle completed formal training with Jacqueline Tucker in Adelaide, holds a Bachelor of Dance (Victorian College of the Arts), a Graduate Diploma of Arts in Writing (Swinburne University) and a foundation level teaching certificate in Ashtanga Vinyasa Yoga.

Gabrielle Nankivell:

"An infinite fascination with movement, language, imagery and communication steers my performance making interests. Informed by my somewhat nomadic existence, my work is concerned with notions of memory, nostalgia, transience, and immediacy. Investigating ways to document experience and imagination from word to movement is at the forefront of my process. Exploring these ideas via a methodology derived from writing and improvisation, my hybrid choreographic practice encourages perception as a creative and performative condition."

Lee Serle

Lee Serle trained at the Victorian College of the Arts and completed a Bachelor of Dance in 2003. In 2004 Lee began work with Chunky Move (Gideon Obarzanek) and Lucy Guerin Inc., collaborating and performing in numerous works for both companies, of which he has developed an ongoing working relationship. Lee has also contributed to and performed in the works of various independent choreographers, most notably; Antony Hamilton, Shelley Lasica, Stephanie Lake and Byron Perry.

In 2010 through the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Initiative, Lee was selected to undertake a mentorship with American choreographer Trisha Brown, performing, touring and developing a new work with the Trisha Brown Dance Company in New York City. He was the first Australian to be selected for this international prize in the dance category.

Lee was also an inaugural recipient of Australia Council for the Arts Creative Australia Fellowship in 2012, allowing him to develop his solo choreographic practice in Melbourne, New York and Beirut through 2014. He has engaged New York based choreographer Tere O'Connor to mentor him through this process. Lee's work *P.O.V.* premiered at the New York Public Library for the Rolex Arts Weekend in 2011, and was also presented for Dance Massive (Arts House) and Melbourne Now (National Gallery of Victoria) in 2013.

Lee has choreographed *A Little Murky*, for Lucy Guerin's *Pieces for Small Spaces* and numerous short works for the Next Wave Festival Melbourne. Most recently he premiered his new work *Sync*, commissioned by the Lyon Opera Ballet (France), presented as a triple bill alongside William Forsythe and Lucy Guerin. He is choreographing new works for Sydney Dance Company, and the Victorian College of the Arts, to be presented in 2014.

Lee Serle:

'After graduating from the VCA I have performed with Chunky Move (Gideon Oberzanek), Lucy Guerin, Trisha Brown and numerous independent choreographers, where I have gathered experience in varied collaborative processes. In the early stages of choreography I am creating work in varied contexts and forms. I am interested in site specific and installation dance works that are immersive and sometimes participatory, to shift the role of the audience from being merely spectators, to engaging them with a visceral experience. I am equally interested in creating works for the stage that are conceptually driven and structurally complex.'

Charmene Yap

Charmene Yap graduated from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts with a Bachelor of Arts in Dance in 2006. During her studies she performed at the Hong Kong Dance Festival, was awarded a scholarship to attend the TaipeiIDEA Intensive in Taiwan and spent a semester at Purchase College, New York on the student exchange program. Upon graduating from WAAPA, Charmene received an Australia Council Skills and Development Grant for young and emerging artists, which allowed her to second with several choreographers including Lucy Guerin, Sue Healey and Tanja Liedtke.

Charmene featured as an actor and dancer in the video art film *Think Of Yourself As Plural* (2008), directed by David Rosetzky and choreographed by Lucy Guerin. Other choreographers whom Charmene has worked with include Antony Hamilton, Sue Peacock, Olivia Millard, Ong Yong Lok, Nanette Hassall, Gerard Van Dyck and Mew Chang Tsing. At the end of 2009, she joined dancers Paul White and Kristina Chan for Tanja Liedtke's *Construct*, touring to Israel and Canada. Charmene was nominated for the prestigious worldwide Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative Award and was a successful applicant for the 2009/10 SCOPE program to expand her interest in architecture.

Charmene joined Sydney Dance Company in 2010 and has performed in works by Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela as well as guest choreographer's Adam Linder, Emanuel Gat, Jacopo Godani, Stephanie Lake, Alexander Ekman and Gideon Obarzanek. During her time with the Company, Charmene has won two Helpmann Awards for Best Female Dancer in 2012 and 2014, and an Australian Dance Award for Outstanding Performance by a Female Dancer in 2013, for her performances in Rafael Bonachela's *2 One Another* and *2 in D Minor*. In 2013, Charmene was part of the acclaimed international tour of Bonachela's *2 One Another* to North America, South America and Russia.

Charmene Yap:

'This is the first work I have made in entirety since leaving university. For the past eight years I have worked as a dancer and have collaborated with many incredible choreographers and directors. Now I am pleased to have the opportunity to return to choreography, to be in a position to create on my peers and to rediscover my own movement interests. In devising this short work, my idea was just to play, to simply have a little bit of fun in the studio.'