



# SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY

## 2015 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

Sydney Dance Company launches into 2015 with the Australian premiere of one of the most renowned contemporary dance works of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

William Forsythe's *Quintett* is a deeply personal work, created in collaboration with Ballet Frankfurt dancers Dana Caspersen, Stephen Galloway, Jacopo Godani, Thomas McManus and Jone San Martin, the original cast for its 1993 debut.

A tour de force for five dancers, this is a rarely seen piece that sheds light on a side of Forsythe that audiences don't often get to experience. Delicate, tender, unsparing in its intensity, it's recognised as his most poignant and exhilarating masterpiece, about the thirst for life, living and dancing.

Set on a stage filled with bright, white light, the seamless flow of duets, solos and trios sparks against Gavin Bryar's emotive soundtrack, a 1971 arrangement of *Jesus's Blood Never Failed Me Yet*, a song that has attained cult classic status for its haunting looped vocals of a street recording which capture an un-credited homeless man singing a brief stanza.

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**Quintett** is one of Forsythe's most closely guarded works, rarely performed outside of his direct supervision. Sydney Dance Company is thrilled to have been invited to present this incredible production in 2015, as part of our premiere season, **Frame of Mind**, alongside a new work by Rafael Bonachela, set to the music of American composer / guitarist Bryce Dessner, best known as a member of Grammy Award-nominated band The National.

**Frame of Mind** opens at Sydney Theatre on March 6, ahead of seasons at Canberra Theatre Centre, opening April 30, and Southbank Theatre, Melbourne, opening May 6.

A second Sydney season in September sees Sydney Dance Company collaborate with some of Australia's leading creatives for the triple bill presentation, **Triptych**.

Songstress Katie Noonan, fashion designer Toni Matceviski and set/ lighting designer Benjamin Cisterne will once again join forces with Rafael Bonachela for a reprisal of his acclaimed production **Les Illuminations** – a two-part tribute to acclaimed British composer Benjamin Britten, performed as a series of deeply romantic sensual duets, following sell-out seasons at Sydney Opera House in 2013 and QPAC in 2014.

A newly created work from Bonachela will complete the **Triptych** and will also feature costumes by Matceviski and lighting design by Ben Cisterne. The three works together, performed live on stage alongside some of Australia's finest musicians, will deliver an evening of breathtaking music, design and dance.

In November the Company will co-present with Carriageworks a second edition of **New Breed**, showcasing the work of four up and coming Australian choreographers, who will be handpicked for a once in a lifetime opportunity, to create a new work on dancers from Australia's leading contemporary dance company, thanks to generous support from the Balnaves Foundation.

In 2015 Sydney Dance Company also embarks on a highly ambitious extensive national tour, taking their acclaimed triple bill, **De Novo**, on the road for seven weeks, to the Northern Territory, Tasmania, regional Victoria, Adelaide and regional South Australia.

This stunning production, which premiered in Sydney in 2013, comprises Rafael Bonachela's **Emergence** – featuring a soundtrack by ARIA award winning singer-songwriter Sarah Blasko and composer Nick Wales and costumes by internationally renowned fashion designer Dion Lee; alongside Adelaide choreographer Larissa McGowan's **Fanatic** – a high energy tongue-in-cheek exploration of sci-fi fan culture set to a soundscape of movie-bytes from the *Alien vs Predator* film franchise; and **Cacti**, the critically acclaimed work of one Europe's most highly sought-after artists, Sweden's Alexander Ekman, a brilliantly conceived piece that celebrates the simple pleasure of dance whilst simultaneously commenting on the audiences' obsessive desire to define and interpret art and performance.

This is the Company's first tour to regional South Australia, taking in the towns of Whyalla, Port Pirie, Renmark and Mount Gambier, and our first year with National Touring Status, a new initiative of the Australia Council, which will support three years of growth in our Australia-wide activity.

Sydney Dance Company embarks on two international tours in 2015, travelling to Germany in April and South America and Europe in November. Touring repertoire will include the award winning **2 One Another** and **Triptych**.

Alongside our own program, Sydney Dance Company is excited to collaborate with other leading Australian cultural icons to present a series of new works, across a broad range of venues and events.

Following on from our highly successful collaborations on **Elektra** (in 2014) and **Les Illuminations** (in 2013), Sydney Dance Company will once again be joining forces with Sydney Symphony Orchestra for their presentation of Piazzolla's **Le Grand Tango**, at Sydney Opera House on April 17 and 18, 2015.

And of course, there's more in store, to be announced by our collaborative partners in the near future.

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All we can say for now is that 2015 promises to be another enormously exciting year with a diverse program that will see us present 15 individual works in 14 cities and towns across six Australian states and territories, and tour to six international destinations across two continents. We're looking forward to sharing eight world premieres, and one incredible Australian premiere, of William Forsythe's masterpiece, and to meeting new audiences as part of our collaborative program, partnering with other leading Australian arts organisations and visionaries.

Sydney Dance Company 2015 Program Packages are now on sale. Tickets to individual performances will be available from December 1. Book at [www.sydneydancecompany.com/2015](http://www.sydneydancecompany.com/2015).

For all of the latest Sydney Dance Company news and behind the scenes happenings subscribe at [www.sydneydancecompany.com](http://www.sydneydancecompany.com), or follow us at:

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ENDS

Image: Sydney Dance Company dancers Cass Mortimer Eipper and Alana Sargeant. Photo by Justin Ridler.

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

*See full program and choreographer bios over page*

**SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY**  
**2015 PROGRAM**  
*(International tour dates to be added)*

SEASON ONE

Sydney Dance Company presents

***Frame of Mind***

Double bill

Australian premiere, William Forsythe's ***Quintett***

World premiere, Rafael Bonachela, ***Frame of Mind***

Sydney Theatre

6 March – 21 March 2015

Canberra Theatre Centre

30 April – 2 May 2015

Southbank Theatre, The Sumner, Melbourne

6 – 16 May 2015

SPECIAL PROJECT

*Sydney Symphony Orchestra presents*

***Le Grand Tango***

Intense steamy tangos by Piazzolla and the sultry sound of a solo cello

World premiere of new works by guest choreographer/s, to be announced

Sydney Opera House Concert Hall

17 - 18 April 2015

NATIONAL TOUR

Sydney Dance Company on tour

***De Novo***

Triple bill

Rafael Bonachela's ***Emergence***

Larissa McGowan's ***Fanatic***

Alexander Ekman's ***Cacti***

*Tour dates July 14 – August 27*

Darwin Entertainment Centre, NT

14 – 15 July 2015

Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT

18 July 2015

Middleback Theatre, Whyalla, SA

22 July 2015

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Northern Festival Centre, Port Pirie, SA  
25 July 2015

Chaffey Theatre, Renmark, SA  
29 July 2015

Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre, Mt Gambier, SA  
1 August 2015

Adelaide Festival Centre, SA  
5 – 8 August 2015

Ullumbarra Theatre, Bendigo Victoria  
12 August 2015

Frankston Arts Centre, Victoria  
15 August 2015

Theatre Royal, Hobart Tasmania  
20 – 22 August 2015

Princess Theatre, Launceston, Tasmania  
27 August 2015

## SEASON TWO

Sydney Dance Company presents

### ***Triptych***

Triple bill of works by Rafael Bonachela including one world premiere

Rafael Bonachela, ***Les Illuminations***

Rafael Bonachela, ***Simple Symphony***

Rafael Bonachela, New work

Sydney Theatre  
25 September – 10 October 2015

## SEASON THREE

Sydney Dance Company and Carriageworks present

### ***New Breed***

Works by four up and coming Australian choreographers, yet to be selected

Created on the Sydney Dance Company dancers

Four world premieres

Bay 20, Carriageworks  
7 - 12 November 2015

Keep your eye on our website and social media for additional program announcements, or sign up for regular updates at [www.sydneydancecompany.com](http://www.sydneydancecompany.com).

## CHOREOGRAPHER BIOS

### **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 Maticevski. 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. Rafael is currently working on a new piece, *Scattered Rhymes*, which will make its debut as part of Sydney Dance Company's *Louder Than Words* season, showing 4-18 October at Sydney Theatre.

### **William Forsythe**

William Forsythe is recognised as one of the world's foremost choreographers. His work is acknowledged for reorienting the practice of ballet from its identification with classical repertoire to a dynamic 21st century art form. Forsythe's deep interest in the fundamental principles of organization has led him to produce a wide range of projects including Installations, Films, and Web based knowledge creation.

Raised in New York and initially trained in Florida with Nolan Dingman and Christa Long, Forsythe danced with the Joffrey Ballet and later the Stuttgart Ballet, where he was appointed Resident Choreographer in 1976. Over the next seven years, he created new works for the Stuttgart ensemble and ballet companies in Munich, The Hague, London, Basel, Berlin, Frankfurt am Main, Paris, New York, and San Francisco. In 1984, he began a 20-year tenure as director of the Ballet Frankfurt, where he created works such as *Artifact* (1984), *Impressing the Czar* (1988), *Limb's Theorem* (1990), *The Loss of Small Detail* (1991, in collaboration with composer Thom Willems and designer Issey Miyake), *A L I E / N A (C) T I O N* (1992), *Eidos:Telos* (1995), *Endless House* (1999), *Kammer/Kammer* (2000), and *Decreation* (2003).

After the closure of the Ballet Frankfurt in 2004, Forsythe established a new, more independent ensemble. The Forsythe Company, founded with the support of the states of Saxony and Hesse, the cities of Dresden and Frankfurt am Main, and private sponsors, is based in Dresden and Frankfurt am Main and maintains an extensive international touring schedule.

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Works produced by the new ensemble include *Three Atmospheric Studies* (2005), *You made me a monster* (2005), *Human Writes* (2005), *Heterotopia* (2006), *The Defenders* (2007), *Yes we can't* (2008/2010), *I don't believe in outer space* (2008), *The Returns* (2009) and *Sider* (2011). Forsythe's most recent works are developed and performed exclusively by The Forsythe Company, while his earlier pieces are prominently featured in the repertoire of virtually every major ballet company in the world, including The Kirov Ballet, The New York City Ballet, The San Francisco Ballet, The National Ballet of Canada, England's Royal Ballet and The Paris Opera Ballet.

Awards received by Forsythe and his ensembles include the New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award (1988, 1998, 2004, 2007) and London's Laurence Olivier Award (1992, 1999, 2009). Forsythe has been conveyed the title of Chevalier des Arts et Lettres (1999) by the government of France and has received the German Distinguished Service Cross (1997), the Wexner Prize (2002) the Golden Lion of the Venice Biennale (2010) and the Samuel H Scripps / American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement (2012).

Forsythe has been commissioned to produce architectural and performance installations by architect-artist Daniel Libeskind, ARTANGEL (London), Creative Time (New York), and the City of Paris. His installation and film works have been presented in numerous museums and exhibitions, including the Whitney Biennial (New York), the Venice Biennale, the Louvre Museum, and 21\_21 Design Sight in Tokyo. His performance, film, and installation works have been featured at the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich, the Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, the Venice Biennale and the Hayward Gallery, London.

In collaboration with media specialists and educators, Forsythe has developed new approaches to dance documentation, research, and education. His 1994 computer application *Improvisation Technologies: A Tool for the Analytical Dance Eye*, developed with the ZKM / Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie Karlsruhe, is used as a teaching tool by professional companies, dance conservatories, universities, postgraduate architecture programs, and secondary schools worldwide. 2009 marked the launch of *Synchronous Objects for One Flat Thing*, reproduced, a digital online score developed with The Ohio State University that reveals the organizational principles of the choreography and demonstrates their possible application within other disciplines. *Synchronous Objects* is the pilot project for Forsythe's Motion Bank, a research platform focused on the creation and research of online digital scores in collaboration with guest choreographers.

As an educator, Forsythe is regularly invited to lecture and give workshops at universities and cultural institutions. In 2002, Forsythe was chosen as one of the founding Dance Mentors for The Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative. Forsythe is an Honorary Fellow at the Laban Centre for Movement and Dance in London and holds an Honorary Doctorate from The Juilliard School in New York. Forsythe is also a current A.D. White Professor-at-Large at Cornell University (2009-2015).