



SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY PRESENTS

FRAME OF MIND

SYDNEY | CANBERRA | MELBOURNE

Sydney Dance Company launches into 2015 with a powerful double bill – a showcase of deeply personal pieces from two acclaimed choreographic talents: living legend William Forsythe and Sydney Dance Company's own Artistic Director, Rafael Bonachela.

Recognised as one of the world's foremost choreographers, American born Forsythe came to prominence during his years as a dancer with the Stuttgart Ballet, where, encouraged by legendary ballerina Marcia Haydee, he began to make work for the Company, and immediately revealed a distinctive movement style.

By 1980 Forsythe was in sufficient demand to embark on a solo choreographic career, making works for the Nederlands Dans Theater, the Joffrey Ballet, the Paris Opera Ballet and Ballet Frankfurt among others, before accepting the role of Artistic Director of Ballet Frankfurt in 1984.

Forsythe filled this position for an incredible 20-year tenure, until Ballet Frankfurt closed in 2004, at which time he founded his renowned independent ensemble, The Forsythe Company.

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One of the most renowned contemporary dance works of the 20th Century, Forsythe's *Quintett* was created in 1993 in collaboration with Ballet Frankfurt dancers Dana Caspersen, Stephen Galloway, Jacopo Godani, Thomas McManus and Jone San Martin.

A tour de force for five dancers, *Quintett* is a deeply personal work, closely guarded, and rarely performed outside of Forsythe's direct supervision.

Set on a stage filled with bright white light, the piece is a seamless flow of duets, solos and trios set to Gavin Bryar's *Jesus's Blood Never Failed Me Yet*, the movement brilliantly evoking Bryar's themes of loneliness and the illusion of hope.

Acknowledged as Forsythe's most poignant masterpiece, *Quintett* sheds light on a side of Forsythe that audiences don't often get to experience: delicate, tender, sublime, lyrical, heart-wrenching, the piece is a moving tribute and glorious celebration of movement, light and life.

Sydney Dance Company are thrilled to have been invited to present the Australian premiere of this incredible production in 2015, as part of our premiere season, **Frame of Mind**, alongside a new work by Rafael Bonachela, set to a suite of powerful music by American composer Bryce Dessner – best known as a member of Grammy Award-nominated band The National, performed by internationally renowned The Kronos Quartet.

Inspired by his own recent personal experiences, Bonachela's piece is an exploration of the ephemeral nature of living. What has appeared robust and dependable reveals itself as fragile and transient, when a single event or occurrence makes everything shift, quickly and forever.

The work sees Bonachela collaborate for the first time with esteemed Australian set designer, outgoing Belvoir artistic director, Ralph Myers, and will feature lighting by frequent Sydney Dance Company associate Benjamin Cisterne.

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.

Book now for -

Sydney: www.sydneytheatre.org.au or 02 9250 1999

Canberra: www.canberratheatrecentre.com.au or 02 6275 2700

Melbourne: www.mtc.com.au or 03 8688 0800

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ENDS

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

MEDIA CONTACT

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SEASON INFORMATION

FRAME OF MIND

Australian premiere, William Forsythe's *Quintett*
World premiere, Rafael Bonachela, *Frame of Mind*

Sydney Theatre
6 March – 21 March 2015
Bookings, www.sydneystheatre.org.au, phone 02 9250 1999

Canberra Theatre Centre
30 April – 2 May 2015
Bookings www.canberratheatrecentre.com.au, phone 02 6275 2700

Southbank Theatre, The Sumner, Melbourne
6 – 16 May 2015
Bookings <http://www.mtc.com.au/>, phone 03 8688 0800

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.sydneystancecompany.com

CHOREOGRAPHER BIOS

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 organisation 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. 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 organisational 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).

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, Bonachela 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, he 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.

Bonachela's 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 his 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.

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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), *2 in D Minor* (2014) and *Scattered Rhymes* (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 Bonachela 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*.

Bonachela 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, Bonachela was honoured with an Officer's Cross of the Order of Civil Merit by His Majesty the King of Spain.

Bonachela'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'.