

## NEW FACES JOIN THE RANKS AS SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY DRIVES TOWARDS ITS 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



Australia's leading contemporary dance company today announced two fresh new additions to its board - young philanthropist and social change advocate Beau Neilson (Director of the Neilson Foundation), and senior media executive Brett Clegg (News Corp State Director NSW).

The pair join a stellar line up of passionate arts supporters including fashion designer Carla Zampatti and architect Randall Marsh, intent on driving the Company towards its 50 year anniversary celebrations in 2019.

At the opening of Sydney Dance Company's *Frame of Mind* on Monday evening, Beau said, "I am delighted to join the Sydney Dance Company family and look forward to working with the board of this dynamic institution as it heads towards its 50th year. "

# SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY

Brett Clegg echoed Ms Neilson's thoughts, adding, "I am honoured to have an opportunity to be part of such an incredible Australian institution, and one of the world's leading contemporary dance companies. We are blessed to have such an extraordinary company of dancers and the original and brilliant talent of Rafael Bonachela contributing his vision and genius to our life. I am passionate about the success of the Sydney Dance Company and am greatly looking forward to contributing as a member of its board."

Sydney Dance Company Chairman Andrew Messenger commented, "It speaks to the fact that Sydney Dance Company is one of the most exciting and dynamic performing arts companies in Australia that we can attract directors of the calibre of Brett and Beau. Each of them has established themselves as active and passionate supporters of the arts and join us at a time when the board is focused on positioning Sydney Dance Company over the next four years for its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and beyond, through the establishment of a capital fund and other strategic initiatives."

Ms Neilson and Mr Clegg will officially join the Sydney Dance Company board in April. They join existing board directors Chairman Andrew Messenger, Pamela Bartlett, Jane Freudenstein, Peter Brownie, Jean Marc Carriol, Keira Grant, Randall Marsh and Carla Zampatti. Naseema Sparks and Judy Crawford have recently stepped down.

For more on Sydney Dance Company go to, [www.sydneydancecompany.com](http://www.sydneydancecompany.com), or follow us at:

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[www.youtube.com/sydneydancecompany](http://www.youtube.com/sydneydancecompany)

ENDS

**Please see bios attached for Beau Neilson and Brett Clegg.**

Image: Brett Clegg and Beau Neilson at the opening of Sydney Dance Company's *Frame of Mind*, Sydney Theatre Monday March 9, 2015. Photo by Ben Symons.

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## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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

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

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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.

Sydney Dance Company is a legendary force in Australian contemporary dance. The Company has performed on the great dance stages of the world, from the Sydney Opera House in Australia, to the Joyce Theatre in New York, the Grand in Shanghai and the Stanislavsky in Moscow.

The Company maintains an ensemble of 16 exceptional dancers actively creating and touring new work under the Artistic Directorship of Rafael Bonachela, who, over the past five years, has cemented the company's reputation as a creative

powerhouse, with his acclaimed group of dancers presenting new work by himself and guest Australian and international choreographers.

The Company will celebrate 50 years in 2019.

More information, [www.sydneydancecompany.com](http://www.sydneydancecompany.com), or follow us at:

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## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **BEAU NEILSON**

Director, The Neilson Foundation

Since completing a law degree at University of Technology in 2011 Beau Neilson has worked for Anti-Slavery Australia on benefaction, network building and awareness raising for the abolition of modern slavery in Australia. Beau worked as a curatorial assistant at White Rabbit Gallery for three years throughout her study. She has worked with and supported a myriad of not-for-profit organisations in Australia and abroad including Just Enough Faith, and the Chipangali Animal Orphanage in Zimbabwe. Her passion for the arts and greater social change drives her involvement in many philanthropic endeavours both personally and through her role as a Director for the Neilson Foundation.

### **BRETT CLEGG**

State Director, News Corp Australia

Brett Clegg is a senior executive with News Corp Australia responsible for its publishing assets in New South Wales. This includes Australia's largest selling newspaper The Sunday Telegraph, The Daily Telegraph and NewsLocal, a portfolio of 22 community papers including The Wentworth Courier, Parramatta Advertiser, North Shore Times and Manly Daily. His career has spanned media as an executive and journalist, as well as finance in auditing and investment banking. Prior to his current role as State Director for News Corp Australia, he was CEO & Publisher of the Financial Review Group which incorporated the national business daily The Australian Financial Review. Brett started his journalism career as a cadet at the AFR before rising to deputy editor and then moving into the commercial operations of the business as a senior manager then executive for Fairfax Media and News Corp. He holds a Bachelor of Business and a Master of Commerce from the University of New South Wales. His passions outside of work include writing and the arts, in particular contemporary art which brings together multiple disciplines through collaboration. Most recently he was the executive producer and co-commissioner for *Inside There Falls*, a labyrinthine installation that incorporated sculpture, dance, sound and text. The work was choreographed by Rafael Bonachela and premièred at Carriageworks as part of the 2015 Sydney Festival.