

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE SEASON  
SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY'S  
**FRAME OF MIND**  
WILLIAM FORSYTHE | RAFAEL BONACHELA

NINE MELBOURNE SHOWS ONLY  
MAY 6 TO 16, BOOK NOW!



★★★★½ - *It's sublime.* – Sunday Telegraph

*Astonishing... powerful, personal and poetic... quite simply, breathtaking.* – Limelight Magazine

★★★★ - *It's a delight...a potent blend of technique, daring and playfulness.* - SMH

*Could be seen again and again without exhausting its possibilities.* - The Australian

★★★★ - *Passionate... precise... breath-stealing.* – The Guardian

**As part of its Australian premiere season, Sydney Dance Company is set to present a limited run of its acclaimed double bill, *Frame of Mind*, at Southbank Theatre, Melbourne. This is an exceptional opportunity to experience two mesmerising danceworks - legendary American choreographer William Forsythe's acclaimed masterpiece *Quintett*, and Rafael Bonachela's newly created *Frame of Mind*, direct from its world premiere Sydney performances.**

Created in 1993, William Forsythe's *Quintett* is one of the most renowned contemporary dance works of the 20th Century. This highly poetic and powerful work, developed in collaboration with Ballet Frankfurt dancers Dana Caspersen, Stephen Galloway, Jacopo Godani, Thomas McManus and Jone San Martin, was a final love letter to Forsythe's wife, dancer Tracy-Kai Maier, who succumbed to cancer in 1994, aged 32.

*Quintett* is set to a hauntingly beautiful soundtrack by renowned post-minimalist British composer, Gavin Bryars; his iconic 1975 composition, *Jesus's Blood Never Failed Me Yet*. Inspired by a grainy, chance recording of a homeless man singing, the looped vocals begin as a barely audible, distant melody, and acquire a slowly evolving, growing orchestral accompaniment, which with its insistent optimism, tinged with tragedy, creeps under the skin and magnifies the intense poignancy of the choreography.

Unanimously acclaimed by Australian reviewers, Forsythe's *Quintett* is, 'At once exhilarating and desolate, unbearably tender and heartbreakingly furious... A statement about the ability of raw physicality and human interaction to express the most complex and unspeakable nuances of human feeling'. (*Limelight Magazine*).

One of Forsythe's most closely guarded pieces, *Quintett* has rarely been performed outside of his direct supervision. In 22 years since its creation, only eight companies around the world have been permitted to present the piece. Sydney Dance Company is honoured to be the first in the southern hemisphere.

In *Frame of Mind*, Rafael Bonachela brings the presence and power of 17 of Australia's most accomplished dancers to the stage for an emotionally charged performance. In a faded room – created by designer Ralph Myers, time passes from day to night, and over again, as the dancers transition from impassioned solos to tender duets, intricate trios and high energy ensembles, or lounge silently, observing from the sidelines.

Inspired by the desire to be in two places at once, *Frame of Mind* is performed to a pulsing contemporary-classical soundtrack by US composer Bryce Dessner, best known as a member of hit rock band The National. Recorded by internationally renowned The Kronos Quartet, the music – from Dessner's acclaimed 2009 debut CD *Aheym* - travels the gamut of human emotion, from love to folly, compassion and fury.

"Bonachela's intensely physical choreography... passionate yet highly precise, demanding and often breath-stealing" (*The Guardian*), was presented for the first time in March, and will have its Melbourne premiere in May.

*Frame of Mind* opens at Southbank Theatre, Melbourne, May 6, with just nine performances until May 16. Wednesday to Saturday, 8pm; Saturday May 16, 2pm. Tickets from \$45. Group packages available. Under 30s, \$30. Book now at Melbourne Theatre Centre, 03 8688 0800/ [www.mtc.com.au/plays-and-tickets/other-companies-2014/frame-of-mind/](http://www.mtc.com.au/plays-and-tickets/other-companies-2014/frame-of-mind/).

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 [www.facebook.com/sydneydanceco](https://www.facebook.com/sydneydanceco) | [www.twitter.com/sydneydanceco](https://www.twitter.com/sydneydanceco) | [www.instagram.com/sydneydanceco](https://www.instagram.com/sydneydanceco) | [www.youtube.com/sydneydancecompany](https://www.youtube.com/sydneydancecompany).

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Image: Sydney Dance Company dancer Chloe Leong in *Quintett*. Photo by Peter Greig.

**MEDIA CONTACT**

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**SEASON INFORMATION**

**FRAME OF MIND**

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

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

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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)

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**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)TION* (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.

# SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY

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 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'.