

**SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY COMMISSIONS  
THREE NEW WORKS FOR  
SYDNEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S  
LE GRAND TANGO**  
Sydney Opera House  
April 17 and 18



For Sydney Dance Company's latest collaboration with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, three newly created works set to the music of revolutionary Argentine composer *Ástor Pantaleón Piazzolla*, will premiere on the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall stage on April 17 and 18.

Choreographed by award winning choreographer Cass Mortimer Eipper (an alumni of the Company's *New Breed* program, also a Sydney Dance Company dancer), Lucas Jervies and Rafael Bonachela, the trio of works sees our dancers once again share the stage with some of Australia's finest musicians.

# SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY

Sydney Symphony Orchestra's *Le Grand Tango* is a two-part concert, beginning with music from Bizet, Pablo Sarasate and Alberto Ginastero, ahead of a trio of Piazzolla's groundbreaking compositions. Renowned as the creator of the Nuevo Tango, Piazzolla incorporated elements of jazz and classical music to revolutionise the traditional tango.

For the first two of Piazzolla's tracks, Sydney Dance Company has commissioned guest choreographers Cass Mortimer Eipper and Lucas Jervies to make their own modern interpretations of this renowned partner dance, using a sextet of dancers. This world premiere of their works, set to Piazzolla's *Le Grand Tango* and *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*, will be performed by Sydney Dance Company associate dancers Tara Gower, Olympia Kotopoulos, Zachary Lopez, Luke Mangraviti, Daniel Russell and Laura Wood.

For the finale piece of the evening, Sydney Dance Company Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela presents a contemporary analogy of Piazzolla's *Libertango*, performed by Sydney Dance Company dancers Janessa Dufty and Petros Treklis.

Hephzibah Tintner Fellowship Aleisa Jelbart has designed the costumes for all three of the works, in her third collaboration with Sydney Dance Company (*New Breed, Frame of Mind, Le Grand Tango*).

This stunning Latin-inspired display is presented for a limited season of two performances only, 8pm Friday April 17 and Saturday April 18. Tickets from \$39. Book now at [www.sydneyssymphony.com](http://www.sydneyssymphony.com)

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

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ENDS

Image: Sydney Dance Company associate dancers Tara Gower and Zachary Lopez in rehearsal for *Le Grand Tango*. 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.

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.

# SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY

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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## **SEASON INFORMATION**

### ***LE GRAND TANGO***

**Exclusive season as invited guests of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra**

**Set to music by *Ástor Pantaleón Piazzolla***

*Le Grand Tango*, choreography by Cass Mortimer Eipper

*Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*, choreography by Lucas Jervies

*Libertango*, choreography by Rafael Bonachela

Sydney Opera House

April 17 and 18

Bookings, [www.sydneyopera.com](http://www.sydneyopera.com)

### ***Le Grand Tango***

**Music by *Ástor Pantaleón Piazzolla***

**Performed by musicians of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra**

### **Choreography**

Cass Mortimer Eipper

### **Dancers**

Tara Gower

Olympia Kotopoulos

Zachary Lopez

Luke Mangraviti

Daniel Russell

Laura Wood

### **Costume Designer**

Aleisa Jelbart, Hephzibah Tintner Fellowship

### **Lighting Designer**

Matthew Marshall

### **Duration**

12 minutes

### ***Four Seasons of Buenos Aires***

**Music by *Ástor Pantaleón Piazzolla***



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**Performed by musicians of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra**

**Choreography**

Lucas Jervies

**Dancers**

Tara Gower  
Olympia Kotopoulos  
Zachary Lopez  
Luke Mangraviti  
Daniel Russell  
Laura Wood

**Costume Designer**

Aleisa Jelbart, Hephzibah Tintner Fellowship

**Lighting Designer**

Matthew Marshall

**Duration**

26 minutes

***Libertango***

**Music by Ástor Pantaleón Piazzolla**

**Performed by musicians of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra**

**Choreography**

Rafael Bonachela

**Dancers**

Janessa Dufty  
Petros Treklis

**Costume Designer**

Aleisa Jelbart, Hephzibah Tintner Fellowship

**Lighting Designer**

Matthew Marshall

**Duration**

4 minutes

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**CHOREOGRAPHER BIOS**

**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 mentioned in the 2013 *Dance*

Australia Critics Survey for the 'Best New Work' and 'Most Outstanding Choreographer' categories.

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. In 2014 Cass was selected as one of five choreographers to take part in Sydney Dance Company's *New Breed* program – supporting up and coming Australian choreographers, and created and presented a new work, *Dogs and Baristas*.

Cass joined Sydney Dance Company in January 2013 and has performed in numerous productions including *Frame of Mind* (2015); *Interplay*, *Les Illuminations*, *2 One Another*, *Louder Than Words* and *New Breed* (2014); *De Novo*, *2 One Another*, *Les Illuminations* and *2 One Another* (2013). In 2013 he was also part of Sydney Dance Company's collaboration with Allora and Calzadilla for *Revolving Door*, as part of Kaldor Public Art Projects' contemporary art exhibition *13 Rooms*. Cass was recently nominated for a 2014 Green Room Award for 'Best Male Dancer' in *Interplay*.

### **Lucas Jervies**

Lucas studied dance at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School and The Australian Ballet School where he graduated with Honours in 1998. He then danced professionally in both classical and contemporary dance companies including The Australian Ballet, Dance Works Rotterdam and Scapino Ballet Rotterdam. Lucas retired from dance in 2010 and co-founded JACK Productions in Melbourne, which presented three ballet-theatre productions over two years.

In 2012 Lucas was one of six artists accepted into The National Institute of Dramatic Art to study Directing. Following his graduation, Lucas was invited to become an Affiliate Director with Griffin Theatre Company. In October 2013 he was appointed Artistic Director of Buzz Dance Theatre, Australia's premier dance theatre company for children and young people, to create a season for the Company's final year of operations. Lucas also worked as Sydney Dance Company's Rehearsal Director in 2014.

Lucas has created dance and theatre works for Griffin Theatre Company, Malthouse Theatre, Buzz Dance Theatre, Awesome Festival, West Australian Ballet, Sydney Dance Company's Pre-Professional Year, Queensland Ballet, The Australian Ballet, Expressions Dance Company, Scapino Ballet Rotterdam, JACK Productions, Korzo Theatre Den Haag, Milwaukee Ballet, Noverre Society Stuttgart Ballet, CoDarts Rotterdam University for the Arts and The Australian Ballet School.

### **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

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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 Matceviski. 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), *Scattered Rhymes* (2014) and *Frame of Mind* (2015). 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 was named in the 2013 Dance Australia Critics Survey for 'Most Interesting Australian Artist' for his 'stimulating collaborations with Australian artists from other fields' (Deborah Jones).

Rafael was also named in the 2012 Dance Australia Critics Survey for the 'Most Outstanding Choreographer' and 'Best New Work' for *2 One Another*. This work 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'.

For Sydney Festival 2015, Rafael Bonachela collaborated with artist Mira Calix to choreograph for her *Inside There Falls* installation.