

SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY

SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY PRESENTS  
RAFAEL BONACHELA  
**TRIPTYCH**

An evening of breathtaking dance set to the music of Benjamin Britten  
Performed by A<sup>c</sup>O<sub>2</sub> directed by Thomas Gould  
With special guest soprano, four times ARIA Award winner Katie Noonan

ROSLYN PACKER THEATRE  
25 September – 10 October

Choreography by Rafael Bonachela  
Costumes by Toni Maticevski



*'So hot it sizzles.... Katie Noonan is simply spellbinding.'*  
– Daily Telegraph

*'The sheer physicality of the dancing... Established a lingering sense of longing and desire.'*  
– The Australian

*'Some of the finest, most inventive dance you are likely to see on the world stage.'*  
– Limelight Magazine

**Sydney Dance Company is excited to announce an exclusive Sydney season of works by Rafael Bonachela at the Roslyn Packer Theatre this September.**

**Presented in collaboration with the Australian Chamber Orchestra and featuring the soaring vocals of special guest soprano Katie Noonan, *Triptych* sees the reprisal of two of Bonachela's most intimate choreographies to date - *Les Illuminations* and *Simple Symphony*, which premiered in a sold out season at Sydney Opera House season in 2013, together with a new dance piece, *Variation 10*, about to make its world debut.**

**This stunning three part program brings together on stage dancers from the Sydney Dance Company ensemble with one of Australia's most beloved songstresses and 17 of Australia's finest young string musicians, members of the Australian Chamber Orchestra's renowned A<sup>C</sup>O<sub>2</sub> program, led by guest director, acclaimed British violinist Thomas Gould.**

**Don't miss this inspirational showcase of the music of celebrated British composer Benjamin Britten - his acclaimed romantic song cycle *Les Illuminations; Simple Symphony; and Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge*.**

Rafael Bonachela's *Les Illuminations* and *Simple Symphony* were originally created in partnership with Sydney Opera House, as a tribute to one of the world's greatest composers, Benjamin Britten, during celebrations for the Centenary year of Britten's birth, in 2013.

Presented in the intimate space of the Sydney Opera House Studio, the program featured eight of Sydney Dance Company's dancers in a *'tense and tender, poignant and passionate'* (Crikey) program, comprising a series of *'duets in which bodies and minds are entwined in beautifully crafted couplings'* (Sydney Morning Herald).

This deeply romantic tribute opened with Britten's *Simple Symphony*, a composition for strings written in 1934, danced as a playful examination of love *'in a series of sparking duets and one ingenious quartet'* (Limelight).

By contrast, Britten's acclaimed song cycle for soprano and strings, *Les Illuminations* - inspired by the evocative poetry of 19<sup>th</sup> century French poet Arthur Rimbaud, delved into darker more complex love relationships in *'an erotically charged choreography, laced with yearning, betrayal, loss of innocence and a dash of thinly buried cruelty'* (Limelight). *'The purity of Katie Noonan's voice soared'* (Dance Australia) in her delivery of Rimbaud's prose poems, sung in high voice, in their original French.

In his new work, *Variation 10*, Bonachela takes inspiration from Britten's *Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge*, commissioned by British composer Boyd Neel for the 1937 Salzburg Festival. Dedicated with affection and admiration by Britten to his esteemed teacher, *Variations* is generally recognised as the composition that launched Britten's career.

*Triptych* heralds Sydney Dance Company's ongoing collaboration with award winning Australian fashion designer Toni Maticevski, bringing his trademark modern artistry to costume for the performance stage.

The production will also feature set and lighting from award-winning designer and frequent Sydney Dance Company collaborator, Benjamin Cisterne.

*Triptych* opens at Sydney's Roslyn Packer Theatre September 25, with just 12 performances until October 10. Wednesday to Saturday, 8pm; Tuesday October 6, 6.30pm; Saturday October 10, 2pm. Early booking is recommended to secure your tickets, following the sell out season of *Les Illuminations* at Sydney Opera House in 2013.

# SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY

Tickets from \$45. Group packages available. Under 30s, \$30. Book online at [www.roslynpackertheatre.com.au](http://www.roslynpackertheatre.com.au), or telephone 02 9250 1999. Save 15% with a 2-Show Package, combining Sydney Dance Company's *Triptych* and *New Breed*.

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

Follow #SDCTriptych @SydneyDanceCo on social media.

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Images: Sydney Dance Company's *Simple Symphony*, photo by Peter Greig. Kate Noonan, photo by Ellis Parrinder. Thomas Gould, photo by Aga Tomaszek.

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## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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

Until June 17 and from July 30

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From June 18 to July 29 (Annual leave cover)

Chontelle Clark, Marketing Coordinator, [chontellec@sydneydancecompany.com](mailto:chontellec@sydneydancecompany.com) / 02 9258 4821

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## **TRIPTYCH, SEASON INFORMATION**

**Venue** Roslyn Packer Theatre, Walsh Bay

**Dates** 12 shows only, 25 September to 10 October, 2015

**Tickets** from \$45

**Bookings** [www.roslynpackertheatre.com.au](http://www.roslynpackertheatre.com.au) / 02 9250 1999

**Artistic Director & Choreographer:** Rafael Bonachela

**Composer:** Benjamin Britten

**Lyrics:** Arthur Rimbaud

**Soprano:** Katie Noonan

**Strings:** Musicians from ACO2

**Costumes:** Toni Matičevski

**Set and lighting design:** Benjamin Cisterne

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## **ABOUT SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY**



## 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. Since 1985 the Company has been resident in purpose-built studios at Pier 4 in Sydney's Walsh Bay, minutes from the city's famed Harbour Bridge. Its studios house the largest public dance class program in Australia, attracting nearly 80,000 participants each year. A legendary force in contemporary dance in Australia, Sydney Dance Company will celebrate its 50th year in 2019.

More information, [www.sydneydancecompany.com](http://www.sydneydancecompany.com)

**ABOUT RAFAEL BONACHELA**

Rafael Bonachela's appointment as Artistic Director of Sydney Dance Company made international headlines around the dance world in 2009. 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. These premiere works are often programmed alongside Bonachela'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.

Full bio available at [www.sydneydancecompany.com/people/artistic-director](http://www.sydneydancecompany.com/people/artistic-director)

**ABOUT KATIE NOONAN**

*'Katie Noonan has a rare and priceless gift – a vocal talent which transports the listener to a higher realm, a piercing of spirit and caressing of woes. Many singers can bring on the goosebumps, but Noonan is one of only a few who can reach through air and space to minister to your very soul.'* [canberra.com.au](http://canberra.com.au)

Katie Noonan's technical mastery and pure voice makes her one of Australia's most versatile and beloved vocalists. A mother, singer, producer, songwriter, pianist and business woman, this 4 x ARIA Award winning and 7 x platinum selling songstress first received widespread praise as the angel-voiced songstress of indie-pop band George and has since taken audiences on sublime excursions through Jazz, Pop and Classical music. In 2013 *Herald Sun* ran a poll asking Australia's most famous vocalists to nominate the Greatest Australian Singers of all time. Katie was voted in the top 20 sharing this honour with the likes of Michael Hutchence, Bon Scott, Neil Finn, The Bee Gees and Gurrumul.

More information, <http://kati Noonan.com>

**ABOUT BENJAMIN BRITTEN**

*"Music for me is clarification; I try to clarify, to refine, to sensitise... My technique is to tear all the waste away; to achieve perfect clarity of expression, that is my aim."* —Benjamin Britten

Benjamin Britten, (British, 1913 – 1976) is one of the world's most celebrated composers, credited with publishing more than 100 works across every musical genre, from operas and large-scale symphonic scores to songs and choral works. He is best known for his renowned English-language operas *Peter Grimes*, *Billy Budd* and *The Turn of the Screw*. In 2013, his legacy was celebrated at events around the world as part of the Britten Centenary.

More information, [www.britten100.org/](http://www.britten100.org/)

**ABOUT THOMAS GOULD**

*"Violinist Thomas Gould is one of a new generation of classical musicians who refuses to be defined by a single genre"* – The Guardian.

## SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY

Described as "a soloist of rare refinement" by *The Sunday Times*, Thomas Gould has performed as a soloist with major orchestras worldwide including Hallé Orchestra, LA Phil New Music Group, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and West Australian Symphony Orchestra, collaborating with conductors such as John Adams, Nicholas Collon, Paul Daniel, Clark Rundell, John Rutter, Robin Ticciati and Garry Walker. Gould has previously led A<sup>C</sup>O<sub>2</sub> on tour in 2011. This will be his second engagement with the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

More info at [www.thomasgould.com/](http://www.thomasgould.com/)

**ABOUT A<sup>C</sup>O<sub>2</sub>**

*"A<sup>C</sup>O<sub>2</sub> is breathing pure musical oxygen. If you're looking for the finest young string players in this country and, most probably well beyond, this is where you will find them."* The Australian

A<sup>C</sup>O<sub>2</sub> is the critically acclaimed string ensemble, directed by Helena Rathbone, which delivers the Australian Chamber Orchestra's regional touring and education programs. A<sup>C</sup>O<sub>2</sub> connects the elite musicians of the ACO with Australia's most talented young professional musicians at the outset of their careers, creating a combined ensemble with a fresh, energetic performance style. All members of A<sup>C</sup>O<sub>2</sub> are past participants in the ACO's year long Emerging Artists' Program.

More information, [www.aco.com.au/about/aco2](http://www.aco.com.au/about/aco2)

**ABOUT TONI MATICEVSKI**

Underlying Toni Maticevski's work is a sensitive utilisation of colour and texture as well as an innate understanding of fabric and its applications. Sometimes complex draped pieces and at other times quietly simple they embody the designer's continued exploration of tailoring and line, combining fluid and classical silhouettes executed with disciplined construction. Twisted, draped and structural designs are underscored by contrasting fabric textures and weights in a soft palette. Invariably Maticevski's designs are sculptural pieces inspired and supported by the outline of the body, which play with the seemingly contradictory ideas of structure and fluidity.

More information, [www.tonimaticovski.com](http://www.tonimaticovski.com)