

Tuesday July 28, 2015

SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY SCOOPS THE POOL AT 2015 HELPMANN AWARDS



Sydney Dance Company triumphed at last night's 2015 Helpmann Awards, taking out the prize in all four dance categories, for works performed in its critically acclaimed premiere 2015 season.

Best Ballet or Dance Work - Sydney Dance Company's *Frame of Mind*
Best Choreography in a Dance or Physical Theatre Work - Rafael Bonachela, *Frame of Mind*
Best Male Dancer in a Dance or Physical Theatre Work - Cass Mortimer Eipper, *Quintett*
Best Female Dancer in a Dance or Physical Theatre Work – Chloe Leong, *Quintett*

Last night's 2015 Helpmann Awards ceremony, held on the set of *Les Miserables* at Sydney's Capitol Theatre, attracted the cream of Australia's performers, for the announcement of the country's most prestigious arts and entertainment awards.

Across the evening, 42 prizes were awarded - across cabaret, comedy, dance, music, musicals, opera, physical theatre and theatre.

And for the first time in the Helpmann Award's history, all four Dance category awards went to one company, with Sydney Dance Company scooping the pool.

SDC Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela was first to be recognised, with the award for Best Choreography in a Dance or Physical Theatre Work, for his 34-minute piece, *Frame of Mind*, set to a stunning soundtrack by US composer Bryce Dessner in a recording by The Kronos Quartet, and featuring set design by Ralph Myers.

Dancer Cass Mortimer Eipper followed with the award for Best Male Dancer in a Dance or Physical Theatre Work, for his performance in William Forsythe's masterpiece *Quintett*, a renowned dancework originally created in 1993, presented for the first time in Australia by Sydney Dance Company in March 2015, under the direction of Forsythe Company Stagers Thomas McManus and Ana Catalina Roman Horcajo. SDC Dancer David Mack was also one of the four finalists nominated for this award, for his performance in the same work.

Newcomer Chloe Leong, who made her debut with Sydney Dance Company in March 2015, then took out the award for Best Female Dancer in a Dance or Physical Theatre Work, also for her performance in William Forsythe's *Quintett*. SDC Dancer Jesse Scales was one of three other finalists nominated for this award.

Rafael Bonachela returned to the stage for a second time with the announcement that *Frame of Mind* had been awarded the 2015 Helpmann Award for Best Ballet or Dance Work.

ENDS

Photo: Sydney Dance Company dancers Cass Mortimer Eipper and Chloe Leong, and Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela, with their 2015 Helpmann Awards. Photo by Chontelle Clark.

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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 will celebrate 50 years in 2019. More information, www.sydneydancecompany.com.