

SOUTH AMERICAN PREMIERE TOUR

SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY'S INTERPLAY



Works by

Rafael Bonachela | Jacopo Godani | Gideon Obarzanek

Adding to the excitement at last night's Sydney opening of *CounterMove*, Sydney Dance Company has announced plans for a South American tour in April/May 2016.

Speaking at an exclusive after-party celebrating the Company's first performance of the year and the world premiere of Rafael Bonachela's *Lux Tenebris*, Sydney Dance Company Chairman Andrew Messenger shared the news with more than 800 VIP guests - including former Prime Minister Bob Hawke and wife Blanche D'Alpuget.

At the Company's Walsh Bay studios this morning, Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela said he is thrilled to be returning to South America in 2016, to continue building the relationships that the Company established in 2013.

Bonachela says, "Sydney Dance Company is incredibly proud to represent Australia on the world stage, and of our growing reputation in an increasing number of regions. This is the Company's fifth trip to South America in its 47-year history, and our second in the past four years."

"I am especially excited that our South American program, *Interplay*, includes a work by renowned Australian choreographer, Gideon Obarzanek, making this an incredible platform for showcasing a broad range of Australian talent – across choreography, writing, music, design and performance."

Sydney Dance Company departs Australia on April 4, initially travelling to Switzerland and Germany to present *Interplay* at the esteemed international Dance Festival STEPS, from April 8 to 23, as part of a showcase of the world's leading contemporary dance companies.

From here they travel to South America for three weeks of shows – taking in Sao Paolo, Brazil; Santiago, Chile; and Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The Company returns to Australia mid May, ahead of the Canberra and Melbourne seasons of *CounterMove*, opening May 19 and 25, respectively.

Sydney Dance Company's *Interplay* had its world premiere at Sydney Theatre on March 15, 2014, as part of the Company's 45th Anniversary celebrations.

This 'tour de force' (*Limelight Magazine*) three-part program included two world premiere works - Rafael Bonachela's, *2 in D Minor*, and Gideon Obarzanek's *L'Chaim*, alongside Jacopo Godani's acclaimed *Raw Models*.

Interplay begins with Rafael Bonachela's *2 in D Minor*, a beautifully realised dance work set to *Bach's Violin Partita No 2 in D Minor*. Dancers from the Sydney Dance Company ensemble are joined on stage by acclaimed Australian violinist Veronique Serret for a riveting exchange between movement and music.

Jacopo Godani's critically acclaimed *Raw Models* took Australia by storm when it premiered in Sydney in March 2011. This dramatic, powerful 'sleek and super sexy' (*The Australian*) work for seven dancers is set to a score by renowned German composers 48nord.

Gideon Obarzanek's *L'Chaim!* takes an intriguing look at the audience view of the dance experience. A curious onlooker fires questions at the dancers as they perform, before joining them on stage to taste the joy of an ensemble dance experience. Created in collaboration with dramaturg David Woods, *L'Chaim!* ('To life!' in Hebrew and Yiddish) is a playful and epic piece showcasing Obarzanek's genius for choreographing movement on a grand scale. Sections of the work have recently been featured in a world-first virtual reality film, taking the viewer into the heart of the on-stage dance experience.

For full tour dates visit <http://www.sydneydancecompany.com/productions/international-tour-2016>.

Follow us at:

www.facebook.com/sydneydanceco

www.twitter.com/sydneydanceco

www.instagram.com/sydneydanceco

www.youtube.com/sydneydancecompany

#SDCOnTour

Watch a preview of Sydney Dance Company's *Interplay* at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YF8rnG7STzA>.

ENDS

Image: Rafael Bonachela's *Interplay*; Gideon Obarzanek's *L'Chaim*; Jacopo Godani's *Raw Models*. Photos by Wendell Teodoro.

MEDIA CONTACT

For information, images or interviews contact:

Sydney Dance Company Publicist, Julie Clark, email juliec@sydneydancecompany.com

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. 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.

SEASON INFORMATION

Sydney Dance Company presents

Interplay

Rafael Bonachela, *2 in D Minor*

Jacopo Godani, *Raw Models*

Gideon Obarzanek, *L'Chaim*

Duration: 2 hours 10 minutes including interval

CHOREOGRAPHER BIOS

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, 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.

Rafael'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.

These 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.

Over the past seven years, Rafael has created numerous danceworks for Sydney Dance Company including *we unfold* (2009), *6 Breaths* (2010), *LANDforms* (2011), *2 One Another* (2012), *Project Rameau* (2012), *Emergence* (2013), *Simple Symphony* (2013) *Les Illuminations* (2013), *2 in D Minor* (2014), *Scattered Rhymes* (2014), *Frame of Mind* (2015) and *Variation 10* (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).

Rafael's achievements in dance have been widely recognised both within the industry and in the broader community.

In 2012 he was listed as one of *Sydney Magazine's* Top 100 Most Influential People 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 2013 he was honoured with an Officer's Cross of the Order of Civil Merit by His Majesty the King of Spain, and was named winner of the dance category for The Monthly's 2013 Arts Awards.

Rafael's 2012 work, *2 One Another* has won numerous awards including 'Best Ensemble' (Green Room Awards 2012), 'Outstanding Achievement in Choreography' (Australian Dance Awards 2013), and 'Outstanding Performance by a Company' (Australian Dance Awards 2013).

Most recently, his 2015 production, *Frame of Mind* was awarded 'Best Choreography in a Dance Work' and 'Best Dance Work' at the 2015 Helpmann Awards.

Rafael's internationally recognised talent has seen him work not only with contemporary dance at the highest level but also with artists from popular culture. He embraces the opportunity to collaborate on both dance and cross art-form projects, a philosophy which has seen him work with companies and artists including singers Kylie Minogue, Tina Turner, Sarah Blasko and Katie Noonan; fashion designers Dion Lee and Toni Maticevski; visual artists Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla (for *Revolving Door, 13 Rooms, Kaldor Project*, 2013); and artist Mira Calix (*Inside There Falls, Sydney Festival*, 2015).

With Sydney Dance Company he has also collaborated with the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

Rafael is currently working on a new piece, *Lux Tenebris*, which will premiere as part of Sydney Dance Company's season of *CounterMove*, opening 29 February 2015 at Roslyn Packer Theatre Walsh Bay, touring nationally until 17 August.

www.sydneydancecompany.com/people/artistic-director/

Jacopo Godani

Internationally acclaimed choreographer Jacopo Godani was born in La Spezia, Italy, where he began studying classical ballet and modern dance techniques in 1984 at the Centro studi Danza under the direction of Loredana Rovagna. He also pursued studies in visual arts for three years at the Fine Arts School of Carrara. In 1986, Godani was accepted to further his studies at Maurice Béjart's international dance centre Mudra in Brussels.

Godani made his professional debut in 1988 performing with several Paris-based contemporary dance companies. In 1990 he formed his own Brussels-based company and began his choreographic career. His work in Brussels was produced by the theatre L'Atelier Saint-Anne and was supported by the Théâtre Plateau. From 1991 to 2000 Godani was a leading soloist with William Forsythe's Ballet Frankfurt and collaborated with Forsythe on the choreographic creation of many of Ballet Frankfurt's most representative pieces.

Godani developed his career as a choreographer creating original works for a vast range of international companies such as Royal Ballet Covent Garden, Bayerisches Staatsballett, Compañía Nacional de Danza, Nederlands Dans Theater, Royal Danish Ballet, Ballet British Columbia, Le Ballet du Capitole de Toulouse, Corpo di ballo del Teatro alla Scala, Royal Ballet of Flanders, Ballet de l'Opera national du Rhin, Finnish National Ballet, Semperoper Ballett, Sydney Dance Company, Israeli Opera Ballet & Suzanne Dellal Centre, Het Nationale Ballet, Aterballetto, Les Ballets de Monte Carlo, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet and many others. In 2000 Godani was appointed as Artistic Director and Choreographer of the acclaimed Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company.

Godani's work is sophisticated while remaining highly physical and raw. He uses the collective working as one organism in a highly articulated way. Godani conceives all stages of work from the initial choreography through to designing the spaces, objects, environments and stage settings where his actions take place, writes text and concepts for his dramaturgical work, styles the image of interpreters conceiving costumes, engineers and develops innovative ways of using lighting, video and projections, and creates/edits music for some of his pieces. Godani formed a team of like-minded professionals to collaborate on the development of original ideas applied to all fields that require a creative and innovative concept to reflect the progressive perspective of our contemporary world.

Gideon Obarzanek

Gideon Obarzanek is a director and choreographer. He is also an Artistic Associate with the Melbourne Festival, Chair of the Melbourne Fringe Festival and board member of Critical Path – choreographic research centre based in Sydney.

Gideon founded dance company Chunky Move in 1995 and was CEO and Artistic Director until 2012. His works for Chunky Move have been diverse in form and content including stage productions, installations, site-specific works, participatory events and film. These have been performed in many festivals and theatres around the world including Edinburgh International, BAM Next Wave NY, Venice Biennale, Southbank London, Territoria Festival Moscow and all major Australian performing arts festivals.

In 2013 Gideon was a resident artist at the Sydney Theatre Company where he wrote and directed his first play, *I Want to Dance Better at Parties*. He later co wrote and directed a documentary screen version with Mathew Bate winning the 2014 Sydney Film Festival Dendy Award.

In 2014, Gideon choreographed a new work for Sydney Dance Company's *Interplay*. Created in collaboration with actor/writer/dramaturg David Woods, *L'Chaim!* ('To life!' in Hebrew and Yiddish) is a playful and epic piece showcasing Gideon's genius for choreographing movement on a grand scale.

Gideon recently created a new work for the Australian Ballet's fiftieth anniversary season. He is a recipient of an Australian Creative Fellowship working with theatre, dance and documentary filmmakers to develop projects with simultaneous live and broadcast outcomes.

Gideon's awards include 'Best Short Documentary' for *Dance Like Your Old Man* at the 2007 Melbourne International Film Festival, 2008 Flickerfest International Film Festival and the 2008 Cinedans Film Festival in Amsterdam. In collaboration with Lucy Guerin and Michael Kantor, Gideon has also received a New York Bessie award for outstanding choreography and creation for Chunky Move's production of *Tense Dave*. In 2008 he received two Australian Helpmann Awards for *Glow* and *Mortal Engine*.