

# NEW BREED 2017

## MEET THE NEW BREED OF AUSTRALIAN DANCE CREATORS

30 Nov – 9 Dec

### CARRIAGEWORKS SYDNEY

Sydney Dance Company and Carriageworks, in conjunction with The Balnaves Foundation, announce five up-and-coming Australian choreographers commissioned to create new works for the acclaimed *New Breed* initiative that supports Australia's next generation of dance-makers.

"How lucky are these five 'emerging' choreographers to have the support and resources of the Sydney Dance Company and Carriageworks for their early efforts? Best of all, to have the wonderful SDC dancers to help bring their ideas to physical reality." *Sydney Morning Herald*

Co-presented by two of Australia's most dynamic arts organisations – Carriageworks and Sydney Dance Company – with the generous support of The Balnaves Foundation, ***New Breed 2017*** will provide Australian choreographers Melanie Lane (Melbourne/Berlin), Tyrone Robinson (Perth), Petros Treklis (Melbourne), Cass Mortimer Eipper (Melbourne) and Nelson Earl (Sydney) with an invaluable opportunity to work with Australia's finest contemporary dancers on a newly commissioned dance piece. Cass Mortimer Eipper and Nelson Earl will present the first *New Breed* co-creation.

The four new works created by the *New Breed 2017* choreographers will be presented at Sydney's premier multi-arts precinct, Carriageworks, from 30 November to 9 December 2017.

Sydney Dance Company, Carriageworks and The Balnaves Foundation's *New Breed* initiative made its debut in November 2014, supporting five young Australian choreographers through the creation and presentation of unique new dance works. Three sold out seasons in 2014, 2015 and 2016 ensued.



Following the *New Breed* program, Adelaide-based *New Breed 2014* choreographer Gabrielle Nankivell was the recipient of the 2015 Tanja Liedtke Fellowship for her work *Wildebeest*. *Wildebeest* was part of Sydney Dance Company's stunning double bill *Untamed* in 2016 and was nominated for a Helpmann Award for Best Choreography in a Ballet, Dance or Physical Theatre Production in 2017.

The fourth instalment in the *New Breed* initiative, delivered during 2017, will see Carriageworks, Sydney Dance Company and The Balnaves Foundation continue their commitment to the future of Australian contemporary dance, by supporting independent choreographers Melanie Lane, Tyrone Robinson, Petros Treklis, Cass Mortimer-Eipper and Nelson Earl. From August until December 2017, these dance makers will benefit from the extensive support from all departments of Australia's leading contemporary dance company, in readiness for the showcase of their four new works from 30 November to 9 December 2017 at Carriageworks.

"... Sydney Dance Company's *New Breed* has proven itself to be a wonderful laboratory for rising choreographic talents to test new ideas and stretch their choreographic muscles...With visionary support from The Balnaves Foundation, *New Breed* is a now an annual development showcase of new dance staged by SDC every December." *Daily Review*

**Sydney Dance Company Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela says,** “For almost half a century, Sydney Dance Company has earned a reputation as a breeding ground for future generations of Australian choreographic artists. We are proud to further contribute to this legacy through a truly unique program, and to invest in what we believe is the very foundation of the future of Australian contemporary dance – its creators.”

**Carriageworks Director Lisa Havilah says,** “Carriageworks’ ongoing partnership with Sydney Dance Company to present this unique program reaffirms our commitment to showcasing new work from Australia’s most innovative emerging choreographers, performed by some of the finest contemporary dancers in Australia. We are grateful for the support of The Balnaves Foundation in helping to create pathways for the next generation of independent choreographic talent.”

**Victoria Balnaves of The Balnaves Foundation says,** “The Balnaves Foundation has a strong focus on fostering the young talent we have in Australia and we are proud to support *New Breed*, in partnership with Sydney Dance Company and Carriageworks, for a further 3 years,” said Victoria Balnaves. “*New Breed* provides a platform for emerging choreographers to push the boundaries and explore their creativity in wild and imaginative ways, helping them to grow and inspire. It’s wonderful to see the recent success of previous *New Breed* choreographers and we have no doubt this year’s artists will be equally impressive.”

## 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. Sydney Dance Company’s DancED program is a national initiative supporting dance education for all ages, from

primary students through to pre-professional dancers. A legendary force in contemporary dance in Australia, Sydney Dance Company will celebrate its 50th year in 2019.

## ABOUT CARRIAGEWORKS

[Carriageworks](#) is the largest and most significant contemporary multi-arts centre of its kind in Australia. Engaging artists and audiences with contemporary ideas and issues, Carriageworks has a reputation for presenting large-scale immersive programs that are artist led and emerge from Carriageworks’ commitment to reflecting social and cultural diversity. The Carriageworks artistic program is ambitious, risk taking and unrelenting in its support of artists.

## ABOUT THE BALNAVES FOUNDATION

[The Balnaves Foundation](#) is a private philanthropic organisation established in 2006 by the Balnaves family to provide support to charitable enterprises across Australia. The Foundation disperses over \$2.5 million annually to organisations that aim to create a better Australia through education, medicine and the arts, with a focus on young people, the disadvantaged and Indigenous communities.

Tickets are currently on sale for this limited season presentation, from 30 November to 9 December 2017 at Carriageworks.

All tickets \$35, for more information and bookings go to [sydneydancecompany.com/newbreed2017](http://sydneydancecompany.com/newbreed2017), [carriageworks.com.au](http://carriageworks.com.au).

Following the performance on Friday 1 December, Sydney Dance Company Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela will be in conversation with *New Breed* choreographers Nelson Earl and Cass Mortmer Eipper, Melanie Lane, Tyrone Robinson and Petros Treklis. This is a free event for ticket holders.

There will also be a one-off opportunity for dancers to work with choreographer Daniel Riley on Saturday 2 December, 10 – 11.45am at Carriageworks. The free masterclass is for adults 18+ and open to

professional dancers and advanced dance students in tertiary / vocational training. For more information, please email [education@sydneydancecompany.com](mailto:education@sydneydancecompany.com) or call 02 9258 4800.

The *New Breed* initiative is made possible through generous support from The Balnaves Foundation.

## CHOREOGRAPHER BIOGRAPHIES

### Melanie Lane

Melanie is a Javanese/Australian choreographer and performer. Based in Europe from 2000–2014, Melanie worked with artists such as Arco Renz | Kobalt Works, Club Guy and Roni, and Tino Seghal performing internationally. Since 2007, Melanie is artistic collaborator to Belgian dance company Kobalt Works | Arco Renz collaborating on projects in Belgium, Norway, Germany and Indonesia.

In 2015, Melanie was appointed resident director at Lucy Guerin Inc. Melanie has established a repertory of works performing in international festivals and theatres such as Tanz im August, Uzes Danse Festival, Arts House Melbourne, Taipei Arts Festival, Spring Dance Festival, O Espaço do Tempo, Festival Antiguel, Dance Massive and HAU Hebbel am Ufer Berlin among others. She has been artist in residence at Dock 11 Berlin, Tanzwerkstatt Berlin, Lucy Guerin Studios and Schauspielhaus Leipzig.

Her collaborative work extends to artists such as musician Clark, choreographer Morgan Belenguer, and visual artists Martin Boettger, Ash Keating and Bridie Lunney.

She performed in Lucy Guerin's *Split* (2017) and joined Antony Hamilton Projects for his works – *Drift* (2011), *Black Project 1*(2012) *Ruth* (2015) and *Number of the Machine* (2017).

In 2014 Melanie was commissioned to create a new work *Spacekraft* at Schauspiel Leipzig. Melanie choreographed the 2014/15 and 2017 live show for UK electronic musician Clark, performing at Field Day London, Moma PS1 New York, Villette Sonique Paris and Barcelona/Istanbul Sonar Festivals.

In 2016 Melanie was commissioned by Chunky Move to create a new work *Re-make* and premiered *Wonderwomen* - co-produced by LOFFT and HAU theatres in Germany.

In 2017 Melanie is choreographic collaborator for the new video artwork *Evanescence* conceived by Amos Gebhardt and will premiere her new work *Nightdance* at Arts House in August.

Melanie has been a guest teacher for companies such as Carte Blanche Norway, Sasha Waltz and Guests, Chunky Move, Danish Dance Theatre, Skanes Dansteater, Sydney Dance Company, Bangarra Dance Theatre and Nordwest/Tanzcompagnie Oldenburg among others.

### Tyrone Robinson

As a Perth based performance artist Tyrone has worked in the contemporary and commercial performance scene both nationally and internationally. In recent years Tyrone has developed his name as an emerging choreographer creating such works as *KS Project* - a work commissioned by City of Perth, *Being in love is not a good reason for two people to stay together* - a solo produced by Performing Line for the 2016 PRIME CUTS, and *Coven* performed by the performance company of K2 Dance at the 2016 Australian Dance Awards.

Now entering a more choreographic career stream he has began working with Australian dance companies such as Co3 and Sydney Dance Company. For the past three years he has been teaching at the K2 dance studios, teaching many different styles of dance to people ranging in ages of 9 - 40, and engaging with youth in dance education around Perth.

Tyrone's success with the 2017 STRUT Seed Residency sees him with a growing support network and more creative opportunities awaiting him.

### Cass Mortimer Eipper (making a duet with Nelson Earl)

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 recently 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 for Link Dance Company, *So You Think You Can Dance Australia* and for various commercial events.

Cass joined Sydney Dance Company in January 2013 and has performed in Rafael Bonachela's *Emergence* (2013), *Les Illuminations* (2013-2015), *2 One Another* (2013-2015), *2 in D Minor* (2014), *Scattered Rhymes* (2014), *Frame of Mind* (2015), *New Breed* (2015) and *Triptych* (2015). *Frame of Mind* won the 2015 Helpmann Award for 'Best Choreography in a Dance Work' and 'Best Dance Work'.

He has also featured in the works of guest choreographers Larissa McGowan's *Fanatic*, Alexander Ekman's *Cacti*, Jacopo Godani's *Raw Models*, Gideon Obarzanek's *L'Chaim!* and *Parenthesis* by Andonis Foniadakis as well as performing a featured role in William Forsythe's *Quintett*. He was a part of the collaboration with Kaldor Public Art Projects for the contemporary art

exhibition *13 Rooms* where Sydney Dance Company featured in Allora and Calzadilla's *Revolving Door*.

Cass choreographed a piece for Sydney Dance Company's 2014 New Breed season, *Dogs and Baristas* and Sydney Symphony Orchestra's *Le Grand Tango* in April 2015.

Cass was recently nominated for a 2014 Green Room Award for 'Best Male Dancer' in *Interplay* and he won the 2015 Helpmann Award for 'Best Male Dancer' in William Forsythe's *Quintett*.

## **Nelson Earl**

Nelson was born in Sydney, where he began most of his dance training at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts. While dancing at NHSPA he was able to work with established artists such as Adrian Van Winkelhoff and Garfield Lamonius, to name a few. Nelson went on to achieve the Marcus Santos outstanding male dancer award in 2013.

After graduating from NHSPA, Nelson undertook a year of full time dance training at Sydney Dance Company's Pre-Professional Year where he was awarded the Mary Zuber Scholarship.

Nelson joined Sydney Dance Company on their 2016 regional Australian tour where he performed the triple bill *De Novo* with the company featuring in Rafael Bonachela's *Emergence* and Alexander Ekman's *Cacti*.

At the end of his full time year Nelson was granted a position as a trainee with Sydney Dance Company for the year 2016, supported by the Wales Family Foundation, where he has performed in Rafael Bonachela's works *Lux Tenebris*, *Anima and Orb*, *New Breed* and Gabrielle Nankivell's *Wildebeest*.

## **Petros Treklis**

Born in Melbourne, Petros moved to London in 2007, where he was offered a place on the Degree Course at Laban Conservatoire for Contemporary Dance. During his time training at Laban, Petros worked with

Rosemary Butcher, Gary Lambert, Dam Van Huynh, Rosemary Brandt, Charles Linehan, and Kerry Nicholls.

In early 2010 Petros toured Kerry Nicholls work, *Hearth* in Malta, performing for the Maltese Arts Council. Soon after Petros toured another work, *Sainte Marie-Joseph De La Rose* by upcoming choreographer Tamara Gvozdenovic in Neuchatel, Switzerland. In July 2010 Petros successfully graduated from Laban and joined Tavaziva Dance, as a full time professional dancer, going on to do national and international tours for four of the companies' major full-length productions. In April 2014, Petros completed his four years with Tavaziva Dance and made the move back from London to Australia.

Petros has also danced for Watkins Dance, joining the company as a guest artist in 2012. In 2013 Petros took part in the ArtsCross 2013 Project, which allowed him to work with 10 specially selected professional dancers from England, Taiwan and Beijing. In this project well known Taiwanese Choreographer Ho Hsiaomei and Place Prize 2013 Winner Riccardo Buscarini selected Petros and four other dancers to perform new short works for them. Petros then went on to dance for IJAD Dance Company for their 2013 project, *In- Finite Space*.

Petros joined Sydney Dance Company in 2014 for *Louder Than Words* featuring in Rafael Bonachela's *Scattered Rhymes* and Andonis Foniadakis' *Parenthesis*. He has since featured in Rafael Bonachela's *Frame of Mind*, *Triptych*, *Anima* and *Orb* as well as *New Breed* and Gabrielle Nankivell's *Wildebeest*. *Frame of Mind* won the 2015 Helpmann Award for 'Best Choreography in a Dance Work' and 'Best Dance Work'.

## MEDIA CONTACTS

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