

SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY

UNTAMED

***World premiere* Rafael Bonachela ANIMA**

Gabrielle Nankivell WILDEBEEST



October 18 - 29, 2016

Roslyn Packer Theatre Walsh Bay, Sydney

Following six months in the air and on the road, touring nationally and internationally, Sydney Dance Company returns to its home city with a stunning new double bill production, *Untamed*.

For this special Sydney-exclusive season Sydney Dance Company Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela shares the bill with one of the country's most exciting young choreographers, Adelaide-based Gabrielle Nankivell, winner of the 2015 Tanja Liedtke Fellowship.

The title of Rafael Bonachela's new work, *Anima*, comes from the Latin for breath, vital force, spirit and soul. Set to an alluring and vibrant concerto for cello and strings by Grammy nominated British/Bulgarian contemporary classical composer Dobrinka Tabakova, the work will be an exploration of some of the mysteries of the inner self - the hidden and unrealised impulses, the unspoken thoughts and the unnoticed actions that inform and drive the persona.

For this piece Bonachela will also collaborate with Sydney and Paris based Australian director, designer and illustrator Clemens Habicht - known for his filmclips for Flume, The Presets and Tame Impala - to create a unique visual world where interactions between the human body and the moving image exist. Lighting design will be by Bonachela's long time collaborator, Benjamin Cisterne.

Originally commissioned as part of Sydney Dance Company and Carriageworks' *New Breed* 2014 program, and presented as part of a short sell-out season in December of that year, Gabrielle Nankivell's critically acclaimed *Wildebeest* will be re-worked for its mainstage debut at the Roslyn Packer Theatre Walsh Bay.

Of the original Nankivell says, '*Cinematic in both visual aesthetic and sound, Wildebeest is an eerie little story assembled from the dancers' fascination for physicality - their power as individuals and strength en masse - their wild wildebeests within. With the head of an ox, the hindquarters of an antelope and the mane and tail of a horse, the wildebeest as image morphs easily between living animal and fanciful creature. Storms and predators gather as instinct stirs the herd and migration whirrs into action like an ancient machine.*'

Wildebeest features an amazing score from Luke Smiles of stormy weather, featuring "soaring song and yet more industrial grind – enough to match a passing freight train." (*Daily Review*)

This masterful and evocative dancework was named in the 2014 Dance Australia Critics Survey for 'Best New Work'.

Don't miss these two stunning works in Sydney in October! *Untamed* opens at Roslyn Packer Theatre Walsh Bay, Sydney Tuesday October 18. Eleven shows only, until Saturday October 29.

Book now at sydneydancecompany.com/untamed

For all of the latest Sydney Dance Company news and behind the scenes happenings subscribe at www.sydneydancecompany.com, or follow us at www.facebook.com/sydneydanceco; www.twitter.com/sydneydanceco; www.instagram.com/sydneydanceco; www.youtube.com/sydneydancecompany.

Follow #SDCUntamed @SydneyDanceCo on social media.

ENDS

Images: Sydney Dance Company *Untamed*. Photo by Iraneaus Herock. Sydney Dance Company performs Gabrielle Nankivell's *Wildebeest* featuring dancer Charmene Yap. Photo by Jack Saltmiras.

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. 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.

CREDITS

Wildebeest

Choreographer: Gabrielle Nankivell

Costume Designer: Fiona Holley

Sound Designer & Composer: Luke Smiles, motion laboratories

Lighting Designer: Benjamin Cisterne

Anima

Choreographer: Rafael Bonachela

Visual Designer: Clemens Habicht

Composer: Dobrinka Tabakova

Costume Designer: Aleisa Jelbart

Lighting Designer: Benjamin Cisterne

SEASON INFORMATION

Venue: Roslyn Packer Theatre Walsh Bay, Sydney

Dates and times: Tuesday October 18 – Saturday October 29

PREVIEW 6.30pm Tuesday October 18, All tickets \$45

EARLY SHOW 6.30pm Tuesday October 25

MATINEE 2pm Matinee Saturday October 29

SEASON 8pm Wednesday October 19 to Saturday October 22 and Wednesday October 26 to Saturday October 29

Tickets: From \$45

PREVIEW All tickets \$45

UNDER 30s Tuesday to Thursday shows \$30

CONCESSION \$45

ADULT Friday/ Saturday Premium \$89 A Reserve \$79 B Reserve \$65 C Reserve \$45; Weeknights and Matinee Premium \$85 A Reserve \$75 B Reserve \$59 C Reserve \$45

Bookings: Book now at sydneydancecompany.com/untamed

UNTAMED CREATIVES

ANIMA

Choreographer Rafael Bonachela

Rafael Bonachela was born in Barcelona where he began his early dance training before moving to London. In 1992 he joined the legendary Rambert Dance Company, where he continued as a dancer and Associate Choreographer until 2006, at which time he set up the Bonachela Dance Company.

During his time in London he received choreographic commissions from companies around the world as his reputation of creating dynamic and innovative work developed and grew.

In 2008, Bonachela 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.

Bonachela's vision for Sydney Dance Company embraces a guiding principle that has seen the Company's 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.

Bonachela'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.

Bonachela's awards include:

'The Place Prize' (London, 2004), inaugural winner, for his work *E2 7SD*;

'Outstanding Achievement in Choreography' (Australian Dance Awards, 2011) for his 2011 choreography *6 Breaths*;

'Best Ensemble' (Green Room Awards 2012), 'Outstanding Achievement in Choreography' (Australian Dance Awards

2013) and 'Outstanding Performance by a Company' (Australian Dance Awards 2013) for his 2012 work *2 One Another*;

'Best Choreography in a Dance Work' and 'Best Dance Work' (Helpmann Awards 2015) and Best **Duet & Ensemble**

Performance (Green Room Awards 2015), for his 2015 production, *Frame of Mind*.

Bonachela's internationally recognised talent has seen him collaborate with artist at the highest level on both dance and cross art-form projects 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, Queensland Symphony Orchestra and Queensland Opera.

His latest work, *Lux Tenebris*, premiered as part of Sydney Dance Company's Sydney season of *CounterMove* at Roslyn Packer Theatre Walsh Bay in February 2016. The work is currently touring nationally, and will also have its European debut in September 2016, performed by the Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company.

Visual Designer, Clemens Habicht

Clemens Habicht is a director, designer and illustrator who lives and works between Paris and Sydney. His graphic works include catalogues for the Sydney Biennale and the Secession Museum Vienna as well as signage and wayfinding design for the City of Sydney Surry Hills Library and Community Centre. His illustrations have been featured on the cover of the Artbank magazine, Sturgeon, and commissioned by the Bulletin magazine and the Sydney Morning Herald as well as public art commission by the City of Sydney. Videos include clips for Flume, The Presets and Tame Impala as well as commissions for the Edinburgh Film Festival and David Jones. He has taught design at the University of Technology Sydney and guest lectured at the Bauhaus Weimar. He is a director of Galerie Allen in Paris.

Composer, Dobrinka Tabakova

Dobrinka Tabakova is a composer of 'thoughtful and approachable' music (*Gramophone*), with 'glowing tonal harmonies and grand, sweeping gestures [which] convey a huge emotional depth' (*The Strand*). Her music has been commissioned and performed by leading musicians and ensembles and her debut profile album 'String Paths', on ECM Records, was nominated for a Grammy in 2014.

Born in the historic town of Plovdiv, Bulgaria, Dobrinka Tabakova moved to London in 1991, where she has lived since. She holds degrees from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and a doctorate from King's College London. Among Dobrinka Tabakova's prizes are the Jean-Frédéric Perrenoud prize and medal at the 4th Vienna International Music Competition; the prize for an anthem for the Queen's Golden Jubilee, performed at St Paul's Cathedral, the GSMD Lutoslawski Composition Prize 1999 and the 2007 Adam Prize of King's College London. She was a finalist for the 2010 Gaudeamus prize in Amsterdam and in 2011 was awarded first prize and the Sorel Medallion in Choral Composition, New York.

Her works have been recorded for the Hyperion and Avie record labels, among others, and in May 2013 ECM Records released the first full CD Album devoted to her music. The album *String Paths* reached No. 2 in the UK's Specialist Classical charts and attracted praise from the international press. *String Paths* was nominated in the Classical Compendium category of the 56th Grammy Awards and was one of four albums supporting the Grammy Nomination of ECM Records founder Manfred Eicher for Classical Producer of the Year. Music from the album was used in Jean-Luc Godard's award winning 2014 film 'Adieu au langage'.

The music of Dobrinka Tabakova has captured the imagination and support of worldwide audiences and leading musicians. She has been invited composer-in-residence at Festivals around Europe, as well as the 2010 Musicarama Festival in Hong Kong. Her works have been commissioned by the BBC, Royal Philharmonic Society, Amsterdam Sinfonietta, Three Choirs Festival, UK and Britten Sinfonia. Between 2014-2016 Dobrinka is working on two large-scale projects with the Stratford-upon-Avon based Orchestra of the Swan as composer-in-residence, supported by the Sorel Organization, New York.

WILDEBEEST

Choreographer Gabrielle Nankivell

Gabrielle Nankivell is an Australian director and performer with formative ties to Europe. Informed by a somewhat nomadic existence, her work is concerned with notions of impermanence and the ways in which we experience. Derived primarily from improvisation and writing, her hybrid choreographic practice invokes imagination, intellectual engagement and the senses.

Working independently and commissioned by leading dance companies and training institutions, Gabrielle also maintains a collaborative creative practice with composer/performer Luke Smiles. She has been awarded choreographic residencies including, Dancehouse's Housemate, Adelaide Festival Centre's inSPACE:development and STRUT's SEED as well as creating works through residency platforms in Armenia, Belgium, Portugal, Singapore and Slovenia. Gabrielle's work has been widely presented across Australia, Europe and Asia.

2015/16 choreographic commissions include *Thorn* for Tasdance, *Order of Things* and *Focus* for Frontier Danceland Singapore, *SUITE SECRET* for STRUT & Fringeworld and new works for the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts, Adelaide College of the Arts and LINK Dance Company.

Gabrielle also provides choreography and movement consultancy across various stage and film productions. Recent engagements include State Theatre Company of South Australia's *The Popular Mechanicals* and Windmill Theatre's multi award-winning *School Dance* and *Girl Asleep* and feature film *Girl Asleep*.

Gabrielle honed her dance career in Europe performing for Belgian artists Alexander Baervoets and Ultima Vez/Wim Vandekeybus and collaborating with Jurij Konjar (Slovenia), Raul Maia (Portugal) and Thomas Steyaert (Belgium). She has also lived and worked in Germany and Denmark. Since re-connecting with Australia through her own projects Gabrielle has created and performed with Australian Dance Theatre/Garry Stewart, Animal Farm Collective/The Farm, Branch Nebula, Chunky Move/Gideon Obarzanek, Gavin Webber, Grayson Millwood, KAGE, Torque Show and Victoria Chiu amongst many others.

Gabrielle is the recipient of the Marten Bequest Travelling Scholarship, two Impulstanz Vienna DanceWEB Scholarships, the inaugural Keith Bain Choreographic Travel Fellowship (2014) and the 2015 Tanja Liedtke Fellowship.

Gabrielle trained with Jacqueline Tucker in Adelaide and holds a Bachelor of Dance (Victorian College of the Arts), a Master of Arts in Writing (Swinburne University) and a foundation level teaching certificate in Ashtanga Vinyasa Yoga.

Gabrielle's *Wildebceest* choreographed for Sydney Dance Company in 2014, was named in the 2014 Dance Australia Critics Survey for being 'Best New Work'.

Sound Designer / Composer Luke Smiles

The introduction of a Commodore 64 computer into the family home in the early 1980's began Luke's fascination with computers and sound. Having had no formal musical training but instead yielding to a keen interest in how things work, Luke has developed a unique rapport among choreographers & directors in the development of soundtracks for dance and theatre.

Luke's appreciation of cinema has inspired a diverse sound making practice and led him to work in areas including music composition, sound design, foley and sound effects editing. Luke is renowned for producing detailed soundtracks with a focus on the complete sound experience, a quality that sees his work in great demand both nationally and around the

world, and awarded him a Helpmann Awards nomination (2013) for Best Sound Design (Windmill Theatre – School Dance).

Working under his business name *motion laboratories* Luke has composed and produced soundtracks for many Australian and International artists and companies such as: Australian Dance Theatre, Bare Bones Dance Company (UK), Belvoir, Byron Perry, Chunky Move, Dancenorth, Frontier Danceland (Singapore), Gabrielle Nankivell, Nederlands Dans Theatre (Holland), Ox (Belgium/Slovenia), Rambert Dance Company (UK), Stompin, Sydney Dance Company, Sydney Theatre Company, Tasdance, The Farm, West Australian Ballet & Windmill Theatre Company.

His soundtracks have been presented in venues across the world and experienced by audiences in; Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Luxemburg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, UK & USA.