

SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY

EUROPEAN SPRING TOUR 2018

FRANCE, GERMANY, SLOVENIA, SERBIA



In April, Sydney Dance Company will undertake a European Spring Tour of the exhilarating triple bill of Rafael Bonachela's *Lux Tenebris*, Cheng Tsung-lung's *Full Moon* and Gabrielle Nankivell's *Wildebeest*, with the Company's first ever performances in Paris at Chaillot - Théâtre National de la Danse. Rafael Bonachela, Cheng Tsung-lung and Gabrielle Nankivell will be in Paris for the Company's debut season and are available for interview.

The Company will also perform at the Belgrade Dance Festival in Serbia, at Cankarjev Dom Cultural and Congress Centre in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and in Germany at the Movimentos Festival, Wolfsburg.

SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY'S EUROPEAN SPRING TOUR TRIPLE BILL:

Lux Tenebris, Full Moon and Wildebeest

- Chaillot - Théâtre National de la Danse, Paris from 11-13 April
- Belgrade Dance Festival in Serbia, Serbian National Theatre, Novisad, 3 April 8pm
Sava Center, 15th Belgrade Dance Festival & Dance Council of Serbia, 4 April 8pm
- Gallus Hall, Cankarjev Dom in Ljubljana, Slovenia, 7 April
- Movimentos Festival in Germany, Autostadt, Wolfsburg from 19 – 22 April + workshop on 21 April

Lux Tenebris by Rafael Bonachela

Named after the Latin term meaning 'Light and Darkness', Rafael Bonachela's, *Lux Tenebris* explores light and darkness with fiercely physical movement and deep, electronic beats by composer Nick Wales (long-term collaborator of Sarah Blasko).

"This work is driven by our sense of what the music should sound like. I worked with Nick as he composed, feeding into his process to capture an emotional sense. I wanted contrast and visceral edges. I was interested in the unfamiliar and the industrial. I wanted to evoke an instinctual connection between people and wanted to draw out the tensions. For me, there was a driving force about how light and darkness affects us - our moods, our memories of specific periods in our lives – the physical sense of light and darkness overlaid with the emotional connections to those contrasting worlds," Rafael Bonachela

'★★★★★ UTTERLY MESMERISING' – [The Guardian](#)

'★★★★★½ A winning combination that, on the one hand provokes and entertains, and on the other confronts and moves its audience in a dazzling evening of dance.' – [Limelight Magazine](#)

Full Moon by Cheng Tsung-lung

Full Moon by Cheng Tsung-lung, the Artistic Director of Taiwan's phenomenal Cloud Gate 2, completes the double bill. This striking new piece harnesses the power of the moon and the mythology and poetry of mankind to thrill the audience.

"Living in our modern world, the vibrant city lights have endlessly fascinated me and occupied the interspaces of my sight and feelings at night. On the contrary, the moon, nature's symbolic beauty of night, shines light into my eyes and helps me uncover the mysteries of the unconscious world which I do not know, yet I feel exist." Cheng Tsung-lung

'In Cheng Tsung-lung's luminous *Full Moon* THERE IS A PROFOUND SENSE OF ETERNAL MOTION, AND NOT ONLY BECAUSE CHENG'S PIECE HAS THRILLING ERUPTIONS OF SPEED AND FULL-

BODIED SWIRLS. THERE IS VIVID LIFE EVEN IN MOMENTS OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE COMPLETE STILLNESS.’ – [The Australian](#)

‘WORLD CLASS AND DESERVES A PLACE IN PERMANENT REPERTOIRE . . . AN EXPERIENCE AS ENJOYABLE AND ENIGMATIC AS THE FULL MOON.’ – [Daily Telegraph](#)

Wildebcest by Gabrielle Nankivell

Originally commissioned as part of Sydney Dance Company and Carriageworks’ *New Breed* 2014 program, and presented as part of a sell-out season in December of that year, Gabrielle Nankivell’s critically acclaimed *Wildebcest* was re-worked for its main stage debut as part of the double-bill *Untamed* in 2016.

‘Cinematic in both visual aesthetic and sound, *Wildebcest* is an eerie little story assembled from the dancers’ fascination for physicality - their power as individuals and strength en masse - their wild wildebcests within. With the head of an ox, the hindquarters of an antelope and the mane and tail of a horse, the wildebcest 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.’ Gabrielle Nankivell

Moody and animalistic, *Wildebcest* is backed by a stormy and industrial score by Luke Smiles.

‘NANKIVELL SEES BEAUTY AND WONDER IN THE PRIMITIVE, ANIMALISTIC SELF, EVEN WITH DANGER AS A CONSTANT COMPANION. EVERY MOLECULE OF THE BODY IS VIBRANTLY ALERT, A STATE BRILLIANTLY CAPTURED BY BERNHARD KNAUER AT THE BEGINNING OF WILDEBCEST AND JANESSA DUFTY AT THE END’ – *The Australian*

‘★★★★ EVERY TIME YOU MIGHT THINK THE SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY PERFORMERS HAVE REACHED THEIR PEAK, THEY PUSH THEIR ABILITIES UP ANOTHER NOTCH’ – [Sydney Morning Herald](#)

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

MEDIA CONTACT

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