



ASCENT

In 2023, Sydney Dance Company makes an exciting return to Sydney Opera House as part of their 50th anniversary with the thrilling triple-bill *Ascent*, co-commissioned by Canberra Theatre Centre.

THE SHELL, A GHOST, THE HOST & THE LYREBIRD

BY MARINA MASCARELL

I AM-NESS

BY RAFAEL BONACHELA

FOREVER & EVER BY ANTONY HAMILTON

9 - 11 March 2023
Canberra Theatre Centre

15 - 26 March 2023
Sydney Opera House

NATIONAL TOUR

6 MAY – 12 AUG

NSW, VIC, SA, NT, TAS

Ascent features the work of three leading choreographers in the world of contemporary dance, with the premiere of renowned Spanish choreographer Marina Mascarell's *The Shell, A Ghost, The Host & The Lyrebird*, the reprise of Antony Hamilton's Helpmann award-winning work *Forever & Ever* and the premiere of [Rafael Bonachela's I Am-ness](#).

Brimming with physicality, *Ascent* explores ideas of the now, order, chaos and human behaviour with three innovative works from local and international dance stars. Full of electric movement and emotional force, *Ascent* is a powerful and arresting portrait of contemporary dance today and its potential to move, thrill and activate audiences.

Brought to life by Sydney Dance Company's superb ensemble, *Ascent* is a sensorial feast featuring immersive installations and magnetic musical scores.

This triple-bill is a creative union at once forceful, sumptuous and electrifying.

[IMAGES of Marina, Antony and Rafael](#)

ABOUT MARINA MASCARELL

"Every creation process transforms me deeply. I see my life through those processes. They are the doorways I cross every time that I create."

Marina Mascarell is a Spanish choreographer currently based in The Netherlands. She has been appointed as the Artistic Director of Danish Dance Theatre and will commence her role in April 2023.

Marina was the Resident Choreographer at Korzo Theatre in The Hague between 2011-21, Associate Artist at Mercat de les Flors in Barcelona since 2018 and founder and artistic director of MEI(s) Foundation.
others.

Marina has been commissioned to create pieces for institutions such as Nederlands Dans Theater 1 and 2, GöteborgsOperans Danskompani, Biennale de la Danse of Lyon with Lyon Opera Ballet, Skanes Dansteater and Dance Forum Taipei.

Her work has been performed in The Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Spain, Italy, France, Greece, Taiwan, China, Korea, Brazil, Argentina and Chile. She has been recognised and awarded with several prizes including the BNG Excellent Dans Award 2015.

Marina's works are poetic, political and intimate. In her art, the reflections, inquiries and concepts become a poetic fight, where thought transforms into corporeality and movement. Marina is interested in a rebellious body characterized by questioning 'normativity'. In the dancing body as a form of resistance, deeply rooted in political and social action.

Marina has studied queer theories, feminism, posthumanism, decolonisation and her work is imbued with themes of questioning society and the status quo.

Marina is the first international choreographer that Sydney Dance Company has worked with in over 6 years.

ABOUT ANTONY HAMILTON

Antony Hamilton is the Artistic Director and co-CEO of Chunky Move. He works with collaborators to experiment with materials and spaces, and uses choreography to occupy vivid imaginary worlds. Antony is preoccupied by the notion of an elemental, primordial body, situated in a construct of intersecting contemporary narratives, while being confronted by the dilemmas of an unknowable destiny.

His award-winning creations involve a collaborative melding of movement, sound and visual design. His major works include the seminal *Black Project 1* (2012), critically acclaimed *MEETING* (2015) and *NYX* for the 2015 Melbourne Festival. He has created numerous national and international commissions, including *Keep Everything* and *I Like This* for Chunky Move, *Black Project 3* for The Lyon Opera Ballet (FR) and *Sentinel* for Skanes Dansteater (SE).

Antony was the inaugural recipient of the Russell Page Fellowship in 2004, Tanja Liedtke Fellowship in 2009, a Creative Australia Fellowship in 2012 and Sidney Myer Creative Fellowship in 2014. He was guest dance curator at The National Gallery of Victoria in 2013-14 and honorary Resident Director at Lucy Guerin Inc in 2014. He was also inaugural Resident Artist at Arts House in 2015, and inaugural International Resident Choreographer at Dancemakers Toronto (CA) in 2016.

Antony is the choreographer of *Forever & Ever*, which premiered at the Roslyn Packer Theatre Walsh Bay in October 2018, and features a score by his brother, Julian Hamilton of The Presets.

In 2019 Antony created *Token Armies*, his first work as Artistic Director of Chunky Move, and in 2020 he was guest mentor for Dancehouse Helsinki's SPARKS project.

NATIONAL TOUR

Ascent

Sydney Dance Company's national tour will feature performances of ***Ascent***, a triple-bill by **Rafael Bonachela, Marina Mascarell** and **Antony Hamilton**.

"Forever and Ever lays siege to the senses with a mighty display of shock and awe. It's immediate, visceral stuff, as Wednesday's opening night reception proved. The roars of approval went on and on." **The Australian**

Ascent National Tour dates

Wyang, NSW

Ascent

06 May, The Art House

Adelaide, SA

Ascent

11 - 13 May, Dunstan Playhouse

Bendigo, VIC

Ascent

31 May, Ulumbarra Theatre

Warrnambool, VIC

Ascent

03 Jun, Lighthouse Theatre

Darwin, NT

Ascent

19 Jul, Darwin Entertainment Centre

Alice Springs, NT

Ascent

22 Jul, Araluen Arts Centre

Hobart, TAS

Ascent

27 Jul - 29 Jul Theatre Royal

Launceston, TAS

Ascent

02 Aug, Theatre North

Newcastle, NSW

Ascent

09 Aug, Civic Centre

Port Macquarie, NSW

Ascent

12 Aug, Glasshouse

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 and recently refurbished studios at Wharf 4/5 in Sydney's Walsh Bay Arts Precinct. Its studios house the largest public in-studio dance class program in Australia, attracting nearly 100,000 attendances each year. A legendary force in contemporary dance in Australia, Sydney Dance Company celebrated its 50th year in 2019. More information, www.sydneydancecompany.com

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