



NEW BREED 2023

Celebrating a decade of supporting the new breed of Australian dance creators

6 December - 16 December 2023

Carriageworks, Sydney

Sydney Dance Company and Carriageworks celebrate the 10th anniversary of *New Breed*, a leading showcase of choreographic talent with the generous support of The Balnaves Foundation.

Sydney Dance Company and Carriageworks, with the support of Principal Partner **The Balnaves Foundation**, are pleased to announce the four Australian dance makers commissioned to create works for this year's exciting tenth anniversary of *New Breed* in 2023. **Eliza Cooper**, **Tra Mi Dinh**, **Riley Fitzgerald** and **Beau Dean Riley Smith** will each choreograph a new work which will have its world premiere at Carriageworks from **6 - 16 December 2023**.

New Breed 2023 provides Australian choreographers with an invaluable opportunity to work with Australia's leading contemporary dance company on a newly commissioned piece. *New Breed* is well established as Australia's most exciting showcase of raw talent and fresh ideas from some of the country's most gifted emerging choreographers.

Leading the next generation of rich choreographic voices, this year's program will feature works by **Eliza Cooper**, dancer, choreographer, costume designer and this year's recipient of a prestigious ATLAS Choreographic Training Programme scholarship for ImPulsTanz: Vienna International Dance Festival; **Tra Mi Dinh**, dancer, choreographer and recipient of the Keir Choreographic Award for 2022; **Riley Fitzgerald**, current Sydney Dance Company dancer who returns to Australia after two years with the **Ballet National de Marseille**, France; and Wiradjuri and Gamillaraay man **Beau Dean Riley Smith**, award-winning dancer, choreographer and actor who performed with **Bangarra Dance Theatre** from 2013 to 2022.

These dance makers will benefit from the extensive support of all the departments of Sydney Dance Company in readiness for their premiere season at Carriageworks in December.

New Breed made its debut in November 2014, supporting emerging Australian choreographers through the commissioning and presentation of new dance work. Since its inception, the initiative has seen **35** emerging dance artists present world premiere works on the Company, such as leading contemporary choreographer **Melanie Lane**, and Artistic Director of **Australian Dance Theatre**, **Daniel Riley**.

Sydney Dance Company Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela said: *“Over the last ten years, New Breed has been instrumental in helping to support the early careers of some of Australia’s most exciting emerging dancemakers, many of whom are now acclaimed, internationally recognised choreographers, who continue to push the boundaries of contemporary dance and champion progressive ideas. I am delighted to introduce this year’s four choreographers for our New Breed 2023 program, and look forward to the continuation of this invaluable initiative for many years to come.”*

Carriageworks CEO Fergus Linehan said: *“Carriageworks is incredibly proud to have worked with Sydney Dance Company and The Balnaves Foundation over the last ten years on such an important initiative. This year’s instalment of New Breed promises to deliver another ambitious program of innovative choreographic work by some of Australia’s most compelling choreographic voices, brought to life on the Carriagework stage.”*

Victoria Balnaves of The Balnaves Foundation said: *“Celebrating ten years of New Breed is an extremely exciting milestone. The Foundation is proud to have been supporting this vital program since its inception in 2014, and to witness the impact New Breed has had, for not just the choreographers, but the dancers and the audiences over the past decade has been a privilege. The Balnaves Foundation’s support of these up-and-coming artists in their practice and seeing their vision brought to life by Sydney Dance Company remains an important part of our commitment to cultivating the future of the Arts in Australia.”*

The tenth instalment of New Breed will see Sydney Dance Company, The Balnaves Foundation, and Carriageworks continue their commitment to the future of Australian contemporary dance.

Ends

MEDIA CONTACT: For further information or to request interviews, please contact Jasmine Hersee, jasmine@articulatepr.com.au, 0451 087 196 or Isabel Wright, isabel@articulatepr.com.au, 0400 359 485.

IMAGES available to download [HERE](#)

TICKETING AND KEY INFORMATION

New Breed 2023

6 - 16 December 2023

Carriageworks, 245 Wilson St Eveleigh, NSW

Tickets on sale now: <https://www.sydneydancecompany.com/performance/new-breed-2023/>

ABOUT TRA MI DINH

Tra Mi Dinh (b. Darlinghurst 1993) is an Australian dancer and choreographer working across Naarm/Melbourne and Sydney/Gadigal. Tra Mi is the most recent recipient of the Keir Choreographic Award for her work *The ___* in 2022, and is incredibly grateful to receive a fellowship from the late Chloe Munro AO and Lucy Guerin Inc.

As a dancer, she's worked for artists and companies including Lucy Guerin Inc, Chunky Move, Stephanie Lake Company, Dance Makers Collective, Victoria Chiu, Joel Bray Dance, Lee Serle, Michelle Heaven, Nithya Nagarajan, Siobhan McKenna, Isabelle Beauvard, and Monica Bill Barnes & Company.

Dinh has developed her choreographic work through the support of residencies at Tasdance' On the Island Program, Sydney Fringe's Art in Isolation, Critical Path, March Dance, Ausdance' DAIR program, LGI's Moving Forward Residency, and DirtyFeet's Out of the Studio program. She premiered her debut solo work HOLDING at March Dance in Sydney 2021, presented (UP)HOLDING at Brand X, Darlinghurst in January 2023 and at Dancehouse, Carlton April 2023

Tra Mi studied at Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne, graduating in 2014 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Dance) and the Orloff Family Charitable Trust Scholarship for Most Outstanding Dancer.

ABOUT ELIZA COOPER

Eliza graduated from Newtown High School of the Performing Arts (2015) and received a Certificate IV in Dance in Sydney Dance Company's Pre-Professional Year program (2016). She continued her studies with Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company in the MASA Program (2017) and completed the Advanced Diploma in Dance accreditation at SDC (2021).

Since 2018, Eliza has worked as a seasonal dancer for Opera Australia (Dance Captain), Dance Makers Collective and Pepa Molina's 'Las Flamenkas' flamenco ensemble. She presented numerous short choreographic works at esteemed venues including PACT Theatre, Riverside Theatres, NIDA Theatres, the Zichri Theatre (Kibbutz Ga'aton) and Town Hall Sydney.

In 2019, Eliza's first full-length work 'Old Life/ Dead Life' premiered at the Old 505 Theatre in a highly successful sold-out season. In 2022, her second full-length work 'Bat Lake' premiered at Riverside Theatres in Form Dance Project's 'Dance Bites' series.

In 2022, SDC's Youth Ensemble presented her work 'Play' in SDC's Neilson Studio and Configuration Company's junior ensemble premiered 'An Army of Frogs' in 'Movement Display'. In 2023, Eliza began developing her next major solo work 'Snake Battle' and worked with the PPY2s on an ensemble work 'Chasing Fowls, Catching Rabbits'.

In 2023, Eliza received a prestigious ATLAS Choreographic Training Programme scholarship for ImPulsTanz: Vienna International Dance Festival. She will undertake intensive choreographic development and mentorship in Vienna with sponsorship from Life Long Burning and the EU's Creative Europe programme.

Eliza works as a movement director in fashion for leading designers such as Lee Mathews and Martyn Thompson and is a freelance costume designer and maker.

ABOUT RILEY FITZGERALD

Riley started dancing when he was 10 years old joining an all-boys hip-hop class in country Victoria. He quickly progressed to training with the Anita Coutts School of Dance, which set the tone for the years to come.

Following this Riley moved to Melbourne to the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School where he studied for 3 years, during which he made his professional debut featuring in *The White Prince* by Stephen Agisilaou.

Riley then completed his Level 6 Diploma of Dance Performance at the New Zealand School of Dance in Wellington where he trained under James O'Hara and Tor Columbus to name a few. Whilst in New Zealand he performed work by Damien Jalet and Huang Yi as a part of his graduate year.

Riley's professional career took off in 2019 when he became a member of Sydney Dance Company under director Rafael Bonachela. Whilst a member of Sydney Dance Company he performed soloist roles nationally and internationally in works such as *ab [intra]*, *Lux Tenebris*, *Impermanence* and the critically acclaimed *Six Breaths*. He also performed work by Gideon Obarzanek.

Following this Riley made the move to France, where he joined Ballet National de Marseille performing works by La Horde, Tania Carvalho, Oona Doherty, Lasseindra Ninja and Alexandre Roccoli, touring extensively throughout France and Europe.

Riley makes his return to Sydney Dance Company in 2023.

ABOUT BEAU DEAN RILEY SMITH

Beau is a Wiradjuri and Gamilaraay man from Dubbo NSW, raised on Yuin Country in Culburra Beach and Nowra, now living on Gadigal land.

Beau is an award-winning dancer, choreographer and actor who performed with Bangarra from 2013–2022 under the artistic direction of Stephen Page. He studied Theatre at WAAPA and later joined NAISDA Dance College graduating with a Diploma of Dance. In his 10 years with the company, he has performed in over 22 major productions. Also performing in films, *SPEAR* (Stephen Page) and *Moving Targets* (Tony Albert) and choreographed *Miyagan* from *OUR land people stories* – a work that Bangarra returned to Country as part of the 2018 regional tour and won a Helpmann Award for best regional touring program.

Beau's career highlights include performing the title role in *Bennelong* (2017) of which he later won a Helpmann Award for Best Male Dancer in a Ballet, Dance, or Physical Theatre Production, an Australian Dance Award for Outstanding Performance by a Male Dancer and was nominated for the Greenroom Award for Dance (Male Performer).

In 2022, Beau made his musical theatre debut as Dave Daylight in *The Sunshine Club* by Queensland Theatre under Wesley Enoch's direction. In 2023 Beau will make his Sydney Theatre Company debut in *The Visitors* directed by Wesley Enoch. Beau's passion for First Nations storytelling crosses artistic disciplines to bring to life the distinctive energy and nuanced quality central to cultural and contemporary Indigenous life.

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 and online 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

ABOUT THE BALNAVES FOUNDATION

The Balnaves Foundation is a private philanthropic organisation established in 2006 by Neil Balnaves AO to provide support to charitable enterprises across Australia. The Foundation disperses \$3 million annually to not-for-profit 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.

ABOUT CARRIAGEWORKS

Carriageworks is one of Australia's most renowned and significant contemporary multi-arts organisations. The Carriageworks First Nations and Artistic Programs provide significant support to Australian and international artists through commissioning and presenting contemporary work. Reflecting the diverse communities of urban Sydney, the Programs are ambitious and inclusive. carriageworks.com.au; Instagram @Carriageworks; Facebook www.facebook.com/carriageworks; Twitter @Carriageworks.