



ORBIT

**MEDIA RELEASE: AUSTRALIAN DANCE THEATRE, DANCEHOUSE AND
SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY LAUNCH ORBIT 2026
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FRIDAY 21 AUGUST**

Australian Dance Theatre (SA), Dancehouse (VIC), and Sydney Dance Company (NSW) are thrilled to announce the inaugural ORBIT program, featuring four independent choreographers who will embark on a fully supported multi-city tour throughout October and November.

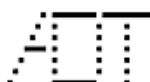
Supported by Creative Australia, ORBIT has been designed to create sustainable touring and audience development pathways for independent dance. The 2026 ORBIT program will feature ***Agitato* by Jo Lloyd (VIC)**, ***[GAMEBOY]* by Amy Zhang (NSW)**, ***Future History* by Gabrielle Nankivell (SA)** and ***Charcoal* by Githabul, Migunberri and Gomeroi choreographer Keia McGrady (VIC)**.

“Sydney Dance Company is committed to supporting the Australian dance sector by elevating the practice and work of independent choreographers,” says **Sydney Dance Company’s Artistic Director, Rafael Bonachela**, “Together with Australian Dance Theatre and Dancehouse, we can broaden this support, sharing their creativity and vibrant impact to even more audiences, reaching across the country with this important touring program.”

Blending emerging, mid-career and established voices, the 2026 ORBIT works are diverse in subject but united by an artistic ambition and invention. The programmed works run the gamut from a poignant meditation on connection to Country, a century-spanning conversation between a choreographer and classical composer, an exploration of the precarity of the human body and natural world, and a street-infused work inspired by Japanese game shows.

“Unbeknownst to most Australians, some of our most exciting living artists are our home-grown choreographers,” says **Josh Wright, Dancehouse’s CEO and Artistic Director**, “for generations, the Australian dance scene has been recognised internationally for its boutique brilliance. And much of that flare comes from choreographers working outside of large companies. ORBIT is a chance to experience a selection of the celebrated but rarely seen dance works that often only one city, for a couple of nights, have had a chance to witness.”

Over half of applicants for the ORBIT program had never been able to tour their work due to a mix of limited presentation opportunities, and logistical challenges like increasing touring costs. ORBIT will see the four selected works tour in two double-bills, bouncing between **Sydney Dance Company’s Neilson Studio**, **Dancehouse’s Sylvia Staehli Theatre** and **Australian Dance Theatre’s home at The Odeon**.



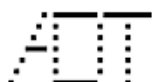


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ORBIT will also extend to outer-metropolitan presentations in Victoria, with seasons at **Bunjil Place** and **Burrinja Cultural Centre**. The program will not only invigorate the dance ecology, but also give audiences the opportunity to experience works from artists at the vanguard of contemporary practice.

“Independent artists lead the sector and consistently expand the idea of what it means to create contemporary dance in this country,” says **ADT’s Executive Director Nick Hays**, “but creating and touring work is getting more challenging, especially for independent choreographers. Working with our friends in Sydney and Melbourne to support these remarkable works and bring them to audiences is a real thrill. We can’t wait for ORBIT.”

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Touring October – November, 2026

Dancehouse (VIC): [29 – 31 October & 19 – 21 November](#)

Sydney Dance Company (NSW): [5 – 14 November](#)

Australian Dance Theatre (SA): [5 – 14 November](#)

Bunjil Place (VIC): 19 - 20 November

Burrinja Cultural Centre (VIC): 28 November

Creative Assets:

[Click here](#) to access a suite of creative assets related to this announcement.

If you have any queries, please contact Anthony Nocera on 0421944146

Media Requests:

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About ADT:

Australian Dance Theatre is Australia's oldest continuing contemporary dance company. Since 1965 we've made rebellious dance on Kurna Yerta and taken it around the state, the country and the world.

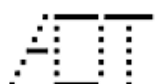
ADT is led by Wiradjuri man, Daniel Riley, who was appointed as Artistic Director in 2022. Since stepping into the role, he has created major works including *SAVAGE*, *THE HUM*, *The Third*, *Tracker*, *A Quiet Language Marrow* and *Two Blood*.

In 2025, the company launched LOFT – a new space for independent dance at Level One, Lion Arts Centre in partnership with CreateSA.

About Dancehouse:

DANCEHOUSE is located on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. Established in 1992 by local artists, Dancehouse is Australia's only presenting and producing house dedicated solely to the year-round presentation of dance by and with independent dance artists and communities. Dancehouse represents a diversity of visions, practices, and generations committed to the expression, development and celebration of dance artists, and the artform itself.

At the heart of Dancehouse is a heritage Victorian building with two studios and a theatre space that are leased generously by the City of Yarra for nominal rent. Dancehouse offers accessible and affordable spaces to an array of movement practitioners, teachers, audiences and communities.





ORBIT

As a producing and presenting house, Dancehouse hosts large-scale events and festivals that support local artists and international guests, offers programs that are incubators, catalysts and connectors; spanning presentations, commissions, training, residencies, research, capacity building, public programs, digital content and publications.

About Sydney Dance Company:

Sydney Dance Company is Australia's leading contemporary dance company, creating and presenting a repertoire of new work across Australia and internationally under the artistic direction of Rafael Bonachela. Based on Gadigal Land at Sydney's Walsh Bay Arts Precinct, the Company has shaped the evolution of contemporary dance in Australia for more than five decades.

Beyond the mainstage, Sydney Dance Company is a centre for creative development and learning, offering Australia's largest public in-studio dance class program alongside a breadth of training, education and independent sector initiatives that contribute to the national cultural landscape.



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