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Sydney Dance Company announces 2027 Program

Rafael Bonachela to mark his final major commission as Artistic Director

In 2027 Sydney Dance Company builds on its artistic legacy with a program that celebrates collaboration and the ever-evolving possibilities of contemporary dance. Across two major Sydney seasons, national and international touring, and a suite of programs supporting independent artists and emerging practitioners, the Company will present ambitious new work alongside celebrated repertoire.

Future Reverie will premiere in June, presented in the round at Carriageworks. Together choreographers **Richard Cilli**, **Antony Hamilton**, **Sela Vai** and **Charmene Yap** bring their unique creative minds into a single, ambitious new commission. The season reflects a defining thread of Rafael Bonachela's vision for the Company's distinctive artistic identity; one enriched by diverse perspectives and a commitment to creating opportunities for future generations. The Company's full Ensemble will perform alongside eight students from Sydney Dance Company's Pre-Professional Year program, expanding the season's cast to 25 dancers.

Set to a pulsating new electronic score by sound designer and DJ **Deepchild** (**Rick Bull**), costumes by **Aleisa Jelbart** and lighting design by artist **Sam Whiteside**, ***Future Reverie*** features four choreographic perspectives coalescing in a single work, where sound, movement and atmosphere collide.

In October the Company returns to Roslyn Packer Theatre with ***Wild Order;*** a triple bill that includes a world premiere by Rafael Bonachela, alongside the return of **Melanie Lane's *WOOF*** and **Ngaere Jenkins' *From the horizon thereafter***. Bonachela's final major commission for Sydney Dance Company in his role as Artistic Director reunites the award-winning and longstanding collaborators composer **Nick Wales**, lighting designer **Damien Cooper** and designer **Kelsey Lee**.

Originally commissioned through *New Breed*, generously supported by The Balnaves Foundation, *WOOF* returns to the Company's mainstage for an encore season. *From the horizon thereafter* also joins the Company's repertoire, marking the first time a work created by a current Sydney Dance Company Ensemble member will be presented on the mainstage. The Balnaves Foundation's commitment to developing Australian choreographic talent continues in 2027 with the appointment of **Eliza Cooper** as the fourth Balnaves Artist in Residence.

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Beyond its Sydney seasons, the Company will tour the critically acclaimed program ***Engine*** across Queensland, regional New South Wales and Tasmania through July and August. The triple bill brings together Rafael Bonachela's ***The Journey Itself Is Home***, Fran Díaz's ***The Mass Ornament*** and Melanie Lane's ***Love Lock***, with performances in the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Mackay, Cairns, Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Goulburn and Hobart.

Internationally, the Company's reach will extend across Europe with Rafael Bonachela's ***momenta*** touring to Spain (Barcelona, Madrid), Germany (Iserlohn, Remscheid, Fürth) and Serbia (Belgrade).

Sydney Dance Company continues to support the wider dance sector, presenting work by independent artists and creating opportunities for emerging dance makers. With the support of the Neilson Foundation, ***INDance*** returns in March, bringing four works by independent choreographers **Juliet Widyasari Burnett**, **Laura Boynes**, **Harrison Cook** and **Amelia Jean O'Leary** to the Neilson Studio, reflecting a breadth of ideas and perspectives across Australian contemporary dance.

In December, ***PPY27 Revealed*** will present works by choreographers at Carriageworks, marking the culmination of a year of technical training and creative development for students of Sydney Dance Company's nationally accredited Pre-Professional Year (PPY).

Sydney Dance Company resonates far beyond its performances, connecting audiences, students, teachers and communities with contemporary dance through education, participation and professional development. Following the graduation of its inaugural cohort in June, Sydney Dance Company looks ahead to welcoming its fourth Teacher Training intake in 2027. Across its education and youth programs, schools' matinees, professional learning opportunities for teachers, Youth Ensembles and school holiday workshops, pathways for young people are created to experience, explore and develop their relationship with dance. In-Studio Classes will continue to welcome people of different ages and experience levels, with more than 80 classes each week complemented by a program of dedicated short courses.

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Sydney Dance Company Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela said: "*2027 is a time to celebrate everything we have built together at Sydney Dance Company, and to look forward to the creative possibilities ahead. This program brings together artists at every stage of their careers, with different experiences and perspectives, each bringing something of themselves and united by curiosity and a willingness to explore.*

What continues to drive me is the feeling of discovery and I feel immense gratitude to the dancers, collaborators, supporters and audiences who have made this journey so inspired. I want 2027 to feel alive with the joy of co-creation. It is a reflection of the people who make this Company extraordinary, and of the imagination that will carry it forward."

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Season Details

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Season One – ***Future Reverie***
Carriageworks: 16 – 26 June

Future Reverie launches Sydney Dance Company's 2027 Season with an ambitious new work that places audiences at the heart of the action. Presented in the round at Carriageworks, this hypnotic experience brings together four of Australia's most exciting choreographic voices, Richard Cilli, Antony Hamilton, Sela Vai and Charmene Yap, in a landmark collaboration where distinct artistic perspectives converge in a single, powerful performance.

Season Two – ***Wild Order***
Roslyn Packer Theatre: 21 – 30 October

Wild Order brings Sydney Dance Company back to the Roslyn Packer Theatre with a powerful mainstage season that celebrates both artistic legacy and the future of Australian contemporary dance. At its centre is the world premiere of Rafael Bonachela's final full-length commission, a landmark moment in the Company's history. Audiences will also experience the highly anticipated return of Melanie Lane's acclaimed *WOOF* alongside Ngaere Jenkins' *From the horizon thereafter*, making its mainstage debut after its original success through *New Breed*.

★★★★ *"*WOOF *is a stunning, wildly inventive work"* – Limelight

★★★★ *"*From the horizon thereafter*. It's a delicate piece lasting only about 10 minutes but leaving a lasting perfume."* – Limelight

WOOF and *From the horizon thereafter* were originally produced by Sydney Dance Company as part of *New Breed* 2017 and 2025 seasons, co presented with Carriageworks and proudly supported by The Balnaves Foundation.

The Balnaves Foundation Artist in Residence 2027

In its fourth year, The Balnaves Artist in Residence program enables independent choreographers to work across Sydney Dance Company over a 12 month period. The residency offers insight into the artistic, production, and administrative processes that support the operation of a major contemporary dance company.

A graduate of Sydney Dance Company's Pre-Professional Year, Eliza Cooper has continued to build her practice as a choreographer and performer through her work with Dance Makers Collective, *New Breed* (2023) and the creation of work for *PPY25 Unfolds*. In 2023 she received a prestigious ATLAS Choreographic Training Programme scholarship for ImPulsTanz at Vienna International Dance Festival. Through the residency, Eliza will deepen her understanding of governance and arts administration while continuing to develop her own creative practice.

INDance
Neilson Studio, Sydney Dance Company: 11 – 20 March

INDance brings together independent artists exploring form, testing ideas and extending their creative practices. Juliet Widyasari Burnett, Laura Boynes, Harrison Cook and Amelia Jean O'Leary present a range of choreographic approaches connecting Sydney audiences with the diversity of work shaping contemporary dance in Australia.

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"... one of the most vital platforms for independent artists in Australia." – Dance Informa

INDance is supported by the Neilson Foundation.

PPY27 Revealed
Carriageworks: 16 – 17 December

Sydney Dance Company's Pre-Professional Year (PPY) offers aspiring dancers from across Australia and New Zealand full-time training alongside a world-renowned company. Now in its second decade, the program bridges the transition from full-time study to professional practice, equipping dancers with the technical skills and artistic perspective to pursue careers in contemporary dance. *PPY27 Revealed* celebrates the graduating cohort through works by Australian-based choreographers and an excerpt of Sydney Dance Company repertoire by Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela. The season marks the culmination of a program that supports dancers to develop as versatile, independent, and creatively assured artists.

"*... it illustrated exactly what the PPY program is known for - breadth, curiosity, resilience and the first steps toward grounded professional artistry*." – Dance Informa

National Tour

Engine (*Love Lock*, Melanie Lane; *The Mass Ornament,* Fran Diaz; *The Journey Itself Is Home*, Rafael Bonachela)

Queensland
Gold Coast, 24 July
Brisbane, 29 – 31 July
Mackay, 4 August
Cairns, 7 August

Regional NSW
Newcastle,11 August
Port Macquarie, 14 August
Goulburn, 25 August

Tasmania
Hobart,19 – 20 August

Love Lock was originally supported as part of Sydney Dance Company's 2024 *TwoFold* season by Visionary Patron, the Clegg Foundation.

Fran Diaz's *The Mass Ornament* is generously supported by Sydney Dance Company's Visionary Patron, the Clegg Foundation. *The Mass Ornament* was commissioned by Hessisches Staatsballe and performed in Australia with its kind permission.

Commissioning Partner of *The Journey Itself Is Home*, Orsolina28 Art Foundation and generously supported by the Carla Zampatti Commissioning Fund including leadership support from the foundation and donors to the fund.

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International Tour

momenta

Spain
Barcelona, 11 – 13 February
Madrid, 18 – 21 February

Germany
Iserlohn, 26 February
Remscheid, 28 February
Fürth, 3 – 7 March

Serbia
Belgrade, 12 March

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.

More information sydneydancecompany.com

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