

# SYDNEY DANCE TRAINING



SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY  
AND RIVERSIDE THEATRES PRESENT

***PPY24 Revealed***  
**30 November - 1 December**

# SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY

2025

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Photo: Pedro Greig



***PPY24 Revealed* is presented on the land of the Dharug people. Riverside Theatres and Sydney Dance Company acknowledge the Dharug people and pay respect to Elders past and present. We also wish to acknowledge the Gadigal of the Eora Nation on whose land the Pre-Professional Year students have trained. We acknowledge their ongoing custodianship of the lands and waters and thank them for protecting the coastline and its ecosystem for time immemorial.**

# Rafael Bonachela

## Artistic Director



Welcome to *PPY24 Revealed*. We are thrilled to be presenting this performance at Riverside Theatres in Parramatta. It is a wonderful opportunity to show the outcomes of two years of ongoing hard work and self-development of the next generation of contemporary movers and thinkers in one of the hubs of vibrant Western Sydney.

The Pre-Professional Year (PPY) is a program like no other, providing a foundation that will stay with these graduates throughout their career. I'm looking forward to seeing the Pre-Professional Year students perform works by these incredible choreographers today.

A special thank you to Linda Gamblin, Head of Training, and the entire team. Their tireless work has been instrumental in shaping and evolving this program. The impact of their commitment resonates in the achievements of our alumni, who continue to thrive in the dance industry in Australia and internationally.

I would like to acknowledge our esteemed donors and training partners and thank them for their support of Sydney Dance Company and the Pre-Professional Year program.

The contributions of the Doug Hall Foundation Scholarship, The Wales Family Scholarships, The Ian Wallace Family Scholarship, Mary Zuber Scholarship and The Hephzibah Artist Development Program have been essential in allowing us to improve the access to aspiring dancers within our program. We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the Packer Family Foundation which has supported the production of *PPY24 Revealed*.

Thank you to Tim Fairfax AC, whose visionary support played a pivotal role in facilitating the much-needed expansion of the Pre-Professional Year team.

For some of our students, this may feel like the culmination of a journey, but it's really the beginning of a new world of opportunities. We wish fulfilling experiences to all our current students and the alumni who've paved the way before them. No matter which pathway you take, you have a strong foundation to continue cultivating your artistry, craft and your love of dance.

**Rafael Bonachela**  
Artistic Director

# Linda Gamblin

## Head of Training



Reflecting on yet another transformative year within our Pre-Professional Year (PPY) program, *PPY24 Revealed* presents the heart and soul of what it means to be a dance artist today. This year has been a journey of growth, discovery, resilience and collaboration, with our dancers embracing every challenge, big and small, with unwavering commitment to their craft. Fuelled by curiosity and passion, these emerging artists demonstrate the dedication and spirit needed to thrive in whatever comes their way.

Tonight, we proudly present five newly commissioned works created by some of Australia's most sought-after choreographers. We are sincerely grateful for the opportunity to work with James Batchelor, Cass Mortimer Eipper, Prue Lang, Frances Rings and Miranda Wheen. Together with original compositions by Fiona Hill, Peter McAvan, Morgan Hickenbotham and Chiara Kickdrum, the works you will see tonight reflect a dynamic fusion of vision and innovation. Their contributions have been instrumental in shaping this year's program, providing our dancers the opportunity to explore new ways of moving and thinking.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela for his continued support and leadership. This year, Rafael presents an exhilarating excerpt from *2 One Another*, featuring the original composition by Nick Wales. The energy and precision in this work reflect the joy and dedication that have defined our rehearsal in mounting the work on students. We are thrilled to share this with you tonight.

A special thank you goes to our dedicated PPY team: Training Associate Juliette Barton, Course Coordinator Tobiah Booth-Remmers, Conditioning Manager Felicity McGee, Learning Associate Lexy Panetta and Learning Administrator Eugénie English. Their expertise and passion have been pivotal in shaping the future of dance through their guidance, mentorship and tireless efforts behind the scenes.

To the performers tonight – your perseverance, creativity and dedication have led us to this moment. Tonight, you take the stage as trailblazers of a brighter tomorrow. With your bold vision, unwavering passion and commitment to new ideas, you are paving the way for a future filled with endless possibilities. I have deep respect for each of you.

**Linda Gamblin**  
**Head of Training**

# Program

## ***PPY24 Revealed***

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<b><i>A Library of Extraordinary Things</i></b> Miranda Wheen	17 mins
<b><i>Pattern Pulse</i></b> Cass Mortimer Eipper	16 mins
<b><i>The Language of Poppy</i></b> Prue Lang	17 mins
<i>Interval</i>	20 mins
<b><i>Circulation</i></b> James Batchelor	14 mins
<b><i>Water sketches part 1 &amp; 2</i></b> Frances Rings	10 mins
<b><i>Excerpt of 2 One Another</i></b> Rafael Bonachela	16 mins



Photo By:  
Wendell Teodoro

# ***A Library of Extraordinary Things***

## **Miranda Wheen**



Evoking a sense of defiance against the inevitable passage of time, *A Library of Extraordinary Things* seeks to celebrate the small pleasures and beauty found in the everyday. Mirroring the Still Life painter's meticulous study of light, colour, shape and perspective, the movement serves as a meditation on the stories behind seemingly mundane objects—what they signify, who has loved them and how they resonate differently through time.

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<b>Choreography</b>	Miranda Wheen in collaboration with the performers
<b>Composer</b>	Fiona Hill
<b>Lighting Design</b>	Karen Norris
<b>Costume Design and Supervisor</b>	Harriet Ayers
<b>Cast</b>	PPY2 Full Company

# ***Pattern Pulse***

## **Cass Mortimer Eipper**



*Pattern Pulse* delves into the enduring allure of cyclical rhythms that thread through life. Inspired by the tinny, repetitive melody of my 3-year-old child's toy guitar, the choreography is shaped by images of an AI-generated figure, which served as inspiration, dancing through the decades of its life. The original melody, recorded from the guitar, forms the core, gradually unfolding into a layered, evolving score that intertwines with the dancers' interpretations of this imagined journey. This transformation mirrors the patterns that captivate us, echoing the rhythms that resonate from childhood through to old age.

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<b>Choreography</b>	Cass Mortimer Eipper in collaboration with the performers
<b>Composer</b>	Peter McAvan
<b>Lighting Design</b>	Karen Norris
<b>Costume Design and Supervisor</b>	Harriet Ayers
<b>Cast</b>	PPY1 Full Company

# The Language of Poppy

## Prue Lang



This work draws inspiration from the intricate and vibrant vitality of the living, breathing natural world in the 21st century. It emerges from my octopus-inspired practice, which investigates physical intelligence through the sensory body. The piece is performed using pointe shoes, socks, and sneakers, exploring the interplay of friction and texture to generate diverse and nuanced choreographic modalities. In collaboration with my esteemed composer, Chiara Costanza, the work unfolds as a visual-musical journey that celebrates the complexities of physical intelligence and the beauty of difference.

I would like to extend my profound gratitude to Linda Gamblin for her visionary leadership of the Pre-Professional Year, which has facilitated the creation of this work embracing a true diversity of dance skills and methodologies. Additionally, I express my heartfelt appreciation to the dancers for this enriching collaboration. I wish you all the very best in your future endeavours in dance—may your unique artistic journeys unfurl in rich and rewarding directions.

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<b>Choreography</b>	Prue Lang in collaboration with the performers
<b>Composer</b>	Chiara Costanza
<b>Lighting Design</b>	Karen Norris
<b>Costume Design and Supervisor</b>	Harriet Ayers
<b>Cast</b>	PPY2 Full Company



Photo By:  
Wendell Teodoro

# Circulation

## James Batchelor



*Circulation* is part of a wider project *Resonance* by James Batchelor and collaborators that explores lineages of contemporary dance history and embodied memory through the lens of three different generations of Australian dancers. It grew out of an invitation by the Tanja Liedtke Foundation to respond to the archive of the late choreographer Tanja Liedtke. This process with the PPY students explored their own relationship to the history of her work, creating an evolution of movement vocabulary passed down by Tanja's collaborators.

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<b>Choreography</b>	James Batchelor in collaboration with the performers
<b>Composer</b>	Morgan Hickenbotham
<b>Lighting Design</b>	Karen Norris
<b>Costume Design and Supervisor</b>	Harriet Ayers
<b>Cast</b>	Santi Barker, Vivienne Clements-Lee, Julien Cravero, Lauren Davidson, Vincent Garcia, Zoe Jewell, Arabella Kiefer, Isobella Laidlaw, Alexandra Lusty, Charlie MacArthur, Ayesha Peerbaye, Hannah Roberts, Maggie Teasdale, Georgia Vincent, Ariana Wolf.

# Water sketches part 1 & 2

## Frances Rings



Earlier in the year I was invited by Linda Gamblin to do a 1 week choreographic workshop with the PPY2 students. We explored the theme of water, and particularly their own memory of water. This became our base phrase for a deeper exploration how this precious resource is under threat due to the climate emergency. As an Aboriginal woman, mother and artist, the legacy we leave to our young people is a priority. I felt this opportunity to come together was meaningful and special. A sharing of experiences, knowledge, story and trust. Thank you to the PPY team, my rehearsal directors Juliette Barton, Tammy Bouman, and the wonderful performers.

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<b>Choreography</b>	Frances Rings in collaboration with the performers
<b>Sound</b>	<i>Лале Ли Си, Зюмбюл Ли Си, Гюл Ли Си</i> by Philip Koutev Ensemble <i>Stio</i> by SHXCXHCXSH
<b>Lighting Design</b>	Karen Norris
<b>Costume Design and Supervisor</b>	Harriet Ayers
<b>Cast</b>	PPY2 Full Company

# Excerpt of *2 One Another*

## Rafael Bonachela



*2 One Another*, originally debuted in 2012, weaves a vivid, exultant and sensual study of human interaction – charting the myriad actions and reactions, gestures and relationships, connections and disconnections that make up a life.

*2 One Another* is set against a pulsing baroque-meets-electronica soundtrack, composed by Nick Wales. Shot through with the poetry fragments of Samuel Webster, this is dance at its most engaging and multi-dimensional.

Pre-Professional Year will perform an excerpt of *2 One Another* restaged by Charmene Yap, Rehearsal Associate and Juliette Barton, Training Associate.

<b>Choreography</b>	Rafael Bonachela
<b>Sound</b>	Nick Wales
<b>Lighting Design</b>	Karen Norris
<b>Costume Design Consultant</b>	Peter Simon Phillips
<b>Costume Maker</b>	Fiona Holley
<b>Costume Realisation</b>	Harriet Ayers
<b>Cast</b>	PPY2 Full Company



Sydney Dance Company dancers, Todd Sutherland and Barnhard Knauer in *2 One Another* (2017).

Photo By:  
Pedro Greig

# Pre-Professional Year (PPY) Class of 2024

PPY1





# Pre-Professional Year (PPY) Class of 2024

PPY2



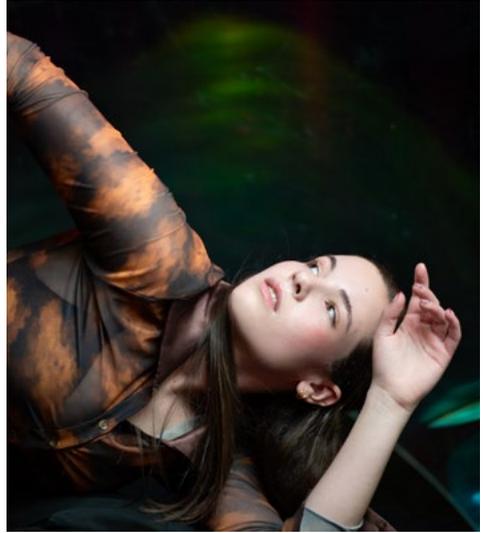


# Pre-Professional Year (PPY) 2024



**Mahalia Adamson (PPY1)**

To sum up into words the past year is an impossible task. In just 12 months at Pre-Professional Year, I have experienced an unfathomable amount of growth as not only a dancer, but a person. My time here so far has completely immersed me in the world of dance, somewhere I don't see myself leaving anytime soon and a place that no matter how long I stay, will always have an abundance of exploration and knowledge to offer me. I'm tremendously grateful for this year, it has helped shape me as an artist far beyond where I could have ever thought possible and entirely changed the way I move through the world.



**Shoshana Auerbach (PPY1)**

PPY has been an incredibly rewarding and fulfilling experience that has allowed me to reignite my passion for dance. It is such a nurturing environment that fosters a love of learning, creativity and artistry. Throughout this year, my mind has been opened to the breadth of what contemporary dance can be.

PPY has taught me about myself as a dancer, artist and human. I have been inspired to discover my own authenticity and gain agency over my life and career. I will continue to harness the resilience, confidence and self-expression that this course has provided me throughout my dance journey.



**Tilly Backus (PPY2)**

“His eyes were feeling themselves to be full of things within and were not empty enough and open enough to be filled with the things from without” - Laurence Van Der Post from *A Story Like the Wind*.

I have felt myself to be full of all the things, inside and out, up and down. But noticing and understanding them is a skill that I will value forever.

I owe a lot of thanks to this course for giving the space for courage, the space for change and space (a lot of it) to really DANCE.



**Kate Baines (PPY2)**

My time with PPY has been an opportunity to question, discover and affirm. From the diversity of dancers, choreographers and team members, my established thought patterns and values have been challenged and celebrated. I have learnt many things and been blessed with new friendships I had not expected. I learnt that community is essential for self-discovery and development. In life we are reminded to look within to learn more about oneself. But my experience at Pre-Professional Year has demonstrated that through observation and sharing of knowledge, we are gifted with a chance to better understand ourselves and our practises. With community we gain an integral key for self-discovery and inspiration. Thank you to the Pre-Professional Year for the community it has given me.

# Pre-Professional Year (PPY) 2024



**Santi Barker (PPY2)**

During my time in PPY, I had the opportunity to immerse myself in a vibrant and dynamic dance environment. The collaborative and supportive atmosphere within the course helped me form meaningful relationships with my fellow dancers and teachers. PPY has pushed me beyond my comfort zone, to seek out such vulnerability each day has aided my self-discovery. The combination of physical rigour and creative exploration has fostered significant personal and professional growth. Sharing a space with loving, open-hearted and open-minded people has greatly impacted my experience over the past two years. I have never felt more comfortable and confident within my body.



**Phoebe Bayley (PPY2)**

PPY has been a transformative experience, enriching my skills as a dancer and shaping my identity in this world. The program has provided a unique space for me to cultivate my artistic practice while surrounded by inspiring and supportive people. Working with exceptional instructors and fellow dancers, I've explored a diverse range of styles and techniques, broadening my understanding of movement and storytelling. Reflecting on this year, I am grateful for the invaluable skills and insights I've gained, which will guide me as I continue to pursue my passion for dance.



**Isabelle Becvarik (PPY1)**

Learning such a diverse syllabus and breadth of skills from so many unique teachers, artists and disciplines this year has expanded my understanding of what is possible in contemporary dance and the value of viewing it as a connected and collective experience. At the same time, the program has helped me 'unlearn'. Stripping back old habits and preconceptions, to enable a much more intuitive approach that is grounded in my own ideas, capacities and intrinsic desire to explore from the inside out. Whilst I have gained significant physical strength and skills throughout the year, in many ways it is the exploration of qualities beyond the physicalising of movement that has strengthened my practice even more and provided me with an invaluable set of tools and approaches for not just dance but all endeavours in life.

The value of the PPY is so much more than what it does for you as a dancer. It is the way it lays the foundation for how you move through the world, with both the capacity to continuously evolve and the desire to understand and build on as many perspectives as possible.



**Aleisha Brown (PPY1)**

PPY has been an experience I am forever grateful for.

It is a privilege to train in an artform of any kind and I am thankful for the ways in which this course has guided and shaped me, both as a dancer and as a human being. This course has involved numerous learning experiences, challenges and moments I will cherish forever. I have gained not only technical development, but a deeper understanding of my own artistic voice through this environment and the guidance from various tutors have provided me with.

I am grateful to be surrounded every day by these talented emerging artists who have become my friends. We've shared challenging morning classes, countless rehearsals, and so many laughs, creating bonds that extend beyond the studio. I look forward in continuing to support and follow each other in our journeys.

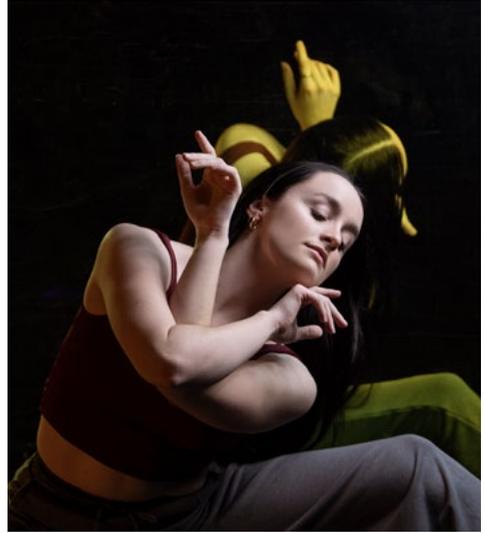
# Pre-Professional Year (PPY) 2024



**Edie Burgess (PPY1)**

PPY has given me the freedom to explore the beauty of choice in judgement, power to hold agency to myself and has submerged my existence into a state of creative expression. Being present and learning to navigate the space between stimulus and response has introduced a fresh outlook on my self-awareness in dance and has extended into my daily life.

This awareness has culminated in the ability to harness my skills in an improvised setting and have greater intuition in movement.



**Astrid Cahill (PPY1)**

PPY has allowed me to explore not only a plethora of concepts and approaches to contemporary dance, but it has also allowed me to explore my own body and how I create and perform movements. I have been able to learn so much more about myself and have grown in not only my confidence but also my technique.

By working with multiple talented choreographers throughout the year, I have been able to try various ways of choreographing and moving and have learnt so much about the contemporary dance industry. I have been able to make connections with so many artists' and have formed incredibly close bonds with the emerging artists in the course with me. This year has been full of learning and development and has given me the opportunity to question and explore myself and the world around me. I'm truly grateful for the experiences I have had this year, I cannot wait to see what the future holds for me and my creative practice.



**Vivienne Clements-Lee (PPY2)**

Imagine spending 385 days learning how and why to create, move, share, explore, question, indulge and love, whilst discovering who you are and who you want to be; alongside 25 friends doing exactly the same. A dream I am lucky enough to have lived.

The two most metamorphic years of my life. I have learnt to seek discomfort knowing it can become the opposite. I have learnt the importance of showing up for myself and the boundless possibilities that it will create for me. I have learnt to trust myself.

Above all, I am inexplicably grateful for the connections I have made with lifelong friends in this magical world called PPY.

“And, when you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it.” - Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*



**Alice Collins (PPY1)**

I've learnt a lot of important things this year, not just in dance but also in everyday life - if the two can be separated. I've learnt the importance of taking space, opening your eyes to see things - like really see things, the importance of how you enter a room, moving your head, and the importance of finding pleasure. I look forward to carrying all of these important things with me into second year and into my future beyond these studios.

# Pre-Professional Year (PPY) 2024



**Meg Connolly (PPY1)**

This year of PPY has provided me with valuable insights into my identity as a dancer and an artist. The opportunity to explore various styles and techniques has significantly contributed to my artistic development. Every class and performance have encouraged me to step beyond my comfort zone, allowing me to discover new avenues for self-expression. I appreciate the growth I have experienced and look forward to seeing where this journey will take me in the future.



**Julien Cravero (PPY2)**

PPY has provided me with so much that I am so grateful for. This includes the high-level training that I was expecting going into the course. However, I was not expecting the immense philosophies and life lessons that I am leaving with. The environment that the teachers and students of PPY create is so special as it has provided me with the safest space to deeply experience what dance can be. I am also so grateful for the ballet training that Linda has provided, it has completely shifted my perspective and led me to really enjoy ballet in a way that works for me when previously I would dread it. The anatomical and psychological wisdom that has been bestowed on me has shifted the way I dance and move, shaping me as a person. These two years have offered more than I could've imagined, I am so grateful for the artist and person they have nurtured.



**Lauren Davidson (PPY2)**

Oh how good it feels to dance, and to dance every day with people who have so much passion, creativity and drive. PPY is a place where I can get lost in the world of dance, finding meditation and peace within our busy lives. A space so vulnerable and open made comfortable by people connected with the same desire to be creative. I've learnt to trust the process and have confidence in myself as the journey will always be valuable.

How lucky I am to have met such incredible people who inspire me daily, that I love watching dance and cannot wait to see what we collectively bring into the world.



**Nala Davies (PPY1)**

I am deeply grateful to have spent this year in the supportive environment of PPY. This course has profoundly transformed my perspective on dance and myself, helping me find confidence beyond my comfort zone. Collaborating with both internal and external teachers and choreographers has provided me with a wealth of knowledge to explore, revealing the boundless possibilities of contemporary dance. I also feel incredibly fortunate to work alongside my talented peers, who inspire me every day.

# Pre-Professional Year (PPY) 2024



**Lily Dowley (PPY1)**

PPY has allowed me the opportunity to gain a new perspective and approach to dance. Learning and creating within this arts industry has been an indescribable, eye-opening experience. I have been able to embark on a year of self-discovery and exploration through working with industry renowned artists and choreographers, being lucky enough to learn from their knowledge and guidance, while applying this to my own personal research. These opportunities have given me the chance to explore the depths of my creativity as an emerging artist. Being surrounded by such a phenomenal group of people has created and fostered a nourishing environment, encouraging us to find ourselves whilst being incredibly supportive of one another. I am looking forward to furthering my own research within this industry, discovering what further opportunities await me, along with growing as a creative individual within the next year.



**Grace Fuz (PPY1)**

This year in PPY has flown by and I cannot be thankful enough for the opportunities and people we have collaborated with. The choreographers, teachers and peers I have been surrounded by this year have taught me so much about dance, but most importantly, being a human.

I couldn't be more grateful for the warm culture at Sydney Dance Company, which has given me the confidence and skills I will hold forever moving into any career pathway I come across.

I will forever thank the people and space in PPY for allowing myself to fully immerse in the artform.



### **Vincent Garcia (PPY2)**

You don't need to worry about the future, it will be exciting.  
You will meet many inspiring, caring, supportive and empowering people in life and dance.  
You're going to love dancing even more!  
Your passion will bloom with more colours, flavours and textures.  
You will understand yourself more; learning new things about yourself and gathering skills to support yourself during challenging times.  
Your days may be tiring but much more lively.  
You will be exposed to new experiences and opportunities that are rewarding and memorable.  
You may face hard battles but trust me when I say you will overcome them.  
You might be weirder but lowkey in a good and contemporary way. DELIVAH DELIVAH.  
You may be surprised at how our perspectives and goals have changed.  
You will continue to mature but also learn that you are still immature and young.  
You're going to call yourself a professional dancer one day.  
You're going to love PPY.  
You should feel excited for the future, as much as I am excited for mine. These two years have been bright and warm. I can't wait to see where life will take me :)



### **Jessi Hough (PPY2)**

Beyond dance, being a part of PPY has been an unforgettable one. It forced me to delve deeper into my own identity and questioned my initial thoughts about what it meant to be an artist. I learned that being a dancer is about connection, vulnerability, and development teamed with technique. I was inspired to push past my boundaries and embrace my uniqueness by the encouragement of my lecturers and peers. In addition to sculpting me as an artist, this journey has made me a more self-assured and compassionate person. I am appreciative of the knowledge gained and the connections made over this journey.

# Pre-Professional Year (PPY) 2024



**Joseph Ipsaro-Passione (PPY2)**

The last two years has taught me a lot about contemporary dance and movement, but even more about myself and things I didn't know going into my second year of PPY. I learnt that your top priority as a dancer isn't to try to be the best, but to be honest with yourself and take the time you need to take care of yourself and your health, both physical and mental. As I leave PPY behind me and look towards the future, I want to focus on getting myself to where I want to be before pursuing dance further and taking it around the world.

"Part of my identity is saying no to things I don't want to do... I check in with myself throughout the day and I say, 'Do I really want to do this?' and if the answer is no, then I don't do it. And you shouldn't either."  
— Lady Gaga



**Zoe Jewell (PPY2)**

Potential.

The potential to make a choice. The potential to take action. The potential to transform a space. The potential to create an entirely new space.

All abilities I have unlocked during my time in PPY, not only as an artist but a person.

I am left with a toolbox of infinite potential.



**Arabella Kiefer (PPY2)**

These past two years in PPY are something I will forever be grateful for experiencing. I have learnt so much about myself, not only as a dancer, but as a person and I am leaving the course a better version of myself. Looking back at the person I was before reminds me how much growth I have been through; I entered PPY as someone else and I am now leaving as myself. Exploring various vicinities of dance has reignited my passion for the artform and I can truly say wholeheartedly, I love dancing again. The amount of love and respect I have for all my peers and people around me at Sydney Dance Company has continuously grown over the years and my journey in PPY would not have been the same without any of them.

Thank you PPY, for allowing me to be me again. I will miss you deeply but, I will never forget you.



**Sienna Klarica (PPY2)**

Of all the many lessons I've learnt in PPY, I'd like to share the one that means the most to me. That lesson is that my identity is never fixed. It is not a rigid, lifeless chain holding me in place. Rather, it is dynamic and ever growing. I'm not defined by my ballet background or my training level in any specific skill. I don't have to be shackled to any label determining who I am and what I am capable of. I'm no longer scared of looking weird or failing when trying new things. Like everyone else in this incredible cohort, I am a multifaceted artist, who will show up with an open mind and heart, ready for the next step thanks to the support, teaching and opportunity I've had in PPY.

# Pre-Professional Year (PPY) 2024



**Michiko Kogawa (PPY1)**

PPY helped me become more in touch with myself and grow both as a person and a dancer. Although the environment initially felt unfamiliar to me as someone from a classically trained background, the broad range of classes and workshops, as well as the incredible teachers, choreographers, and artists, not only helped me develop my technique but also opened my eyes to new ways of thinking and moving. This has expanded my world. It was an opportunity to reflect on myself at a deeper level, get to know who I am as a dancer and discover my identity through various creative processes.



**Isobella Laidlaw (PPY2)**

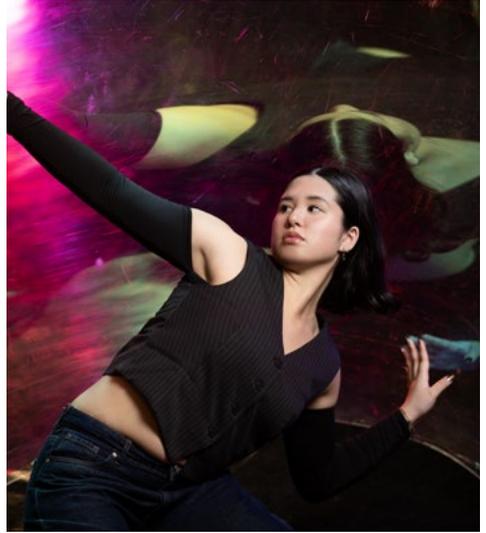
My experience in PPY has given me incredible opportunities to explore various ideas of movement and forms of expression in contemporary dance. Each artist that we worked with inspired and ignited the virtuosic dancer within us. As an artist, the support of PPY encouraged me to grow and “keep being curious.”



**Ellie Lovison (PPY2)**

During my years in the PPY I have found myself constantly evolving and finding new creative paths within my dancing. Before this course, I was very sheltered by the limitations of contemporary dancing. However, I quickly learned how endless the opportunities for creation are.

Throughout my time here, I have created my own identity as a dancer and a person. I am continuously drawing inspiration from those around me as I am surrounded by such talented and open-minded individuals who motivate me to be better each day. I am forever grateful for what this course has given me and am looking forward to seeing everyone flourish in the years to come.



**Alexandra Lusty (PPY2)**

PPY is about being more than a dancer . It's about becoming an artist but also learning to be human after being a “dancer” for so long, showing vulnerability creates strength. I feel grateful for the past two years spent with my cohort. I couldn't have become who I am now without these amazing individuals.

# Pre-Professional Year (PPY) 2024



**Charlie MacArthur (PPY2)**

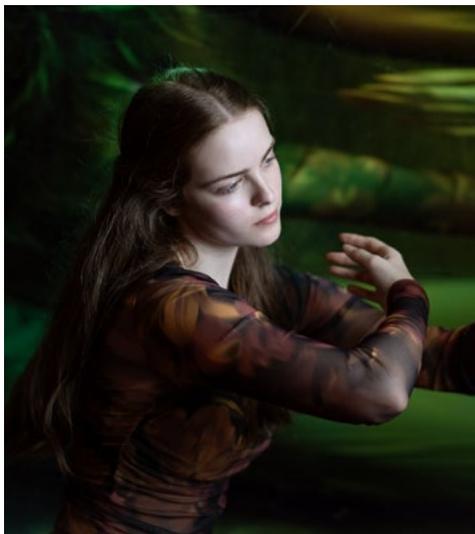
Finishing my second year at PPY feels like emerging from a haze of sun, sea, sky and sweat. My time here has afforded me to build the beginnings of an artistic practice, finding out what serves me and what I can cast aside. I have found parts of myself I forgot or didn't know existed and I am excited to take these with me into the big wide world.

I am beyond grateful for the beautiful cohort I am part of, I will be cheering you on as you blaze through this world with your curiosity, joy and fervour.



**Lucinda Miller (PPY1)**

Throughout this year I have been exposed to the most outstanding choreographers and artists in the realm of contemporary dance. PPY has challenged me physically and mentally, allowing me to grow as an artist and become so much more passionate about discovering my individual style. I have been opened to so many diverse, varying styles and experimentations within the form of my own body; finding the true essence and individuality of this incredible art form I have fallen in love with.



**Soraya Moncelet (PPY1)**

If I had to sum up this year in one word, it would be “empowered.” When I began my journey with PPY I expected to improve my skills as a dancer and gain experience. What I didn’t anticipate was learning new things about myself. I had quite a few challenges throughout the year, but I have come to the realisation that I am capable of overcoming anything, and I’m not so afraid of life’s challenges.

Like many dancers, I have always dreamed of dancing professionally, but the path to achieving that dream has always been a bit blurry and daunting. Having this year at Sydney Dance Company has enabled me to gain a clear vision of how to reach my dream, and I am filled with new confidence that I can make it happen.



**Sofia Montano (PPY1)**

As I reflect on my time during my first year of PPY I find it difficult to put into words how much it has given me - not only as a dancer in training but also personally. The program and the amazing coaches and choreographers have empowered and encouraged me to explore the dancer I want to be. This is a very different one to when I started and one still evolving. There were many times I felt vulnerable and exposed but always also safe, allowing me to confidently explore creativity in dance which I know has been the key to my growth. I cannot wait for my second year here. Thank you, Sydney Dance Company.

# Pre-Professional Year (PPY) 2024



**Evie Morwood (PPY2)**

Thank you, PPY, I've learnt and danced even more this year.

Some things I have to say are:

- First you must serious, then you must silly
- Being yourself enough to be brave and being brave enough to be yourself, is something constantly in process
- Anything is interesting if it's honest. Be True.
- To have enough passion is to have enough patience

KEEP CREATING ART.



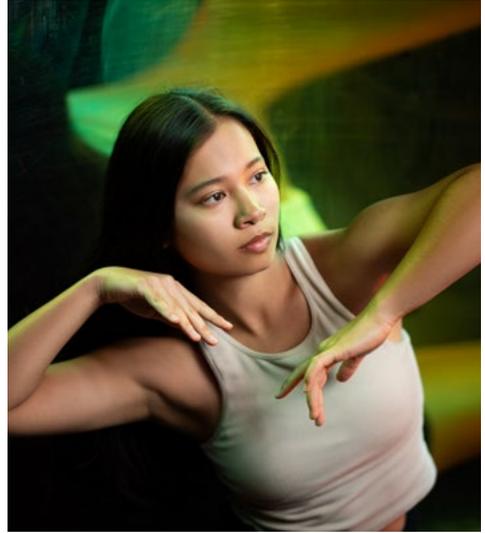
**Poppy Nowlan (PPY1)**

I feel so fortunate to start my fulltime training journey within Sydney Dance Company's PPY. The safe and enriching environment created by this incredible team is full of support and encouragement which has helped guide me during a year of immense personal growth both as a dancer and as a young adult relocating away from home. Having the opportunity learn, often in unique and collaborative ways, from highly experienced artists has been inspirational. There is something very special about training in a room full of people who are so passionate about the art of contemporary dance. I have created strong connections with my peers, and they push me to be the best I can every day. I am fascinated by the creative process, challenged by new ways to think and move and just love being in the space every day.



**Ines Omodiagbe (PPY1)**

My experience in PPY has allowed me to grow and develop, not only as a dancer and artist, but as an individual. This course has opened my eyes to the complexity and diversity of contemporary dance, revealing just how much the art form has to offer. With the guidance of teachers, guest choreographers, staff and peers, my appreciation for movement and storytelling has developed significantly. Through this, a true confidence to discover my own personal style has emerged. Learning and creating amongst other inspiring dancers has facilitated a space that feels engaging, safe and exploratory. I am beyond excited to see what next year will bring.



**Ayesha Peerbaye (PPY2)**

I will forever treasure the memories I have of these two years. This I know, for they have been years of change, questioning and growth.

We have learned to embrace our fears, our vulnerabilities. Sometimes, we drowned in them. But we learn, and we are reborn stronger, imbued with new knowledge of ourselves. There is strength in vulnerability, and beauty too. Along the way, we have begun to find our individual voices, reconciled with the fact that we are ever-changing, our journeys a forever-process. As we each grapple with our own stories, we support one another. We were, and are, connected by openness, honesty, laughter and generosity. Together we have woven a place of trust. We experience child-like awe and joy, hold space for pain and self-expression. It is an understanding so complex, yet so clear. It is human. In our movements, I feel it intricately and simply – the connection strong and true, a reaching of the souls in our collective dance, a shared moment in time.

# Pre-Professional Year (PPY) 2024



**Hannah Roberts (PPY2)**

The two years I spent in PPY have been everything I wished for and so much more. I can confidently say that I am developing into the person I aspired to be at the start of this journey.

I take with me a wealth of knowledge and a curiosity I never thought I could have. There is always something more to discover; the importance of continuously questioning both the body and mind; they are more powerful than I could ever imagine.

Watching incredible artists develop in front of my eyes has been the biggest gift. I will cherish it all as I move through life. I know the lessons I learnt in PPY will be with me forever.



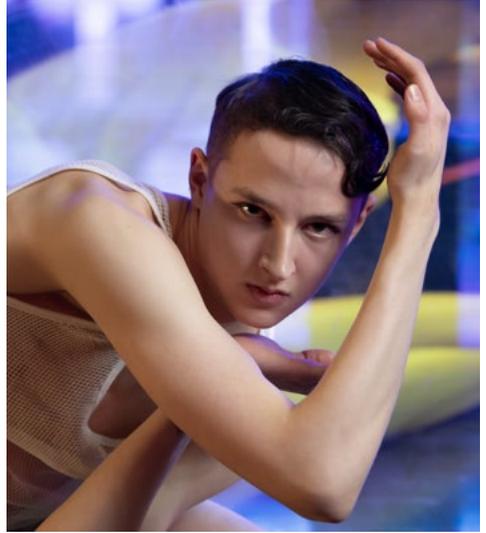
**Amelia Russell (PPY2)**

These past two years have truly been a crucial part of my self-discovery as an artist and a human. I have grown so much in these years, more than I ever could imagine. PPY has pushed me well out of my comfort zone, which has aided my self-growth as an artist. It's been a big eye-opener, as I feel I've truly been opened up to the world of contemporary dance and now have so many tools and knowledge that I can take away with me into the real world. Across the two years, I've worked with some of the most incredible and creative minds who have each shared their knowledge and practices, this has been continually inspiring to watch and learn from. My peers continue to inspire me, I feel incredibly grateful to be surrounded by so many talented and insightful people. It's a privilege to learn alongside them and gain so much from their experiences and talent. I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to be absorbed in PPY, it has enabled me to grow and find my true self as an artist and individual.



**Amalia Scherf (PPY1)**

This year has had a lot of change for me. Moving countries, leaving family, learning to live with new people, a few different hair styles and some new thrifted baggy clothes. It's definitely been a little crazy. This year has been filled with ups and downs but the one constant has been PPY. No matter the stresses in life, I am able to come to dance and focus on something else. I'm so happy to have a space where I can escape from any problems and just focus on myself and my body. I'm grateful for the supportive learning environment and the amazing group of dancers around me. Every time I step into the studio, there's a sense of fun and camaraderie that lifts my spirits and nurtures my passion.



**James Snashall (PPY1)**

I have found my first year in PPY at Sydney Dance Company to be enthralling. I owe my love of contemporary dance to my ballet teacher, with who I began lessons within my hometown aged 7 years old. Training at Sydney Dance Company has exceeded my expectations in terms of the training, support, creativity and friendships in a beautiful city. I didn't know what to expect, but I have loved the challenge.

# Pre-Professional Year (PPY) 2024

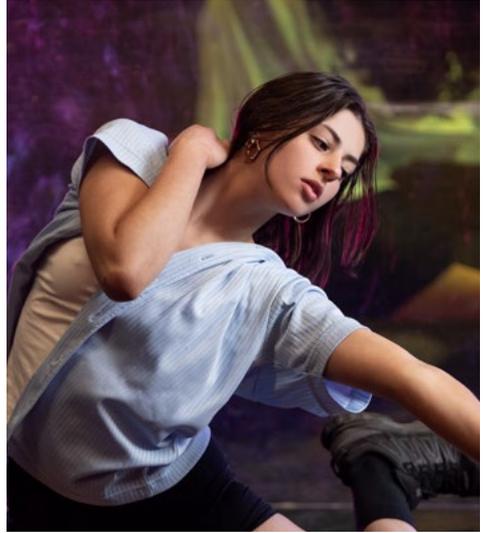


**Roxie Syron (PPY2)**

The final year of PPY at Sydney Dance Company has been rewarding and fulfilling both creatively and physically.

My second year has provided opportunities allowing us to enhance our improvisational nature through our daily experiences. It provided a vast mix of choreographers all offering different techniques and skills, encouraging us to explore movement outside choreographed routines.

I am very excited to continue my journey as a professional contemporary dancer in an interpretative art form where I am able to continue expressing all the emotions which come with each performance.



**Daniella Sywak (PPY1)**

Dance is purely more than just technique; it gives misplaced and adrift people a chance to discover themselves and dive into the richness of their own individual flair. PPY has taught me that dancing to achieve a certain aesthetic holds zero power within our world, but dancing to textures and feelings makes all the difference allowing you to interface the audience and bewilder the possibilities of movement.



**Emma Taoho (PPY1)**

PPY has been nothing but amazing, it has taught me so much artistically and personally allowing me to expand my creativity and knowledge about dance.

This year has allowed me to express myself and feel completely comfortable with the people around me to help me evolve as a dancer.



**Maggie Teasdale (PPY2)**

To be able to do something that makes me feel fulfilled and happy everyday has to make me one of the luckiest people in the world.

This year has been magical and I have laughed so hard with the coolest people I've ever known.

PPY has expanded my mind in every direction, proved the value in doing things that scare you, and shown me that most issues can be solved by engaging your TA.

# Pre-Professional Year (PPY) 2024



**Mekaila Trippis (PPY2)**

Advice that was given to me at the start of the course by alumni was 'forget everything you know about dance'...

Through working with countless choreographers this year, I have experienced a deep dive into countless people's artistic worlds and career paths that I can now add to my own knowledge. Not only do I feel prepared, but I now know what I love in contemporary dance and where in the industry I can see myself. I don't feel like I'm 'winging it' anymore...

What I valued in this course the most was the deep sense of community, belonging and support that I found through faculty and peers. This total acceptance allowed me to fully immerse myself in my training, to find support in uncomfortable moments, and most of all to share joy. Thank you, PPY.



**Claudia Vales (PPY1)**

This year of PPY has been quite profound and full of self-growth. The exposure to an array of inspiring teachers and mentors has broadened my knowledge as a contemporary dancer and person, specifically through somatic techniques and elements. I have grown so much this year and are forever grateful for this opportunity and experience.



**Georgia Vincent (PPY2)**

I am filled with immense gratitude and love for my experience in PPY; these past two years have been transformative. I feel fortunate to be part of a community rich in creativity and curiosity, which has both challenged and nurtured me through my time here.

Being part of this inspiring community and art form is a privilege. The opportunity to grow and evolve alongside my cohort, sharing experiences, discussions and support is something I will cherish forever. I've truly found my people here and they will remain with me for life.

Dance has offered me immense joy, curiosity and inspiration, providing a safe space for self-discovery and growth, and I have much to learn. This course is a gift that will shape how I navigate the world, I'm truly thankful.



**Eloise Watts (PPY1)**

“What is contemporary dance?”

If you asked me before I became a part of PPY, I would've said I didn't know. If you ask me now, I still, genuinely have no idea. At least, no idea how to explain it in the acceptable length of a program excerpt. What I will say though, is that this year has brought into focus what contemporary dance looks like to me. In this moment, my version of contemporary dance is moulded by the teachers, mentors and instructors I've had the pleasure to learn from. It's shaped by the interactions, experiences and movement I've shared with my friends. And its form will remain ever-changing as my exploration of contemporary continues.

# Pre-Professional Year (PPY) 2024



**Charlotte Whelan (PPY1)**

This year has been an absolute privilege. Every day I find myself a bit like Alice after she's fallen down the rabbit hole. Submerged into a wonderland that defies convention and continually progresses on a trajectory into the surreal.

How can I put to words the vulnerability I actively experience through dance? It is the most meditative, wholly fulfilling state of being to embody. Ego, presumption and fear are stripped in favour of tenderness and empowerment.

PPY teaches you many things. How to coordinate your body, how to (not) point your feet, how to NEVER force your turn out beyond 43.5 degrees... but it also teaches you many fundamentals; how to walk, how to hold space and how to interact with other beings in a way that is so unique to any other form of human communication. The way that I engage with the world around me has been forever altered and that is radical.

This language we call movement is so vital. It is an honour to spend every day communicating through it. I look forward to many more absurd realisations through PPY.



**Ariana Wolf (PPY2)**

I am grateful to have had the space to expand into my truest self in its fullest form of expression. Unlimited by curiosity, passion and a consuming camaraderie. I step forward backed by the values and teachings of PPY with an absolute certainty most people may never experience.



**Jera Wynyard-Byrnes (PPY1)**

We are surrounded by inspiration every day that we walk into the studio. I have had the pleasure of watching my friends and I evolve into our own unique selves.

Learning that contemporary dance is whatever we want it to be and that we are lucky enough to have PPY to aid us into taking a leap of faith into the world.

It is a privilege to be at a point in my life where I can make decisions about who I wish to be as a human as well as an artist and to understand the invaluable lesson of showing up for myself.

I am only beginning to learn what my body is capable of by constantly breaking my own expectations and having the vulnerability to commit. Even the smallest aspects of the course fill me with gratitude. Grooving each day with the harbour beneath us, being able to laugh, cry and feel.

It all makes this experience so real but like a dream at the same time.

# Sydney Dance Company Staff

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Tobiah Booth-Remmers

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Lexy Panetta

### Conditioning Studio

#### Manager

Felicity McGee

### Customer Experience

#### and Venue Manager

Sue Nielsen

### Customer Service Assistant

Mardi Downing

### Director Philanthropy

#### and Partnerships

Fiona Crockett

### Head of Philanthropy

Katharine Seymour

### Philanthropy Manager

Lachlan Bell

### Trusts and Foundations

#### Manager

Madeleine White  
(parental leave)

### Philanthropy Coordinator

Bianca Mulet

### Partnerships and Events

#### Coordinator

Jasmine Cook

### Director Market

#### Development

Olivia Blackburn

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**Head of CRM and  
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Thida Kyaw

**Ticketing Specialist**

John Calvi

**Marketing Manager**

Natalie Zagaglia

**Marketing and  
Communications  
Coordinators**

Vivienne Crowle

Gabriella Lay

**Marketing Assistant**

Rohan Furnell

**Head of Strategic  
Communications**

Natalia Carozzi

**Resident Multimedia Artist**

Pedro Greig

**Technical Director**

Guy Harding

**Technical Coordinator**

Tony McCoy

**PPY24 Revealed Stage  
Manager and Assist PM**

Mackenzie O'Byrne

**Company and  
Resident Stage Manager**

Simon Turner

**Head of Wardrobe**

Annie Robinson

**Customier**

Tim Corne

Nicole Artsetos

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**The Company**

**Rehearsal Director**

Richard Cilli

**Rehearsal Associate**

Charmene Yap

**Dancers**

Timmy Blankenship

Naiara de Matos

Dean Elliott

Riley Fitzgerald

Liam Green

Luke Hayward

Morgan Hurrell

Ngaere Jenkins

Sophie Jones

Connor McMahon

Ryan Pearson

Piran Scott

Emily Seymour

Mia Thompson

Chloe Young

Coco Wood

**Trainee**

Tayla Gartner

**Balnaves Foundation Artist  
in Residence**

Jasmin Sheppard

**Head Physiotherapist**

Ashlea-Mary Cohen

**Company Doctor**

Dr. Michael Berger

**Sports Doctor**

Dr. James Lawrence

**Psychologist**

Dr. Sallie Grey

**Wellness Coach  
and Nutrition**

Kirsten Wenbourne

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**PPY Guest Teachers  
and Choreographers**

Natalie Allen

Omer Backley-Astrachan

Sareena Barnes

Joey Barton

Tamara Bouman

Jolie Brook

Robert Bruist

Lee Brummer

Shane Carroll

Kristina Chan

Idan Cohen

Beau Dean Riley Smith

Tra Mi Dinh

Natalia Gabrielczyk

Cathie Goss

Madeline Harms

Samantha Hines

Charlotte Hoppe-Smith

Louella May Hogan

Viola Iida

Annabel Knight

Olympia Kotopolous

Lucky Lartey

Prue Lang

Jenni Large

Lee-Anne Litton

Jason Mabana

Lisa Maris McDonell

Koko Mukai

Cass Mortimer Eipper

Gabrielle Nankivell

Casey Natty

Ben Obst

Rachel Ogle

Tony Osborne

Sarah Peressini

Frances Rings

Alejandro Rolandi

Elizabeth Ryan

Paul Selwyn Norton

Lee Serle

Jasmin Sheppard

Georgette Sof

Tommy Thungs

Jakki Tobin

Melissa Toogood

Josie Weise

Zee Zunnur

# PPY Alumni

Sydney Dance Company's Pre-Professional Year Alumni have accomplished great achievements, including employment with the internationally renowned dance companies listed below. It's important to note that this list doesn't include the many and varied independent collaborations and choreographic projects our alumni have contributed to.

Australasian Dance Collective (Brisbane)	Opera Australia (Sydney)
Australian Dance Theatre (Adelaide)	Opera Ballet Vlaanderen (Antwerp, Belgium)
Bangarra Dance Theatre (Sydney)	Poetic Disaster Club (Den Hague, Netherlands)
Catapult Dance (Newcastle)	PR-Evolution Dance Company (Budapest, Hungary)
Chunky Move (Melbourne)	Punchdrunk / Maxine Doyle (International)
Dance North (Townsville)	Shaun Parker & Company (Sydney)
Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company (Germany)	ShELFISH Productions (Netherlands)
DV8 / Lloyd Newson (England)	SOL Dance Company (Israel)
Emanuel Gat Dance (Marseille, France)	Stephanie Lake Company (Melbourne)
Force Majeure (Sydney)	Strut Dance (Perth)
Form Dance Projects (Western Sydney)	Sydney Dance Company (Sydney)
Fresco Dance Company (Tel Aviv, Israel)	TasDance (Launceston)
GotesborgsOperans Danskompani (Gothenburg, Sweden)	T.H.E Dance Company (Singapore)
ITDansa (Barcelona, Spain)	The Farm (Queensland)
Ivan Perez (Heidelberg, Germany)	Theo Clinkard & Company (Brighton, UK)
Legs n the Wall (Sydney)	Wayne McGregor Dance Company (England)
Meryl Tankard AO (Sydney)	
Moulin Rouge (Paris, France)	
National Ballet of Marseille (Marseille, France)	
New Adventures / Matthew Bourne (London)	
Ochre Dance Company (Perth)	



Photo By:  
Wendell Teodoro

# With Special Thanks

Sydney Dance Company partners with Riverside Theatres to present *PPY24 Revealed* through the ongoing support of the NSW Government through Create NSW and the Australian Government through Creative Australia.

Sydney Dance Company thanks Riverside Theatres and the Packer Family Foundation for their support of *PPY24 Revealed*.

We would also like to thank all our generous supporters of the Pre-Professional Year course. A special thank you to Tim Fairfax AC for his visionary support of Sydney Dance Company's Training Associate and Learning Administrator roles. We're also deeply grateful for the opportunities provided by the Doug Hall Foundation Scholarship, The Wales Family Scholarships, Mary Zuber Scholarship and the Ian Wallace Family Scholarship.

## **Your Support Matters**

The generosity of the Sydney Dance Company family is vital to ensure that people of all ages can continue to experience the transformative power of dance.

From new commissions to national and international tours, outreach activities to professional pathways, your tax-deductible donation has a huge impact on our artists, audiences and dance participants of all ages.

Please get in touch at [philanthropy@sydneydancecompany.com](mailto:philanthropy@sydneydancecompany.com) if you would like to discuss your giving at any time.



Photo By:  
Wendell Teodoro

Sydney Dance Company GPO Box 1598  
Sydney NSW 2001

### **Join the Conversation**

@sydneydanceco.training

#SDCPY24

sydneydancecompany.com

### **Photography**

Pedro Greig

Justin Ridler

Wendell Levi Teodoro

### **Riverside Theatres**

Riverside Theatres has been a successful cultural and community asset of the City of Parramatta Council for over 36 years and is highly respected both by our community and the national arts industry. Riverside was recognised as the Performing Arts Centre of Year by Performing Arts Connections Australia in 2023. Located on the banks of the Parramatta River, Riverside attracts over 180,000 visitors annually with around 750 performances and events.

### **Sydney Dance Company**

Sydney Dance Company, celebrating more than 50 years of defining contemporary dance in Australia, is a non-for-profit organisation supported by Creative Australia and Create NSW. Actively creating and touring new works both nationally and internationally under the Artistic Directorship of Rafael Bonachela since 2009, the Company maintains an ensemble of 17 professional dancers and is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO #45863). In 2014, Sydney Dance Company launched the Pre-Professional Year program providing world-class professional training in an unparalleled environment. 2024 marks the 11th anniversary of Pre-Professional Year.