

SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY and DANCE MAKERS COLLECTIVE

TITLE: Production Trainee Placement
CONTRACT: Fixed term (20 weeks)
DATE: July 2024

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) | PRODUCTION TRAINEE PLACEMENT

ABOUT SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY

Dance changes you. More than simply witnessing something beautiful, or engaging with culture, to experience dance is to be positively altered. From performances at the Joyce Theatre in New York and Shanghai Grand Centre, to the central desert in Alice Springs and the Harbour Foreshore at the Sydney Opera House, Sydney Dance Company has proved that there are no passive observers in a contemporary dance audience.

Based on the land and over the saltwater of the Gadigal, the reward of transforming audiences, and the raw pride of sharing Australian art with the world, has driven our ensemble of 17 dancers, led by Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela, to become one of the world's strongest forces in contemporary dance.

Alongside Bonachela's original works, our programs have featured guest choreographers such as Melanie Lane, William Forsythe, Antony Hamilton, Gabrielle Nankivell, Stephanie Lake, Alexander Ekman, Marina Mascarell and Cheng Tsung Lung, collaborations with Sydney Festival, Australian String Quartet, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Conservatorium of Music's Composing Women, composers Bryce Dessner, Nick Wales and the late Ezio Bosso, visual artists Lauren Brincat and Leah Giblin, and fashion designers Bianca Spender, Akira Isogawa and Romance Was Born.

We are also no longer solely a professional dance company, with a broad community beyond the practice and performance of our Company dancers. We support a diverse range of other dance makers and creatives through the many branches of our Company, expanding the creative practice and opportunities for our artform and its artists. We have extended and broadened our education and training activities to become a gateway for people to participate in dance at all levels, with the largest public dance class program in Australia. Our nationwide education program offers multiple opportunities for primary and secondary students through to career focused study for Pre-Professional Year dancers and university graduates.

More information, visit sydneydancecompany.com.

ABOUT DANCE MAKERS' COLLECTIVE (DMC)

Dance Makers Collective (DMC), based on Dharug country (Western Sydney), is the only collective-led dance company in Australia and, from 2025-2028, the only Creative Australia 4 Year Funded dance organisation in NSW. With a mission to build dance communities, DMC brings people together by working with and between dance theatre, contemporary dance and social dance.

Established in 2012, DMC has presented 18 dance productions, in theatres, halls, galleries, parks, street corners, balconies, on YouTube and Instagram, in almost every state and territory, in that time commissioning more than 150 Australian artists. DMC also provides in-kind and subsidised rehearsal space for the sector, training, workshops, lo-fi performance nights for artists to test work, and targeted residencies that provide dedicated, paid time for artists to develop their practice. Recent large-scale highlights include national regional tours of DADS and The Rivoli to communities in NSW, VIC, QLD and WA, and presenting three sold-out seasons in Sydney Festival (2020/21/24).

DMC's dedicated core membership of 11 dance makers, who form the Artistic Directorate, co-design and deliver projects and programs in response to the needs of the wider community. We are skilled performers, choreographers, producers, designers, educators and composers. We have worked/work with Australian Dance Theatre, Sydney Dance Company, Marrugeku, Bangarra, Force Majeure, Tasdance, Chunky Move, Legs On The Wall, Dancenorth, Branch Nebula, Mirramu Dance Company, Restless Dance Theatre, Stalker Theatre Company and hundreds of independent artists. Our individual experiences and practices feed the organisation, enriching the art we make and the services we offer to the sector and community. DMC is a vital force in the independent dance sector in NSW.

More information, visit dancemakerscollective.com.au

POSITION PURPOSE

With a commitment to supporting the professional development of our industry's next generation of production personnel, Sydney Dance Company (SDC) and Dance Makers Collective (DMC) are jointly offering a paid production trainee placement. This opportunity would suit an early-career production or technical worker with an interest in contemporary dance who wants to develop their skills in the technical planning and delivery of live performance. The program consists of a full-time paid placement over 20 weeks to gain on-the-job knowledge and experience in the planning and delivery of contemporary dance works.

Led and supported by each organisation, and working alongside a diverse range of theatre industry professionals, participants in the program will build their production technical skills, creative skills and/or stagecraft through practical hands-on training, collaboration and creative problem-solving experiences. If you are passionate about developing your skills in the performing arts, this training opportunity will open creative pathways and possibilities.

HOW IT WORKS

This technical traineeship provides a dedicated on-the-job training and development program for production staff members focused on contemporary dance, at all scales and in a variety of locations. To deliver a variety and depth of experiences, it combines production skills development across four workstreams:

- Dedicated training and skills development as required, delivered by a mixture of internal and external providers as relevant.
- Sydney Dance Company activities, comprising a mixture of mainstage and touring work for the ensemble and pre-professional year performances, representing the largest scale ongoing Australian contemporary dance activity, as well as other projects with collaborating partners.
- DMC activities, comprising a mixture of showings, productions, season development and touring for small-to-mid scale ensemble works, with a particular focus on Western Sydney and regional NSW.
- Independent and small-medium companies presenting work at the Neilson Studio, including Sydney Dance Company programs such as INDance, and third-party hirers, such as Sydney Fringe Dance Hub, featuring the work of multiple dance makers; and Sydney Festival.

The details

- The traineeship will take place across a 20-week period (specific dates to be negotiated), and primarily report to Sydney Dance Company's Technical Director.
- The program is jointly developed and led by Sydney Dance Company and Dance Makers Collective, with programming in the Neilson Studio also factoring into placement activities.
- Participants will ideally be engaged on a full-time basis for 20 weeks, which can be mutually scheduled across several shorter periods, depending on relevant activities and availability.
- An evaluation process will be undertaken towards the start, middle, and end of the placement, assessing desired skill development, progress, and delivered outcomes respectively.
- Working hours for the training program may be irregular due to the nature of the role and the work, with some evening and weekend work required – including potentially touring to regional NSW and across Australia.

What you'll get out of it

Specific production skills anticipated to be developed as part of the placement could include:

- An ability to focus and operate a basic lighting rig.
- A solid understanding of DMX lighting control.
- Gain experience in the technical rigging of scenic elements such as truss, curtains, and lighting (with appropriate supervision of qualified staff).
- Develop basic operating skills in the playback of sound, and basic microphone & PA setups.
- Understand dance floor maintenance and setup.
- Understand basic stage management and performance protocols.
- Work within a range of venue scales and technical setups.
- Gain first-hand experience in the bump-in, delivery, and bump-out of touring dance works.
- Gain first-hand experience in vital WHS and associated practices associated with touring and performing dance works.
- Observe the creative process and delivery of larger scale contemporary dance works, including during production week.

HOW TO APPLY

Key dates

EOIs close Wednesday 31 July 5pm AEST

Interviews: Tuesday 6 August 2024 (digitally or in-person)

Placement dates available: October-November 2024, April-December 2025

Please forward your EOI by email to:

Guy Harding (he/him)

Technical Director

Sydney Dance Company

guyh@sydneydancecompany.com

Your EOI should include:

1. Your Curriculum Vitae (no more than 3 pages)
 - Please include the names of 2 referees, together with a brief statement of the capacity in which they have known you and an indication of when in the process they can be contacted (we will not contact your referees without your express permission).
2. A cover letter summarising how your experience and career aspirations are applicable to the traineeship (1-2 pages).
3. An indication of your availability according to the placement dates if you were to be successful.

About You

You must have the right to live and work in Australia to apply for this placement. The successful candidate(s) will be required to have a valid NSW Working with Children Check prior to employment.

Sydney Dance Company and Dance Makers Collective encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with a disability, mature age workers, people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTQI+) people.

We are committed to making reasonable adjustments to provide a supportive workplace without barriers. If you need any specific support to complete your EOI, please contact:

Amy Burrows (she/her)

Executive Assistant, Sydney Dance Company

executiveassistant@sydneydancecompany.com

+61 2 9258 4809