

SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY

JOB TITLE: Head of Wardrobe
Contract: Full-time
Reporting to: Technical Director
Date: November 2024

ABOUT SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY

Sydney Dance Company – a legendary force in contemporary dance – celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2019. Since 1986 the Company has been a resident of the purpose-built studios at The Wharf in Sydney's Walsh Bay Arts Precinct, on the land and over the saltwater of Gadigal Country.

Dance changes people. It's more than simply witnessing something beautiful or engaging with culture. To experience dance is to be positively altered. In performances at venues ranging from The Joyce Theater in New York to the Shanghai Grand Theatre, the Théâtre National de Chaillot in Paris and at home at the Roslyn Packer Theatre and Sydney Opera House, Sydney Dance Company has proved that there are no passive observers in a contemporary dance audience.

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. The future faces of Australian contemporary dance work alongside our ensemble, develop their practice, and inspire the next generation through engagement with our pre-professional students. Independent voices are offered curated opportunities to amplify and showcase their work in our home at Walsh Bay Arts Precinct, alongside supported space and time to explore, create, develop and rehearse.

We have extended and broadened our education, outreach, and training activities to become a gateway for people to participate in dance at all levels, all helping to expand the Company's reach. We believe in the universality of dance, and, with over 80,000 attendances annually, we have the largest public dance class program in Australia, ensuring that each and every one of us can connect with the grace, strength and creativity of dance. Our nationwide education program offers multiple opportunities for primary and secondary students through to career focused study for Pre- Professional Year (PPY) dancers and university graduates.

For more information see www.sydneydancecompany.com.

POSITION PURPOSE

Reporting to and working closely with the Technical Director, the role of Head of Wardrobe is a crucial member of Sydney Dance Company's Touring Production Team in an exciting time of growth and opportunity.

This role ensures the successful delivery of costumes and wardrobe requirements for all Sydney Dance Company productions. Working in conjunction with the Technical Director, Stage Manager and Producers, this position ensures costume designs are completed to meet the timelines of production schedules, alongside day to day management, maintenance and asset management, including leading a team of additional staff as required.

The position will suit a highly experienced Costume Maker with extensive experience in stretch material and similar, and a specific connection or interest in dance works and costumes. They must have experience in touring, including longer periods away from home, and flexible non-standard hours on and off tour.

The successful candidate will be an expert in interpreting designs and providing advice on fabric selection and methods, with superior making skills. They will demonstrate a keen eye for detail and colour balance, be able to draft and alter patterns and costumes as needed, and plan their team's work schedule, and coordinate with the creative and production teams to ensure all costumes are prepared for fittings, costume runs, dress rehearsal, media calls and company events.

The successful candidate will be a respectful and clear communicator, with a passion for collaboration and effective people-oriented working style. They will enable the artistic process to evolve, resiliently managing last minute changes or add ins, while also being able to manage budget and timeline constraints with tact.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

Costumes and wardrobe requirements

- Facilitate and coordinate costume production to meet the specifications of costume designers, including sourcing and managing additional skilled contractors as required for all Sydney Dance Company activities. This includes, but is not limited, to Company performances, Pre-Professional Year performances, film shoots, photoshoots and commercial opportunities.
- Work closely with the costume designers and choreographers to bring their vision to life, interpreting designs and providing advice on fabric selection and methods, considering the needs of the designer, performer, and the production.
- Display superior making skills, a passion for collaboration and effective people-oriented leadership.

Workflow, budgeting and staffing

- In conjunction with the Technical Director, effectively plan and advise on workflow including assessing required resource allocation and budget tracking and reconciliation.
- Provide input in regards to production planning for budgeting purposes.
- Ensuring costume requirements are delivered with budget or give timely advice if it is foreseen that this will not be possible.
- Take responsibility for the vital communications between wardrobe and all other departments, including for non-performance activities such as media calls and photoshoots.
- Assist in securing and managing additional wardrobe staff as required and directed.

Day to day management of relevant assets

- Take accurate measurements and conduct fittings professionally, advising on fit and proportions, documenting and maintaining appropriate records of dancer measurements and costume requirements.
- Create and maintain a record of costumes for individual productions to aid in show remounts, including pattern drafting and alterations.
- Maintain a catalogue of costume assets to assist with show planning and advising artistic staff on available existing costumes.
- Deliver wardrobe maintenance services, including laundering and repairs, storage and archiving, packing and preparing touring wardrobes for company performance seasons and tours.

Other

- Effectively represent the Company and department in opportunities such as school matinees and engagement with philanthropic donors.
- Actively participate in staff training, development and planning opportunities.
- Work constructively to develop and maintain a positive workplace culture.
- Identify and work towards system and organisational improvements .
- Alignment with company values and policies.

KEY WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

This role reports to the Technical Director and works closely with all members of the Creative and Artistic Teams, and the Company of dancers.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Skills and Experience

- Hold tertiary qualifications in Costume Construction or an equivalent field.
- Have experience in cutting stretch material, leotards, pants, draping, and contemporary garments.
- Demonstrate a proven ability to interpret designs and possess strong knowledge of fabrics.
- Demonstrate an ability to manage and lead a small team of casuals on larger build periods.
- Exhibit highly developed interpersonal skills and a strong capacity for teamwork.
- Touring experience is essential, and a key part of the role.
- Be a clear and confident communicator with a sharp eye for detail.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Full-time role

- Salary is dependent on skills and experience.
- Six-month probation period.
- Must have a current NSW Working with Children check prior to employment.
- Four (4) weeks annual leave.
- *The usual hours of work are 38 hours/week plus reasonable additional hours (excluding breaks).*
- *Hours may be rostered up to six (6) days per week in alignment with the rehearsal, performance and touring schedule, including on weekends and evenings.*

The position is based at Sydney Dance Company, on the land and over the saltwater of the Gadigal at the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct, Wharf 4/5, 15 Hickson Road, Dawes Point, NSW.

- Sydney Dance Company is an accessible venue.
- Travel outside Sydney will be required in alignment with the Company's touring schedule.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please forward your application by email to

Guy Harding

Technical Director | Sydney Dance Company

GuyH@SydneyDanceCompany.com

Your application should include:

1. Your **Curriculum Vitae** (no more than 3 pages)
 - Please include the names of 2-3 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 is applicable to the role as outlined in the Key Accountabilities and Selection Criteria (no more than 1 page).
 - There is no requirement to individually address each accountability or selection criteria. Selected candidates will be asked to expand on this in the interview process.
3. An indication of your **earliest availability** to commence in the role if you were to be successful.

Applications close **Tuesday 10 December 23:59 AEDT**.

You must have the right to live and work in Australia to apply for this role.

Sydney Dance Company encourages 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 require any adjustments before or during the selection process, please contact

Amy Burrows (she/her) Executive Assistant | Sydney Dance Company
executiveassistant@sydneydancecompany.com or +61 2 9258 4809