

MEDIA RELEASE

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sydneyfestival.org.au



Nude Live

WORLD PREMIERE

Sydney Dance Company & Art Gallery of New South Wales, Australia



Photo: Peter Greig

"We all respond strongly to images of the unclothed body because they address issues at the heart of who we are as humans – issues of love, desire, mortality, truth and power."

Justin Paton, Art Gallery of NSW Head Curator, international art

A unique collaboration between **Sydney Dance Company** and **Art Gallery of New South Wales** in association with Sydney Festival, this very special performance will take you on a journey into an intimate world of art and dance.

Witness dancers moving and breathing, their bodies and souls bared as they explore and respond to one of art's greatest subjects, the unclothed human body.

As part of the Art Gallery of New South Wales' major summer Sydney International Art Series exhibition *Nude: art from the Tate collection* which features more than 100 powerful artworks spanning two centuries, dancers respond to paintings, sculptures, photographs and works on paper by renowned artists such as Pablo Picasso, Lucian Freud, Henri Matisse and Louise Bourgeois.

With highly physical and emotionally charged choreography by **Rafael Bonachela**, the work examines the place of the nude in art, exploring beauty and desire, eroticism and tenderness as well as scandal.

The dance troupe is made up of Sydney Dance Company's associate dancers: **Dave Mack, Fiona Jopp, Marlo Benjamin, Olivia Kingston, Zachary Lopez, Oliver Savariego** and **Izzac Carroll**.

Rafael Bonachela was born in Barcelona where he began his early dance training before moving to London, and in 1992 joined the legendary **Rambert Dance Company**. He remained with Rambert as a dancer and Associate Choreographer until 2006 at which time he successfully set up the Bonachela Dance Company (BDC) to concentrate on the rapid rise of his choreographic career.

As a choreographer, Rafael has been commissioned to make works for Candoco, George Piper Dances, ITDANSA Danza Contemporanea de Cuba, Transitions Dance Company and Dance Works Rotterdam amongst others.

In 2008, he premiered his first full-length production *360°* for Sydney Dance Company. Less than six months later, he was appointed Artistic Director making headlines around the dance world. Rafael's vision for the Company embraces a guiding principle that has seen the repertoire grow with the addition of commissioned dance works from Australian and visiting international guest

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choreographers. Rafael's achievements in dance have been widely recognised both within the industry and in the broader community.

In 2013 he was honoured with an Officer's Cross of the Order of Civil Merit by His Majesty the King of Spain. Most recently, his 2015 production, *Frame of Mind* was awarded 'Best Choreography in a Dance Work' and 'Best Dance Work' at the 2015 Helpmann Awards.

Where Art Gallery of New South Wales

When 7–10, 14*–17, 21–23* January at 6pm & 7.30pm

**Wed 14 Jan at 7:30pm & Mon 23 Jan at 7:30pm are nudist performances, where audience members will be in the nude. Bookings are currently open for people aged 18+. Clothed audience members will not be admitted.*

Duration 60mins, no interval

Tickets \$65/\$60 + booking fee

Bookings sydneyfestival.org.au/nudelive

*The exhibition *Nude: art from the Tate collection* is a collaboration between Tate and the Art Gallery of New South Wales.*

Nude Live is supported by the NSW Government's tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW. Sydney Festival and Destination NSW have a strategic partnership that will see three world premieres and four Australian exclusive events presented at Sydney Festival 2017.

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