



CONNECT with Sydney Dance Company

Post Show Talk with Wildebeest Choreographer Gabrielle Nankivell

Have you ever asked yourself, how or why a choreographer makes the decisions they do? Or how they prepare for creating a new work?

Be a part of CONNECT and meet our special guest Choreographer Gabrielle Nankivell. Gabrielle will talk about her experiences creating the work you have seen, answer questions you may have and share some stories about life on the road.

Admission to CONNECT is FREE – just stay in your seats after the show

About CONNECT

CONNECT is a new audience development program that provides opportunities for conversations with some of Australia's top arts practitioners and find out more about how their art is made and get behind the scenes of our 2017 season.

If you'd like to stay in touch and receive updates about future CONNECT activities for 2017 or want to make any suggestions for future connect events please contact your local theatre.

If you are new to CONNECT and want to find out more about our future events just call us!

CONNECT notes include:

About the Choreographer & Composer	Page 2
About the work	Page 3
About Sydney Dance Company	Page 4
Schedule of post show talks & Sneak Peak Invite	Page 5



About the Choreographer GABRIELLE NANKIVELL

Originally from Adelaide, Gabrielle Nankivell is one of the most in demand choreographers in Australia due to honing her dance career in Europe. Informed by a somewhat nomadic existence, her work creates a world where instinct and knowledge meet. Gabrielle carries several notebooks with her at all times, all serving different purposes – organizing, recording the mechanics of her choreography and one for random stuff she sees or thinks of. Like many of Gabrielle's pieces *Wildebeest* began with writing exercises with the dancers, *"we generated a lot of weird imaginative stories to create really complicated material... mostly I talk in images or words that express mood."*

Fun Fact:

Gabrielle dyes her hair with beetroot to make it red and is inspired by film directors Michel Gondry, Wes Anderson and Pedro Amodovar.



About the Composer LUKE SMILES

The introduction of a Commodore 64 computer into the family home in the early 1980's began Luke's fascination with computers and sound. Self taught and with a keen interest in how things work, Luke has developed a unique rapport among choreographers & directors in the development of soundtracks for dance, theatre & film. His latest film soundtrack is for *Girl Asleep*.

Luke has collaborated with Gabrielle for a decade across a range of projects allowing them to build a highly intuitive working partnership. His soundtrack to *Wildebeest* is stormy, industrial and intricately incorporates musical composition, field recordings, sound effects, foley and sound design.



About the Work

WILDEBEEST

Collaborating with Sydney Dance Company for the first time, I wanted to create a work that would highlight the unique traits of individual performers while also showcasing their tenacity as one of the world's slickest ensembles. The work is a world where instinct and knowledge meets. It is an assemblage of the dancers' fascination for physicality - their power as individuals and strength en masse - their Wildebeests within.

Dark and moody, there is no set, only a black space that the dancers emerge from en masse with intermittent pulsating lights. Clothed in neutral earth toned costumes, as with an animal herd or components of a machine, each dancer is an individual and yet they are one group. So when the dancers appear and disappear in low light and mist they create the sense of a glint or reflection that small parts or a mass is present and emphasise the rhythmic intricacy of the movement. With the head of an ox, the hindquarters of an antelope and the mane and tail of a horse, the wildebeest as image morphs easily between living animal and fanciful creature. Storms and predators gather as instinct stirs the herd and migration whirrs into action like an intricate machine that is both ancient and of the future.

Wildebeest

REVIEWS

'★★★★...A mesmerising journey through forms of animals, humans and mechanised tribes' – **Daily Review**

'Nankivell sees beauty and wonder in the primitive, animalistic self, even with danger as a constant companion. Every molecule of the body is vibrantly alert, a state brilliantly captured by Bernhard Knauer at the beginning of Wildebeest and Janessa Duffy at the end' – **The Australian**

'The dancers move their incredible bodies in such a way that one forgets they are human.' – **The Plus Ones**

'Nankivell's beast is in constant flux, its more human aspects being brought out in leaping and whirling duels and duets, the sound of the approaching storm adding to the dramatic tension' – **Limelight Magazine**



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, to the Grand in Shanghai, the Stanislavsky in Moscow and the Sydney Opera House at home, Sydney Dance Company has proven that there are no passive observers in a contemporary dance audience. The reward of truly moving audiences, and the raw pride of sharing Australian art with the world has driven our ensemble of 16 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 like Jacopo Godani, Alexander Ekman, Gideon Obarzanek and Cheng Tsung-Lung as well as collaborations with the Sydney Festival, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, David Jones and composers Bryce Dessner, Nick Wales, 48nord and Ezio Bosso.

Sydney Dance Company has a broad community beyond the practice and performance of our lead dancers. We believe in the universality of dance, and with the largest public dance class program in Australia, we help over 80,000 people a year connect with the grace, strength and creativity that lives within all of us. Our nation-wide education program offers a strategic curriculum targeting primary and secondary students through to career focused study for pre-professional dancers and university graduates.

Join the conversation

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sydneydanceco

SDC Twitter: www.twitter.com/sydneydanceco

SDC Instagram: www.instagram.com/sydneydanceco

SDC YouTube: www.youtube.com/sydneydancecompany

SDC Website: www.sydneydancecompany.com

Post show Talk

SCHEDULE

VENUES	DATE	PERFORMANCE TIME	POST SHOW TALK approx. 9pm
Middleback Theatre	Wednesday 9 th August	7.30PM	Join Gabrielle Nankivell as she talks about her experiences as a dancer and choreographer. Inquiries : contact Jenna on 8644 7300
Northern Festival Centre	Saturday 5 th August	7.30PM	Join Gabrielle Nankivell as she talks about her experiences as a dancer and choreographer. Inquiries : contact Bianca on 8633 8500
Chaffey Theatre	Saturday 12 th August	7.30PM	Join Gabrielle Nankivell as she talks about her experiences as a dancer and choreographer. Inquiries : contact Nicole on 8586 8500
Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre	Wednesday 2 nd August	7.30PM	Join Gabrielle Nankivell as she talks about her experiences as a dancer and choreographer. Inquiries : contact Caitlin on 8723 5741

Do you want to get up close with Sydney Dance Company?

We're excited to offer an up-close 'fly on the wall' experience to watch the dancers technical rehearsal on the afternoon of the performance date. Hosted by Gabrielle Nankivell. Contact your local theatre to book your spot