

MEDIA RELEASE

The following information is UNDER STRICT EMBARGO until
Wednesday 12 December

THE NEXT ACT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN... SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY ANNOUNCES 2008 SEASON

3 CHOREOGRAPHERS · 3 WORLD PREMIERES · 3 SEASONS IN SYDNEY

Standing proudly on a strong foundation, emerging from a radiant past, Sydney Dance Company is entering a new era. In 2008, the company's ensemble of 17 dancers will premiere the works of three significant international choreographers over three seasons in Sydney.

SEASON 1

A Commissioned work by Australian choreographer MERYL TANKARD
THEATRE ROYAL March 29 to April 19

Working for the first time with Sydney Dance Company, Meryl Tankard is internationally acclaimed for the emotional punch packed into her inventive choreography. She continues to work around the world, with recent projects ranging from a sell-out Sydney Festival collaboration titled KAIDAN with Taiko drummers, to the new Broadway musical *Tarzan*. Having leapt to fame in Europe with Pina Bausch, Tankard returned to Australia to create a dance aesthetic all her own. In her years with Australian Dance Theatre she created a dynamic versatile company and her long list of acclaimed new work was immediately in demand throughout Europe and North America. Her large-scale commissions, such as the Opening Ceremony for the 2000 Sydney Olympics, bear testimony to her imaginative range.

SEASON 2

A Commissioned work by London-based choreographer RAFAEL BONACHELA
CARRIAGEWORKS July 29 to August 16

Born in Barcelona, Award winning London-based choreographer, Rafael Bonachela has been described by the Sunday Times Magazine as "*the next big thing*" and by ID Magazine as among "*the hottest of international talent*." Rafael describes himself as a movement junkie and the exploration and experimentation of pure movement is his motivation. Rafael has an impeccable pedigree, having been a standout dancer at Rambert Dance Company, where he went on to choreograph as many as 9 new works. Rafael emerged as a choreographer committed to innovation. He is now director of his own Bonachela Dance Company. Rafael moves seamlessly between the mainstream and the avant garde. Recent commissions include works for George Piper Dances, Dies de Dansa Festival Barcelona, Candoco, Danza Contemporanea de Cuba, David Hughes Dance Company for the Edinburgh Festival, Dance Works Rotterdam, English Chamber Orchestra and Kylie Minogue's award-winning *Fever* Tour and the 2005 *Showgirl* Tour.



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SEASON 3
A Commissioned work by ASZURE BARTON
CARRIAGEWORKS October 7 to 25

Aszure Barton is a New York-based, Canadian born choreographer and the director of her own dance troupe Aszure & Artists, founded in 2002. At present, Aszure is Artist-in-Residence at the Baryshnikov Arts Center in New York, where she has created commissioned work for Mr. Baryshnikov's new performing company Hell's Kitchen Dance. Aszure also performs and tours with Mr. Baryshnikov's troupe, in works such as the acclaimed *Come In*, choreographed by Aszure. Described as the most innovative choreographer of her generation, Aszure recently created choreography for the Broadway production of *The Threepenny Opera*. She has also made works for Benjamin Milliepiéd and Company, the Juilliard School, Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal (where she is also resident), Hubbard Street Dance and Transitions Dance Company in the UK. Acclaimed in Europe as well as North America, her choreography has been described as intensely musical, emotionally moving and structurally astonishing.

The choreographers will undertake a 6-8 week creation period in Sydney leading up to the premiere of each new work. Each choreographer is currently working on creative development in preparation for their time in Sydney.

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