

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Sydney Dance Company *unfolds* a new season for 2009

Sydney Dance Company's newly appointed Artistic Director, **Rafael Bonachela**, has announced **two major Sydney seasons** in **2009** with **2 premieres** to be presented at the **Sydney Theatre**, a venue regarded as having one of the optimum stages for dance performance in Australia.

**Rafael Bonachela's** new work, ***we unfold***, will open in **Season 1 (March 31 – April 11)**. Set to a music score by Italian composer **Ezio Bosso**, *we unfold* is Rafael's second full length work for the Company following the success of **360°** created in 2008.

Rafael Bonachela says "My aim is to build a strong company with a singular identity and aesthetic, informed by my enthusiasm to create new work. I will continue to commission international artists and build upon Australian choreographic talent through a diverse programme, leading the Company towards an exciting future.

"Out of this vision will emerge a unique signature through work that does not belong to anyone else but us, dance at its highest quality, dance that is synonymous with Sydney Dance Company".

For **Season 2 (November 17 – 28)**, Rafael has invited acclaimed Finnish born choreographer **Kenneth Kvarnstrom** to make his Australian debut with the creation of ***Mercury***, a full evening work with production design and lighting by **Jens Sethzman**, a frequent collaborator of the choreographer, who brings his distinctive visual stamp to Kvarnstrom's work.

Currently Director of his own K. Kvarnstrom & Co, Kenneth was for several years Director of the Helsinki City Dance Company, and recently of the esteemed Dansens Hus in Stockholm. His work has been acclaimed in Europe and North America where **Kenneth Kvarnstrom's** choreography is defined as "powerful and dynamic, yet sensual and intimate."

2009 will commence with Sydney Dance Company's participation in **Festival First Night** the opening night of the Sydney Festival on January 10, , which is dedicated to dancing in all its form. The Company will perform highlights from **360°** on a purpose built stage in Martin Place, the focal point of this multi-

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company, live performance event, spectacularly staged by producer **Nigel Jamieson**.

The highly successful **Overture Series** will return mid-year with the creation of new works by independent and emerging Australian choreographers. This program has been made possible with the support of the **Harold Mitchell Foundation**. Full details will be announced as Rafael Bonachela assembles his 2009 line-up of choreographers.

### **Sydney Dance Company will be touring extensively with Rafael Bonachela's 360° -**

**Brisbane** at the Playhouse, QPAC, (April 17-25);

**Adelaide** at the Playhouse at the Festival Centre (May 6-9);

**Melbourne** at the Playhouse at the Arts Centre (May 13-16);

**Christchurch Festival, New Zealand**, at the Isaac Theatre Royal (July 29 – August 2).

and with

### ***Sid's Waltzing Masquerade* by Aszure Barton -**

Newcastle Civic Theatre (August 21, 22);

Playhouse, Canberra Theatre Centre (September 2-5).

For further information:

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### **WHAT THE CRITICS SAY: Rafael Bonachela**

*"His dance is like a spray of bullets that hit their target..."* The Times, London

*"It is modern art engraved in steel; thrilling in its newness..."*

*Rafael Bonachela is of the moment."* Dance Europe

WHAT THE CRITICS SAY: Kenneth Kvarnstrom

*"If the work of K. Kvarnstrom comes to your town, see it. It's worth it for the beautiful movement and the choreographer's unique voice."* Critical Dance.com

*"With its precise integration of space and all the intensity of excellent dance, Kvarnstrom's choreography carries you away again and again".*

Ballet International Magazine, Berlin

*"Bonachela delivers a work that is breathtakingly, almost painfully beautiful"*

Daily Telegraph Sydney

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### *we unfold – a new work for Sydney Dance Company*

Artistic Director, **Rafael Bonachela**, will premiere his newest work for Sydney Dance Company, ***we unfold***, on **March 31** at the Sydney Theatre in Walsh Bay, a venue regarded as having one of the optimum stages for dance performance in Australia.

On taking up the reins at Sydney Dance Company, Rafael Bonachela says, "My aim is to build a strong company with a singular identity and aesthetic, informed by my enthusiasm to create new work. I will continue to commission international artists and build upon Australian choreographic talent through a diverse programme, leading the Company towards an exciting future".

Bonachela's ***we unfold*** is effectively a dual arts premiere, with choreography set to the world premiere of ***Symphony No 1 'Oceans' for Orchestra and Solo Cello*** by celebrated Italian composer **Ezio Bosso**.

***,"When I heard this new symphony I was completely swept away. I could immediately see my new work arising out of it", says Rafael Bonachela. "Through his music, Ezio creates tensions that take me to a very emotional place. When I hear it I feel then I see. Movement for me is no longer a pure physicality but an instinctual and emotional response to Ezio's incredible composition. This new symphony is quite simply breathtaking".***

***we unfold*** is Bonachela's second full length work for the Company following the success of the dynamic ***360°*** created in 2008. It is his first work as Artist Director.

**Speaking about his new work he says, "I want to create a piece about our needs and desires to slowly unfold, revealing ourselves to those around us. Blossoming and gradually removing the coverings of who we are. We all embark on journeys from the intimate deep within to collective discovery. *We Unfold* will be a self-examination of our emotional cores.**

"Out of this vision will emerge a unique signature through work that does not belong to anyone else but us, dance at its highest quality, dance that is synonymous with Sydney Dance Company".

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