



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

FORM

DANCE PROJECTS

FOSTERING DANCE CULTURE
IN WESTERN SYDNEY

form.org.au



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FORM DANCE PROJECTS ACKNOWLEDGES THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND WE WORK ON, THE BURRAMATTAGAL PEOPLE AND CLANS OF THE DARUG NATION, AND WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THEIR ELDERS, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

Cover image: Heidrun Löhr, *ENCOUNTER*, Director Emma Saunders, Western Sydney Ensemble
Inside cover image: Régis Lansac, *MASKED*, Director Meryl Tankard, Dance Artist Cloé Fournier

ABOUT US



Image: Dominic O'Donnell, WE ARE HERE COMPANY

Emerging 21 years ago through a Create NSW and City of Parramatta community outreach initiative, FORM has grown into a vital arts organisation firmly anchored in Western Sydney. Uniquely placed in the Australian independent dance sector as both presenter and producer, FORM drives an artistic program engaging a community of local, national and international dance artists.

Our purpose is to rigorously support independent Australian dance artists and develop audiences for contemporary dance. FORM exists to provide opportunities for Australian independent dance artists to create, experiment, present new work, and connect with audiences. We support artists at all stages of their career, develop their national and international profiles and provide valuable professional development opportunities.

FORM's vision is ambitious. In Parramatta, rapidly transforming into Sydney's central city, we work in an environment reflective of a future Australia. Alongside independent dance artists, we embrace the diversity of young Western Sydney dancers from many cultural communities to challenge the face of Australian contemporary dance. We build on our expertise in the contemporary dance sector and offer something new to artists and audiences.

FORM's program spans four key areas – presentation and producing, education, community engagement and audience development. The interconnectedness of these activities is vital for a wider appreciation of Australian dance culture in a shifting contemporary context.

As one of the leading presenters of independent dance in Sydney and Australia, FORM is the place artists come to premiere new dance work and realise their artistic vision. Our signature Dance Bites program is acclaimed for its eclectic curation, showcasing a wide range of choreographers

working across diverse styles – from the innovative and experimental to the popular and accessible. The works of experienced, more established artists are placed alongside those of promising newcomers.

FORM takes risks. We commission and produce large innovative new Australian dance works, made in Parramatta, Western Sydney. In collaboration with partner companies and leading Australian independent choreographers and artists, we extend professional development opportunities for mid-career to established artists to create and collaborate in the making of innovative new work.

FORM provides unique opportunities for young people in Western Sydney. We increase their exposure to renowned choreographic practice, contribute to artform appreciation and develop young audiences. We play an important role in fostering the next generation of dance makers. Through our enlivening education program, we provide access and participation in dance culture for early-career artists and performing arts students. Underpinning the artistic program and as a companion to our Dance Bites program, the education program includes skills development, workshops, Q&A sessions and masterclasses. The annual Sharp Short Dance Festival for choreographers and dancers 21 and under offers young artists a unique opportunity to experience a presentation environment supported by industry peers.

FORM's partnerships are vital to our work. We have developed and maintained numerous relationships across industry sectors and across Western Sydney that will continue to help us forge new ground and broaden opportunities for the dance sector. Our many successes over the last two decades demonstrate FORM is forging an exciting trajectory, based on unique initiatives and responses to the broader arts landscape.

GOVERNANCE

PATRON CHRIS BATH

BOARD EXECUTIVE

CHAIR NARELLE LEWIS

VICE-CHAIR

ANDREW DEMETRIOU (From June 2020)

TREASURER PAMELA THORNTON

SECRETARY

ALISSA BRUCE (Until August 2020)

MELISSA MCGRATH (From August 2020)

BOARD MEMBERS

PROF. PETER HUTCHINGS

DR. JULIE-ANNE LONG

BODEN EVANS

ARUNA GANDHI (Until June 2020)

SIDDARTHA KAPOOR

SIMON VINCENT

JEREMY MOLLER (Until June 2020)

KATHERINE PFAHL (From February 2020)

TEAM

DIRECTOR ANNETTE McLERNON

PROGRAM MANAGER AGNES MICHELET

BUSINESS MANAGER SALLY EBERT

ADMIN AND MARKETING

MAYA GAVISH (Until October 2020)

NAOMI HIBBERD (From September 2020)

ENCOUNTER / PRELUDE / MASKED

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

ANNETTE McLERNON

SHARP SHORT DANCE

ARTISTIC PRODUCER MAYA GAVISH

WE ARE HERE ASSOCIATE ARTIST

EMMA SAUNDERS

WE ARE HERE COMPANY CO-ORDINATOR

SARAH-VYNE VASSALLO

BLOGGER IN RESIDENCE VICKI VAN HOUT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Image: Victor Frankowski, ENCOUNTER Sydney Festival, Pola Fanous

“One of the highlights of a show that celebrated Parramatta, young people, identity and diversity.”
CAROLINE BAUM, ARTS JOURNALIST AND COMMENTATOR

2020 is definitely not the year any of us planned. From fires to pandemics, living in a state of uncertainty became the new normal. Everyone has been impacted by vast (and ongoing) changes in how we live, engage and do business.

While the arts community was hit particularly hard this year, uncertainty and constant reinvention really are part of what making art is about. Unsurprisingly then, FORM ably rose to the challenges 2020 brought. Under Annette McLernon's guidance, the small team not only managed to deliver some of our planned programs, it repurposed others to keep the company and most importantly, the artists with whom FORM works, engaged and employed.

Our major Sydney Festival project in January, ENCOUNTER, was the year's (live) highlight. In partnership with two youth-focussed companies, Sydney Youth Orchestras and FLING Physical Theatre, joint works such as these are vital in showcasing Western Sydney talent, broadening FORM's reach and growing support for independent contemporary dance in the community.

Similarly, the reinvention of our Sharp Short Dance festival (SSD) and seniors dance program as digital offerings in the midst of COVID enabled audiences under lockdown to maintain connection with contemporary dance as both an artform and a creative outlet. Online votes across SSD heats drew over 4000 responses, pointing to potential new opportunities in this space going forward.

Though the pandemic stopped live dance presentations and suspended some of our longer-term partnership plans, FORM has been able to maintain financial viability through Jobkeeper payments and COVID recovery support.

As a Board, we are very mindful of the unplanned work required to 'pivot' an annual program into new models of delivery. It is down to the commitment and dedication of Annette and the FORM team that so much of our 2020 program has come to fruition, and their work is to be applauded.

Similarly, I'd like to thank the Board for their hard work, adaptability and sense of humour this year, including incoming

board member, Katherine Pfahl. It is a team of impressive, skilled individuals, and their professional input at this unpredictable time has been invaluable. I also acknowledge the work of outgoing members Aruna Gandhi, Jeremy Moller, and Alissa Bruce in particular, for her support of FORM over many years.

The financial impact of the pandemic on the small to medium arts sector cannot be overstated. On behalf of my fellow Board members, I also acknowledge and thank our government supporters at Federal, State and local levels - Create NSW, including their COVID-19 Rescue & Restart fund; Australia Council's 2020 Resilience Fund; the support of Crown Resorts and Packer Family Foundations, and City of Parramatta for venue support via Riverside Theatres and Northmead Studio.

FORM looks forward to bouncing back in 2021 – to continue championing independent dance and contributing to the cultural vibrancy of Western Sydney.

NARELLE LEWIS
CHAIR

PROGRAM OVERVIEW 2020

“ENCOUNTER demonstrated the best of humanity. The whole experience was a huge achievement and added to the notion that art can change the world, lift us up and give us a positive view of the community we inhabit. We need more moments of ENCOUNTER.”

**WESLEY ENOCH,
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
SYDNEY FESTIVAL**



Left Image: Heidrun Löhner, *ENCOUNTER Sydney Festival* - Right Image: Victor Frankowski, *ENCOUNTER Sydney Festival*

The year 2020 marked a very difficult year for the performing arts industry in Australia. It was heralded in with catastrophic bushfires in NSW, and quickly followed by the emergence of a global pandemic. Our collective psyche was shaken through a conflagration of bushfire, pandemic, racism, police brutality, and the Black Lives Matter movement. This led to a world of fear, isolation, lockdown, border closures, unemployment, economic collapse and protest. Deep rifts continue rising to the surface, revealing what it is to be human and live on this planet.

Dance artists, in particular, were hit hard in the arts industry in 2020, as dance is very much an artform of touch. FORM has a proven history of inclusivity and diversity, which has been built over 20 years of hard work from many people and artists contributing to this unique independent platform. The space we work in, in the independent dance sector, is diverse. Dance artists come from many different backgrounds and communities including indigenous, artists with diverse migrant family histories, dancers from the LGBTQI community and dancers with disability.

On the eve of launching the first Dance Bites in March, Riverside Theatres turned the lights off in the theatres and studios. Agnès Michelet, FORM's Program Manager, has done ingenious work curating and presenting the Dance Bites program since late 2017, contributing to this cherished platform for independent dance in Sydney. She had the difficult task of contacting dance artists to cancel or postpone all the Dance Bites shows for the year as we all went into lockdown.

FORM was fortunate to launch into the New Year with the world premiere of *PRELUDE* and *ENCOUNTER*, in Sydney Festival 2020, in Prince Alfred Park, commissioned and produced by FORM Dance Projects, in partnership with Sydney Youth Orchestras and *FLING* Physical Theatre. *ENCOUNTER* was a site-specific work of joy, directed by independent choreographer, Emma Saunders, and Associate Artist, Rob McCredie. This was presented with the devastating backdrop of the NSW regional and local bushfires, but we took on the challenges. We presented a large-scale festival production, featuring 100

performing artists, celebrating Western Sydney dance communities, and the power of young people living in urban and regional communities, from Parramatta to the Bega Valley, the centre of the fire country on the south coast of NSW. With dancers donning masks to protect themselves from smoke inhalation in the park in January, we moved on shortly afterwards to donning masks because of the Covid-19 pandemic in late February-March.

As a small-medium independent performing arts organisation FORM's small team forged on, bunkering down not into hibernation but doing everything possible to keep our company afloat, artists and audiences engaged, steering FORM into a good position when it was possible to re-emerge. We chose to focus on pivoting to digital for three key areas of our program – seniors, who were in social isolation and at risk at home during lockdowns; young people, who wanted to keep on dancing in whatever way they could, be it their homes or outdoor spaces or on social media; and western Sydney cultural performers, connecting in shared conversations.

So we set to finding funding, producing and employing artists to flip our programs to digital. Diane Busuttill's Dance Classes for over 55's and Dance for Parkinson's flipped to zoom presentations, culminating in the creation of a dance film, *Together We Dance*, combatting the iso spleen of elders in our community. Pepa Molina also presented via zoom *Flamenco in your home* to seniors living in a local aged care village. Our popular annual youth dance festival, *Sharp Short Dance*, was transformed to a dance video platform, which saw strong online engagement with young dancers and audiences. FORM published the inaugural podcast of *FORMidables: Speaking from the heart of Western Sydney*, in May 2020, with Western Sydney slam poet, Pola Fanous, in conversation with cross-generational and cross-cultural Western Sydney artists. And as always, our resident blogger, Vicki Van Hout, kept us enlightened and questioning, touching the edge of dancers' lives throughout the pandemic in her blogs.

We re-emerged in September with the launch of the *We Are Here Company*, a fresh new Western Sydney youth dance company, led by Emma Saunders with Sarah-Vyne

Vassallo as Company Co-Ordinator, with the aim to support and professionally develop the dance practice of emerging independent dance makers in Western Sydney. FORM also garnered significant project funding to launch a new commissioned production, *MASKED*, a choreographic intensive with legendary dance artist, Meryl Tankard AO, Australia's most popular and beloved composer, Elena Kats-Chernin AO, and visual artist, Régis Lansac OAM. *MASKED* is a choreographic intensive, with 8 independent dance makers collaborating with these leading artists to create a series of solos. The first creative development was initiated, against the odds, in December 2020 with a group residency at Bundanon Trust, providing a unique opportunity for artists to get back into the studio together, collaborate and create. It demonstrates that under pressure, amazing things can be generated.

The year 2020 is testament to the tenacity and courage of dance artists, artistic collaborators, and arts workers who have navigated and reinvented the space through extended lockdowns and restrictive health and community protocols throughout this year. *“Figures vary, but the direct cost to the arts industry was at least 60,000 jobs lost and a \$50 billion hole in the national economy.”** FORM pulled through with the support of artists and partners, and our dedicated team, Agnès Michelet, Sally Ebert, Maya Gavish and Naomi Hibberd. Thanks to our committed board, led by Narelle Lewis (Chair), Andrew Demetriou (Vice Chair) and Pamela Thornton, (Treasurer). I would also like to say a huge thank you to Robert Love AO, Riverside Theatres, Director, an ardent supporter of FORM since the organisation's inception over 20 years ago as Western Sydney Dance Action. We wouldn't be here if not for Robert Love, and Riverside staff; all have pulled together to make things happen in the background for FORM for many years. A year like this reminds us that we depend on each other, and are always in relationship with others. So, here's to a brighter 2021! May FORM Dance Projects continue to be the place Sydney sidlers come to see the best of independent dance in Australia.

ANNETTE McLERNON
DIRECTOR



PerFORM – ARTISTIC PROGRAM

FORM Dance Projects works with Australia's leading choreographers and dancers and a diverse range of partners, from Riverside Theatres to independent producers and companies, arts organisations, education institutes, council and community service providers to support dance as an art form.

Dance Bites is a curated, signature program of contemporary dance works presented by FORM Dance Projects and Riverside Theatres. The annual *Dance Bites* program features some of Australia's most innovative and exciting choreographers and performers. A *Dance Bites* season provides enormous opportunity for early-career to established independent choreographers to present their works with support from FORM Dance Projects in venue hire, technical production, administration, marketing and publicity of the production.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic with lockdowns, international and national border closures, and studio and theatre closures our *Dance Bites* 2020 seasons were cancelled or postponed for presentation until 2021-2022.

Since 2013, FORM has ventured into commissioning and producing large scale, genre-defying festival productions. These commissions support artform development, enhance professional development and the dance practices of early career to established dance artists. Through our entire artistic program FORM fosters career pathways, provides employment, and promotes the "Made in Parramatta" reputation and brand.

Images: Régis Lansac, *MASKED*, Director Meryl Tankard



MASKED

MERYL TANKARD, ELENA KATS-CHERNIN, REGIS LANSAC

MASKED is an interdisciplinary (dance, music and visual art) choreographic intensive mentored by dance legend Meryl Tankard AO, Australia's beloved and "most popular" composer Elena Kats-Chernin AO with stunning photography and video design by visual artist, Régis Lansac OAM. These key senior artists are collaborating on *MASKED* with 8 Australian independent dance makers, including Jana Castillo, Cloé Fournier, Billy Keohavong, Callum Mooney, Thubalethu Ndibali, Katina Olsen, Jeremy Santos, and Reina Takeuchi.

MASKED is a series of solos exploring notions of threat, extinction and social unrest experienced globally right now through climate change and pandemic, created by the next generation of dance makers mentored by Meryl Tankard.

The first creative development was initiated with a group choreographic residency at Bundanon Trust in December 2020 responding to selected artworks in the Bundanon collection, particularly of Australian modernist Sidney Nolan and Arthur Boyd and their lesser known works touching on social and environmental crisis. Individual artists will continue to develop their solos at Sydney Dance Company and Riverside Theatres studios in Parramatta, from January to April 2021.

CHOREOGRAPHIC MENTOR AND DIRECTOR MERYL TANKARD AO
COMPOSER ELENA KATS-CHERNIN AO
VISUAL ARTIST REGIS LANSAC OAM
DANCE MAKERS JANA CASTILLO, CLOE FOURNIER, WILLIAM KEOHAVONG, CALLUM MOONEY, THUBALETHU NDIBALI, KATINA OLSEN, JEREMY SANTOS, REINA TAKEUCHI
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ANNETTE McLERNON
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR NAOMI HIBBERD

Images: Régis Lansac, *MASKED*, Thubalethu Ndibali, Reina Takeuchi, Elena Kats-Chernin and Callum Mooney

"In directing ENCOUNTER and the young Western Sydney dancers I have steered our process to be respectful to the breadth of each of our lives, ages, and dancing experiences. We have merged, responded and created new ways of moving that reflect at times, a communal body, and at other times, the individual nuances we bring to dancing."

EMMA SAUNDERS, DIRECTOR ENCOUNTER

"ENCOUNTER spreads out, into, over and around the audience. It envelops our senses, amazes visually and aurally and leaves us buoyed and ready to encounter the world once more. The original music score powers the dance in a myriad of moves and moods and Felicity Castagna's text rings true and authentically out of a contemporary increasingly urbanised world. Director Emma Saunders has cleverly and creatively melded the talents of the Western Sydney dancers, Sydney Youth Orchestra, FLING Physical Theatre and many, many others to produce one of those rare once in a lifetime occasions that you will never forget. Do experience ENCOUNTER up close and soon."

ROBERT LOVE AM, DIRECTOR RIVERSIDE THEATRES

"I've been learning about different modes of dance, opening up my awareness and understanding of different styles, forms and movement traditions. Working with Emma Saunders and the ENCOUNTER dancers influences my dance."

FERAS SHAHEEN, WESTERN SYDNEY INDEPENDENT DANCER

Left Image: Victor Frankowski, ENCOUNTER Sydney Festival, Sarah Kalule - Right Image: Victor Frankowski, ENCOUNTER Sydney Festival

ENCOUNTER

EMMA SAUNDERS

COMMISSIONED AND PRODUCED BY FORM DANCE PROJECTS
SUPPORTED BY SYDNEY YOUTH ORCHESTRAS AND FLING PHYSICAL THEATRE

PRESENTED BY SYDNEY FESTIVAL 9 - 12 JANUARY

"You are here in this place where the eels lay down and the cars light up and the McDonald's M is the biggest moon in the sky. Parramatta. Summertime. Early in the evening. ENCOUNTER is your invitation to the neighbourhood."

FELICITY CASTAGNA

In this joyful site-responsive music and dance work, directed by the "formidable" Emma Saunders, ENCOUNTER explores the everyday extraordinariness and power of young people, from the Bega valley, on the NSW South Coast to Parramatta, Western Sydney.

In collaboration with a group of award-winning Australian artists, including Felicity Castagna (writer), composers Amanda Brown (The Go-Betweens) and Jodi Phillis (The Clouds), ENCOUNTER celebrates young people living in urban and regional communities.

Creatively developed with a cast of 16 young dancers (8 from Western Sydney and 8 from FLING Physical Theatre) with Associate Artist Rob McCredie and the Western Sydney Youth Orchestra, conducted by James Pensini, ENCOUNTER explores the indomitable spirit of young people and the world they find themselves in.

"...the cars spin out on the roads, losing their grip somewhere between all the crooked driveways and those backyards that stretch out forever between all that fibro and brick."

DIRECTOR EMMA SAUNDERS
ASSOCIATE ARTIST ROB McCREDIE,
FLING PHYSICAL THEATRE, BEGA, NSW
CHOREOGRAPHY IN COLLABORATION
WITH THE DANCERS

WRITER FELICITY CASTAGNA
COMPOSERS AMANDA BROWN &
JODI PHILLIS

ORCHESTRATOR JESSICA WELLS
WESTERN SYDNEY YOUTH ORCHESTRA
CONDUCTOR JAMES PENSINI

VISUAL ARTIST DAVID CAPRA
WESTERN SYDNEY DANCERS
SARAH KALULE, LAWRENCEA
MATEARIKI, SABRINA MUSZYNSKI,
JOSHUA O'CONNOR, NAOMI REICHARDT,
FERAS SHAHEEN, CAYLAN SPENDLOVE,
XARA ZAINEDDINE

THE FLING COMPANY ESME BARKER,
EBONY CONSTABLE, GABRIELA GREEN
OLEA, EBONY RYAN-MINERS, LARA
SCRIVENS, BODHI TURNER, RORY
WARNE, LUCA YI

MUSICIANS WESTERN SYDNEY YOUTH
ORCHESTRA

SPOKEN WORD POLA FANOUS,
BILAL HAFDA (TRAILER)

PRODUCTION MANAGER
REBECCA POULTER

PHOTOGRAPHY HEIDRUN LOHR

VIDEOGRAPHY DOMINIC O'DONNELL

FORM EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
ANNETTE McLERNON

FLING PHYSICAL THEATRE
CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTORS:
ROB McCREDIE & GABRIELLE ROSE

SYO GENERAL MANAGER
MIA PATOULIOS

SYO ARTISTIC PROGRAM MANAGER
KATIE GARMAN

TOTAL NUMBER OF ARTISTS 75
AUDIENCE 1300

Thanks to the audiences that gave us overwhelmingly positive feedback!

"LOVED IT" - "excellent" - "Still buzzing",
"epic" - "real time golden moments" -
"stunning" - "the people love it" -
"You can't beat that!" - "it certainly was
the right antidote to the current mood" -
"so uplifting!"





PRELUDE

PRELUDE, a showcase of Western Sydney dance culture, presented nine short performances and 36 performers (dancers and musicians) each evening in the heritage-listed rotunda in Prince Alfred Square, as part of the ENCOUNTER, Sydney Festival event. FORM Dance Projects introduced the wider dance community to festival audiences. Many of the artists featured in PRELUDE participated in the Cultural Performing Arts Network, Dance Bites, Sharp Short Dance and FORM's Seniors dance program.

The intergenerational dance showcase, co-curated by Annette McLernon and Emma Saunders, was performed each evening as an invitation to see ENCOUNTER through a lens of the many varied dance cultures that exist in Western Sydney. Thanks to the PRELUDE artists, our dance revolutionaries.

ARTISTS

ARUNA GANDHI
 BILLY KEOHAVONG
 JANNAWI DANCE CLAN
 (PETA STRACHAN & DANCERS)
 FERAS SHAHEEN & MAGO HUSARI
 SHAHEEN
 DOUBLE DIGIT
 (PAUL & FRANK BARBARA)
 PACIFIC DREAMZ
 DANCE MAKERS COLLECTIVE
 (CARL SCIBERRAS & KATINA OLSEN)
 COMPAÑIA PEPA MOLINA (PEPA MOLINA
 with PACO LARA & ANTONIO SORIA)
 FORGE TAP QUARTET (BRAYDON
 BLACKHALL, MIKAYLA OKELY, LARISSA
 STETTON, MICHAELLA MEAD)
 FEISTY FEMMES (DIANE BUSUTTIL with
 ROBYN DUNBAR, MARIE HOTSCHILT,
 CHERYL HARRIS)

CO-CURATORS ANNETTE McLERNON,
 EMMA SAUNDERS

PRODUCTION MANAGER
 REBECCA POULTER

PHOTOGRAPHY VICTOR FRANKOWSKI
VIDEOGRAPHY DOMINIC O'DONNELL,
 MICHAEL O'DONNELL

TOTAL NUMBER OF ARTISTS: 51

Image: Victor Frankowski, *PRELUDE*, Peta Strachan and Jannawi Dance Clan

DANCE BITES 2020

FORM DANCE PROJECTS AND RIVERSIDE PRESENT
DANCE BITES 2020, PARRAMATTA RIVERSIDE LENNOX THEATRE

THE TAP AFFECT

THE AUSTRALIAN TAP DANCE COMPANY
 26 - 28 MARCH

The Tap Affect is the inaugural work of newly founded Australian Tap Dance Company celebrating Australian tap dancers' inspirations.

Image: Sean Sinclair, *THE TAP AFFECT*, The Australian Tap Dance Company



PERCEPTIONS

COMPAÑIA PEPA MOLINA
 21 - 23 MAY

A unique opportunity for lovers of music and dance to see some of Spain's leading cutting edge Flamenco artists perform contemporary Flamenco dance & music.

Image: Joshua Morris courtesy of Blacktown Arts & Paco Villalta, *PERCEPTIONS*, Jesús Fernández and Pepa Molina



BODY AND ENVIRONMENT - ON TOUR

FLING PHYSICAL THEATRE
 23 - 25 JULY

A physical journey through psychological spaces featuring 11 young performers from the Bega Valley aged 14-18.

Image: Andrew Norman, *BODY AND ENVIRONMENT*, FLING Physical Theatre



DOUBLE BEAT

SARA BLACK

10 - 12 SEPTEMBER

With an exceptional all female Australian cast and creative team directed by Helpmann Award winner Sara Black, Double Beat explores the aural and physical responses the heart and pulse present in differing emotional and physical states.

Image: Tania Lambert, *DOUBLE BEAT*, Jasmin Lancaster



PlatFORM – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



FORM Dance Projects auspices and co-produces projects with creative development residencies and performance opportunities for professional artists. FORM also provides mentoring opportunities and the development of professional skills for dance artists throughout their careers.

In 2020, Northmead studio and Riverside studio were offered as venues operated by Riverside Theatres, courtesy of the City of Parramatta. FORM was able to access the studios to support Dance Bites rehearsals (until COVID-19 hit in March), creative developments and dance workshop programs supporting professional artists in all stages of their careers.

FORM facilitated the creative development of ENCOUNTER ready for presentation in Sydney Festival 2020, at Prince Alfred Square, Parramatta. From September 2020 after the COVID-19 lockdown and with strong Covid-19 Guidelines in place, FORM utilised the studios for the audition and creative development of WE ARE HERE, FORM's Western Sydney youth dance company.

Image: Régis Lansac, *MASKED*, Thubalethu Ndibali

WE ARE HERE COMPANY



The WE ARE HERE Company is a new, breakthrough contemporary dance company like no other. It comprises 11 powerful performers aged 20-30 years who are open minded, able to dance with 'heart' and exhibit performative and choreographic potential.

At its helm is Emma Saunders, our 'formidable' and award winning Associate Artist. Emma is hot off the heels from directing the highly successful ENCOUNTER season at Sydney Festival 2020, and brings her wealth of dance experience, energy and generosity to the company. The WE ARE HERE Company holds artistry, performative range and collaboration in its work, contributing and redefining the current look, approach and style of Australian contemporary dance.

The WE ARE HERE Curated Program is an exciting new opportunity to consolidate and seed new, deeper, artistic and meaningful collaborative small solo works within a focused and specialised, intimate environment between the Associate Artist

and the Curated Artist/s. Each Curated Artist will be invited on the merit of their abilities, capacities and contributions from within their work as part of ENCOUNTER and the WE ARE HERE Company Program. Curated Program artists for 2020 are Feras Shaheen, Sabrina Muszynski, Gabriela Green Olea, Josh O'Connor and Xara Zaineddine.

ALL THAT I AM RIGHT NOW was commissioned by Parramatta Lanes and produced by FORM Dance Projects in November 2020.

It featured a series of eleven 1-minute solo dance portraits, created and performed by the WE ARE HERE COMPANY in collaboration with digital artist, Feras Shaheen, and writer, Felicity Castagna. Viewers were inspired by the dance moves of 'ALL THAT I AM RIGHT NOW', which presented a series of solo intimate moving digital portraits that celebrated private moments of joy, experienced on the inside of our dancing lives.

Image: Dominic O'Donnell, WE ARE HERE COMPANY

WE ARE HERE COMPANY AUDITION
RIVERSIDE STUDIO
15 AUGUST
17 DANCERS

ASSOCIATE ARTIST EMMA SAUNDERS

COMPANY COORDINATOR
SARAH-VYNE VASSALLO

DIGITAL ARTIST FERAS SHAHEEN

CHOREOGRAPHIC ASSISTANT
JOSH O'CONNOR

COMPANY MEMBERS FIORELLA BAMBA,
EMILY YALI, TAMARA BOUMAN, CYNTHIA
FLOREK, BEDELIA LOWRENCEV, JOSH
O'CONNOR, GABRIELA GREEN OLEA,
KUPI TOILALO

GUEST COMPANY MEMBERS CLAIRE
RODRIGUES, ROMAIN HASSANIN, LIAM
BERG

STUDIO RESIDENCIES

EMILY FLANNERY

7-25 SEPTEMBER

Out of the Studio offers emerging choreographers an opportunity to begin the development of new dance works. Emerging choreographers take risks, explore their ideas in a theatre context and share their work with an audience. FORM Dance Projects continues to partner with Dirtyfeet on this project by providing studio space.

BULNURUWANHA

Bulnuruwanha (Taking Flight) explores the birds significant to Wiradjuri dreaming in the creation of land. The role of the birds, their personalities/characteristics are significant in creating the land but what happened to them after colonisation?

CHOREOGRAPHER/PERFORMER

EMILY FLANNERY

PERFORMERS AMY FLANNERY, JYE UREN

SOUND THOMAS J KELLY

GUEST TEACHER ROMAIN HASSANIN

MENTOR JASMINE GULASH

Image: Natalia Cartney, *OUT OF THE STUDIO 2020*, Amy Flannery and Emily Flannery



SHARP SHORT DANCE

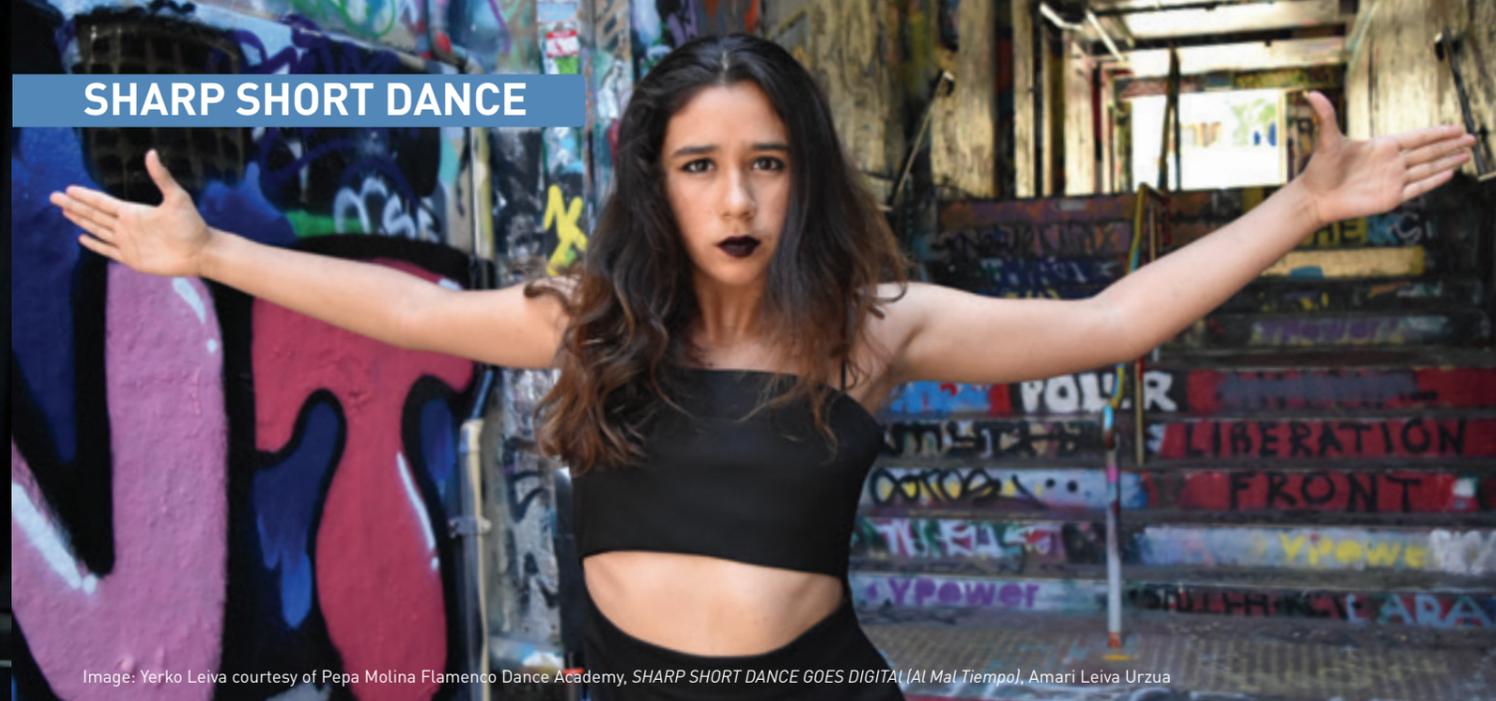


Image: Yerko Leiva courtesy of Pepa Molina Flamenco Dance Academy, *SHARP SHORT DANCE GOES DIGITAL (Al Mal Tiempo)*, Amari Leiva Urzua

FORM DANCE PROJECTS AND RIVERSIDE PRESENT

SHARP SHORT DANCE GOES DIGITAL 2020

HEATS 26 OCTOBER – 12 NOVEMBER | **HEAT FINALISTS** 16 – 17 NOVEMBER | **FINAL** 21 NOVEMBER

Sharp Short Dance cultivates talent and performance by choreographers and dancers aged 21 and under. The festival inspires, educates young performers and encourages active participation in dance at all levels and styles including contemporary dance, ballet, jazz, hip hop, tap and cultural dance.

Since its launch, the festival has hosted hundreds of young performers, with many returning each year to strive for artistic excellence, develop their choreographic and performance skills, meet like-minded young artists, and network with peer and industry professionals. Unlike other performance environments such as Eisteddfods and local festivals, Sharp Short Dance encourages young people to take control of their creative visions under the guidance and mentorship of professionals.

This year festival applicants were invited to enter a short dance film or a recorded performance. Mentorship sessions with professional film and dance experts, Maya Gavish, Creative Producer, and Samuel James, videographer, were offered providing advice on the technicalities involved in making a dance film, or recording a performance on video, as well as producing and creating an effective dance work. The general public had the opportunity to vote for their favourite work over a month of online engagement in October-November. A panel of industry professionals invited the dance artists with the best works to perform in the live streamed Final. A record number of 181 dancers competed in this year's event. From a total of 52 dance works, 24

were selected to continue to the final.

The winners of the 13th annual Sharp Short Dance festival were announced on Saturday 16th November during a livestreamed final event held at Riverside Theatres. The judging panel included members of the dance industry including Emma Saunders (WE ARE HERE Company), Jamie Winbank (Sharp Short Dance 2018), Jo Clancy (Wagana Dancers), Melissa Ramos (Dance Cinema), Omer Backley-Astrachan (Sydney Dance Company Pre-Professional Year), Shaun Parker (Shaun Parker & Company) and Aruna Gandhi (Silambam-Sydney). Awards were presented by the judges and the host of the event, dance artist, Kay Armstrong.

SHARP SHORT DANCE AWARDS

Most Innovative Choreography

Saskia Ellis (Earthern)

Most Innovative Choreography (Junior)

Amari Leiva Urzua (Al Mal Tiempo)

Most Outstanding Talent

Isaac Clark (Masque)

Outstanding Female Dancer

Danni Cook (To Fear, To Feel)

Outstanding Male Dancer

Chris Wade (Volatile)

Outstanding Solo Performance

Lucy Angel (Moonlight)

Outstanding Duet Performance

Ruby Howard and Toby McKnight (Try Not To Break It)

Outstanding Ensemble Performance

Taylor Mikic and Priyasha Naidoo (Prison Yard)

Outstanding Dance Film

Georgia Gallagher (The Helper)

Audience Choice Award

Frances Orlina (Moon River)

Sydney Dance Company Pre-Professional Year Secondment

Toby McKnight (Try Not To Break It)

Twisted Element Secondment

Mia Ryan (Life Satisfaction)

Wild Hearts Secondment

Nikitta Jancek (Perception)

We Are Here Secondment

Paul & Frank Barbara (Scala Ad Caelum), and Saskia Ellis (Earthern)

Shaun Parker and Company Secondment

Paul & Frank Barbara (Scala Ad Caelum), Derell Akrong and Priyasha Naidoo (Prison Yard)

AMPA Summer Intensive

Lily Cole (In My Dreams), Jannah Allen (Discomfort) and Sophia Kaloudis (Masque)

TOTAL CHOREOGRAPHERS: 86

TOTAL PERFORMERS: 181

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS: 267

TOTAL ONLINE VOTES: 4,361

TOTAL AUDIENCE: 109

TOTAL WORKS: 52

TOTAL FESTIVAL PARTICIPATION: 396

MEDIA LISTINGS: 96

GUEST COMPANY: WE ARE HERE COMPANY

TransFORM – EDUCATION PROGRAM

FORM Dance Projects provides access and participation in dance culture for performing arts students and emerging artists in a vibrant education program. This aspirational education program underpins the artistic program and includes skills development workshops and masterclasses, matinee performances with Q&A sessions (Learn the Repertoire See the Show), auditions and a youth dance festival.

Learn the Repertoire See the Show is a unique program for dance students to learn the repertoire from each of the Dance Bites performances in a workshop led by the presenting company. Following this, students experience a matinee performance and post show Q & A with the artistic team. All 2020 Learn the Repertoire See the Show were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Image: Dominic O'Donnell, *SHARP SHORT DANCE 2019*, Amari Leiva Urzua



“What a great show to bounce back after such a tough year for the arts. Exciting to see dance in our living rooms.” **ONLINE AUDIENCE**

INFORM COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

BLOGGER IN RESIDENCE VICKI VAN HOUT

In 2020, FORM Dance Projects commissioned Australia Council Dance Award (2019) recipient Vicki Van Hout to be the resident blogger after the ongoing success of her blog residency, initiated in 2013. Throughout the year Van Hout blogged for FORM about all things dance from her unique perspective as an indigenous choreographer. Van Hout's blog contributes valuable reputable discourse within the dance community and is a perceptive, entertaining and articulate window to the dance world for a larger audience.

ENCOUNTER AND PRELUDE – SYDNEY FESTIVAL 2020 11 JANUARY

"You're in a place where the eels lay down and the cars light up. Where the Maccas sign is the biggest moon in the sky. It's Parramatta. Summertime. I loved these opening sentiments so much I find myself repeating those four sentences like a mantra. The images conjured a space full of possibility. Then, as the music started, a gang of yellow clad youth emerged from the din of the gunned motors of two yellow sports cars. And they were off....."

Bodies assembled in front of the 50-strong Western Sydney Youth Orchestra, conducted by James Pensini who seemed to intuit the high voltage exuberant energy only the young and/or crazed can muster. They began, I found out, as they meant to go on.

From the opening scene, which featured bodies thrashing as if they were infused with volts of electricity, against a backdrop of complex physical uniformity. The mass receded and Feras (re)emerged (remember his mum) in an extended crumping solo which lasted the length of a whole poem. By the end I was tense and exhausted, so I can only imagine how he must've felt. The mass then converged on us, the audience."

SYDNEY FESTIVAL 2020 AND HOFESH SHECHTER'S GRAND FINALE 26 FEBRUARY

"And now for the grand finale in Hofesh Shechter's *Grand Finale*. It is all of the elements of this production that made it what it was. From the eclectic virtuosity of Shechter's choreography, which was

endowed with a pedestrian aesthetic, but demanded an obsessive athlete's attention, to Tom Scutt's spare set which involved the moving and manoeuvring of large blocks resembling metropolis monolithic constructs, to the sound, a combination which filled the ears, mind and body to the brim, in assault. This work was both relentless and epic. The title demanded nothing less. Throughout the evening *Grand Finale* alluded in turn to a crescendo of exhilaration and dread in equal measures. It was a show that demanded a certain stamina from the audience to be able to deal with the onslaught of the senses."

MARCH MADNESS – A REFLECTION 1 APRIL

"I just consulted my diary and realise that I have been self-isolating for a little over two weeks now. I would like to be able to share witty ditties followed by profound platitudes – but no.

After a little over 14 days I am beside myself with a mixture of selfish fear and loathing. A fear that this current state will form the new norm, as aptly prophesied by none other than billionaire Bill Gates in a TED talk about the next apocalypse, instigated by germ warfare and not human combat, accompanied by an image that looked suspiciously like our novel friend Covid. As if the world hadn't already gone crazy amidst a heady mix of global politics headed by politicians in a no win showdown with an all powerful environmental foe and a teenage activist. And now this...!"

DANCERS' HIDDEN TALENTS 3 JUNE

"As dancers we have other hidden talents, like knowing what pants make our legs look long and slender, how to smile in front of an undeserving and unresponsive audience, how to manufacture an imaginary fourth wall to keep a mental distance between us (comes in handy in times of crises if used as a psychological de-escalation device) and, most importantly, how to read subtext. When they say the body never lies, it's true. For example, as a dance teacher I know when somebody in class is having issues with somebody else by reading their body language. When a dancer is having issues with me they tell me through their execution of each movement. When I watched you

on TV infer dance teachers in studios are unqualified, I could see that you were out of your depth and responding on the fly. I won't hold that against you by the way."

THE WORLD HAS GONE AWRY 6 AUGUST

"What up folks? The world has gone awry and we are cannibalising our community?! (the independent arts community). The rise of cyber bullying and bad behaviour within all Australian demographics during this pandemic has been well documented. It has to stop. There is a line between passion and trolling.

For what is difference? It is probably something one fears initially, but hopefully over time something one recognises and grows accustomed to. More importantly difference is the exciting stuff of the world. Difference is the substance of curiosity and represents the possibility for a new and maybe life-changing experience."

WHEN IS IT OK TO ACCEPT A DANCE JOB FOR FREE? 1 OCTOBER

"Too many times artists have succumbed to the carrot of exposure that has been dangled before the artist's nose. As artists we have to continue to take control of our professional trajectories by ensuring events like the AFL half time entertainment are held to account. Unfortunately, it will be an ongoing battle as the success of our 'Best Games Ever' that was the 2000 Sydney Olympics was underscored by thousands of skilled volunteers, who worked alongside an army of unskilled volunteer labourers, to set a very unhealthy benchmark in regards to sporting events entertainment.

We have to ask ourselves, "Is there the presence of a niggling feeling of resentment or exploitation?" then we have to reassess the long and short term financial and emotional implications. "Will I gain skills? Will there be a networking opportunity? Will the experience enrich my life in some capacity?" If not, realise the power lies within us to just say no."

FORMIDABLES PODCAST SERIES

FORMidables- Speaking from the heart of Western Sydney

FORMidables is a 10-part podcast series commissioned and produced by FORM Dance Projects in partnership with other Parramatta organisations, I.C.E. (Information + Cultural Exchange) and Diversity Arts Australia.

The podcasts present award winning Western Sydney slam poet Pola Fanous in lively duet conversations. FORMidables is about life, passion, the universality of dance language, what it means to be a young artist in a cosmopolitan Australia and the lessons we can take from the artists who contribute to the vibrancy of art making in Western Sydney.

HOST POLA FANOUS
EDITOR VIR KAULA
MUSIC THEME ALI SAGANCI



EPISODE 1 PEPA MOLINA & ELIZA COOPER 11 MAY

Award-winning flamenco dance artist Pepa Molina and young choreographic talent Eliza Cooper share their love of flamenco, nature and all things to celebrate in life from the Sydney Opera House to the Bolshoi Theatre, from Seville to Granville, Picasso to Gina Lollobrigida.

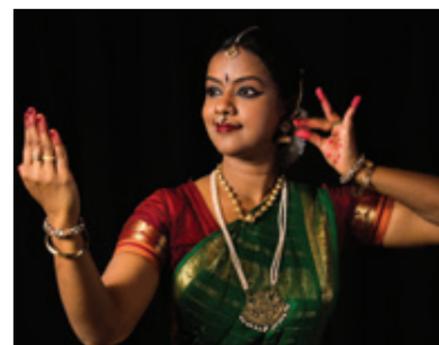
ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACKS JESUS MAÑERU (PERCEPTIONS "PAISAJES COSTUMBRISTAS / COSTUMBRIST LANDSCAPES") AND MASON PERONCHIK (OLD LIFE/DEAD LIFE "INTO THE MIRROR")



EPISODE 2 LUCKY LARTEY AND AZZAM MOHAMED 29 JUNE

Contemporary African choreographer Lucky Lartey from Ghana and Award Winning hip hop artist Azzam Mohamed from Sudan share their love of hip hop, how dance has transformed their lives and the values that made them embrace an artistic path... and earn a Guinness world record on the way.

ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACKS BYRON MARK (FULL CIRCLE INTRO SOUNDTRACK) AND AZZAM MOHAMED (CHIEF ROCKAZ -SQUAD)

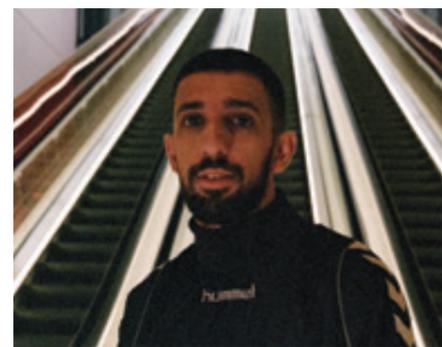


EPISODE 3 ARUNA GANDHI AND ARUTHY KUMANAN 21 AUGUST

Bharatanatyam artists, Aruthy Kumanan from Western Sydney and Indian-born choreographer, performer and educator Aruna Gandhi expertly distill what makes this South Indian classical dance such a fascinating art form anchored in tradition and spirituality. Dispelling Youtube and Bollywood myths, both artists will make you want for more!

ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK KANTHANIN KARUNAI, ARJUNAN PUVENDRAN (COMPOSER), ARUNACHALAM (ORIGINAL LYRICS) (COURTESY OF ARUTHY KUMANAN) AND

INDIAN CARNATIC SONG (COURTESY OF ARUNA GANDHI)



EPISODE 4 ENCOUNTER 6 - 7 OCTOBER

In January 2020, in the heat and smoke of last summer's devastating Australian bushfires, 16 dancers from Bega to Parramatta, joined by 48 young Western Sydney musicians, performed in Prince Alfred Square in Parramatta as part of the Sydney festival 2020. ENCOUNTER was a work of joy. In this episode, ENCOUNTER speaker and FORMidables host Pola Fanous shares the experience of making ENCOUNTER with its director, Emma Saunders. First joined by writer Felicity Castagna, they explore the nexus between dance, text and performance in the context of creating a site-specific work. Cast members Feras Shaheen and Gabriela Green Olea follow in describing their process of discovery and endurance through rehearsing outdoors, across sites from South to West, over the 18 months it took to create a work filled with emotional realities from which a new youth company, We Are Here, has emerged.

GUESTS PART A EMMA SAUNDERS AND FELICITY CASTAGNA

GUESTS PART B EMMA SAUNDERS, FERAS SHAHEEN AND GABRIELA GREEN OLEA

ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK JODI PHILLIS AND AMANDA BROWN

DANCE CLASSES FOR ADULTS



Image: Heidrun Löhr, FEISTY FEMMES AND FELLOWS, Diane Busuttill, Robyn Dunbar, Cheryl Harris

A DAY OF DANCE – FEISTY FEMMES AND FELLOWS

FORM DANCE PROJECTS AND RIVERSIDE THEATRES PRESENT

THE FEISTY FEMMES & FELLOWS

10 MARCH, SENIORS WEEK

A free workshop and performance

Following their resounding first appearance as part of the 2020 Sydney Festival in PRELUDE, the Feisty Femmes were back with a new performance in the courtyard of Riverside Theatres, celebrating NSW Seniors Festival. The Feisty Femmes met in 2018 at FORM Dance Projects' dance class in Parramatta led by Diane Busuttill. Together they danced through many generations and styles of music to finally land comfortably under the disco ball where their hearts belong. Their uplifting act followed a dynamic workshop attended by more than 20 enthusiastic senior participants.

This project was supported through a City of Parramatta Community Grant and NSW Senior's Festival.

DANCE CLASSES FOR OVER 55'S AND DANCE FOR PARKINSON'S

CENTENARY UNITING CHURCH NORTH PARRAMATTA

4 FEBRUARY – 10 MARCH

At the beginning of the year FORM set up dance classes led by dance artist, Diane Busuttill for seniors (11am-12pm) and people diagnosed with Parkinson's disease (1pm-2pm). The seniors class included soft stretches, moving to great tunes and interacting with other participants in a playful setting. The Dance for Parkinson's class was a fun and creative class designed in partnership with Dance for Parkinson's Australia.

ONLINE

TUESDAYS 26 MAY – 8 DECEMBER, 2020

Both classes were halted in March 2020 due to COVID-19 lockdown. FORM resumed the classes online in late May as part of the NSW Government initiative to combat social isolation for seniors during COVID-19.

LEAD TEACHER DIANE BUSUTTIL

DANCE FOR PARKINSON'S CO-TEACHERS

CATHY GOSS, GORDON COSS, RENATA COMMISSO

TOGETHER WE DANCE

21 JULY- 22 SEPTEMBER

Over 10 weeks FORM Dance Projects embarked on a screen dance project actively engaging a group of 20 women over 65 from Western Sydney. Animated by the unstoppable desire to keep dancing despite the abrupt ending of studio classes in March 2020, they met weekly every Tuesday, from their homes, switching on Zoom to dance together and record their moves under the direction of independent dance artist and filmmaker, Diane Busuttill.

"The personal motivation of my work always deals with women and/or feminist issues and often uses humour as a communicative tool. My creative objectives for Together We Dance were two-fold - creating group movement ideas and choreography specifically for the frame." (Diane Busuttill)

"I've learnt that we may not be here tomorrow but we are here today so we might as well dance." (Riri Treweeke)

"It's been such a joy to open my body up and to feel like a human being again." (Debra Harslett)

"It has given me something to do, someone to love, and something to hope for." (Denise Miel)

CREATIVE DIRECTOR DIANE BUSUTTIL

CHOREOGRAPHY DIANE BUSUTTIL AND DANCERS

EDITOR ABIGAIL PORTMAN

AUDIO MIX DEAN MACKIE

AGILE NOT FRAGILE LEAD TEACHER/ COORDINATOR

FIONA JAMES and JOE IBBITSON

OUTREACH COORDINATOR NAOMI HIBBERD

INTERN ASSISTANT ISABELLA OLAH-JEWELL

Proudly supported by the NSW Government to combat social isolation for seniors during COVID-19 and seeded through a community grant of the City of Parramatta.

FLAMENCO IN YOUR HOME

JUNE – NOVEMBER

FORM was delighted to commission Compañía Pepa Molina to offer six online interactive mini-performances at the Aged Care Facility, Residential Gardens, the only Spanish speaking facility in Australia.

Residents were able to join by using the ZOOM platform. Each session was a joyful and active sharing of Molina's choreography performed by Pepa Molina Flamenco Dance Academy students, Molina's own performance in extracts of Perceptions and an invitation to sing Flamenco rhythms and music.

Occurring until the end of 2020, Flamenco in your home brought the skills of an internationally acclaimed Australian artist to one of the most severely COVID-19 impacted community and provided what dance does best: lift spirits, foster social connection and celebrated the joy of living.

APPENDIX ONE

ARTIST LIST 2020

Abbey Cooper
Abbey O'Connor
Abi Workman
Abigail David
Abigail Portwin
Adison Wyrdean
Alanah Pendlebury
Ali Saganci
Alyssa Sinclair
Alyssa Timbs
Amanda Brown
Amari Leiva Urzua
Amber Keech
Amelia Sullivan
Amelia Tieu
Amelia Tuimauluga
Amy Flannery
Angelina Kostrevska
Anika Kuba
Ann Finlay
Anna Hickson
Antonio Soria
Aroha Pehi
Aruna Gandhi
Aruthy Kumanan
Ashley Vlahovich
Ashlyn Clarke
Aunty Lila Kirby
Ava Cousins
Ava Drakefield
Ava Pearson
Azzam Mohamed
Bailey Crossman
Bayley Jenkins
Bedelia Lawrence
Bella Priora
Bianca Williams
Billy Keohavong
Bodhi Turner
Braydon Blackhall
Briana Coles
Brianna Taylor
Bridget McAllister
Brittany Northey
Bronte Foreshe
Callum Mooney
Candice Petrovic
Caringbah HS Jnr
Dance Ensemble
Carl Sciberras
Carlie Shaw
Carly Bugg
Carmen Yih
Carolyn Firth
Cathy Goss
Caylan Spendlove
Celine Pecora
Charles Cameron
Charles Mariri
Charlotte Fails
Charlotte Latham
Cheryl Harris
Chloe Cavie

Chloe McDonnell
Chloe McWilliam
Chris Wade
Cinzia Marrocco
Civil Grace
Claire Rodrigues
Clara Jouve
Cliff Teura
Cloé Fournier
Constance Bunting
Cynthia Florek
Daniella Hannaoui
Danika Clarkson
Danni Cook
Darcey Kelly
David Capra
Dean Mackie
Deborah Martin
Debra Harslett
Deidre Macfarlane
Denis Beaubois
Denise Miel
Derell Akrong
Diane Busuttill
Dianne Lewis
Dom O'Donnell
Ebony Constable
Ebony Ryan-Miners
Editha Haarman
Elena Kats-Chernin
Elisabeth Fediakov
Elise Burke
Eliza Cooper
Elka Holden-Price
Ella Brunt
Ella Robinson
Emerson Goodenough
Emerson South
Emily Flannery
Emily Maclean
Emily Nanevska-Bahadori
Emily Yali
Emma Saunders
Emma Simmons
Emma Taoho
Erin Farrell
Esme Barker
Eve Baird
Felicity Castagna
Feras Shaheen
Fiona James
Fiorella Bamba
Frank Barbara
Gabbi Spicer
Gabriela Green Olea
Gabrielle Rose
Gabrielle Spicer
George Tauei
Georgia Gallagher
Gordon Coss
Guppie Yunupingu
Hannah Hume
Hannah Smead

Hannah Teura
Hayley Crisp
Heather Kenny
Heidrun Löhr
Helena Jaksic
Hollie Rowe
Iahna Von Meyer
Ilse Hillermann
Isaac Clark
Isabel Hampson
Isabella Rayfield
Isabella Savvas
Isabelle Mana
Izabella Olah-Jewell
Jack Egan
Jada Chaudhary
Jahmar
James Pensini
Jamie Winbank
Jamila Bui
Jannah Allen
Jasmin Sheppard
Jasmine Goldie
Jasmine Gulash
Jazz Sabutey
Jeremy Santos
Jess Faulkner
Jessica Cocking
Jessica Wells
Jo Clancy
Jodi Phillis
Joshua O'Connor
Julia Nalivaiko
Julian Bonser
Julie Cole
Julie-Anne Long
Jumikah Donovan
Junior Tauei
Justino
Jye Uren
Kaitlyn Ryan-Birlson
Kalarani Vellamy
Kapu Taini
Karaia Mathew
Karlia Cook
Katerina Tragotsalos
Kathrynna Yesma
Kathy Sullivan
Katie Leslie
Katina Olsen
Kay Armstrong
Kiara Ceniccola
Kiarna Best
Kirsten Doran
Kkasumbee Patel
Kopa Tarui
Kuriri Tauei
Kyara Darcy
Lara Scrivens
Larissa Stetton
Laura Chen
Lawrence Meteariki
Lettie Staples

Liam Berg
Lilia Valdmanis
Lillian Zinkie
Lily Cole
Lisa Frisina
Luca Yi
Lucky Lartey
Lucy Angel
Lynne Darcy
Madison Rule
Mago Husari Shaheen
Mahlia King
Marcus Puroku
Marie Hotschilt
Matina McAneney
Maxwell Howard
Maya Bryan
Maya Gavish
Melanie Joseph
Melissa Ho
Melissa Ramos
Merryn Hodgson
Meryl Tankard
Mia Fulham
Mia Niugila
Mia Ryan
Mia Starrenburg
Michaela Mead
Mikayla Okely
Mimi Wellisch
Murray Cunningham
Myra Tauei
Naomi Hibberd
Naomi Reichardt
Natalia Diaz
Natasha Savinova
Niki Johnson
Nikitta Jancek
Olga Kisseleva
Oliver Hall
Olivia Darby
Olivia De Ruygt
Omer
Backley- Astrachan
Paco Lara
Paina Nateau
Paul Barbara
Pauline Pearce
Pearl Sunjic
Pepa Molina
Perry Warner
Peta Anderson
Peta Strachan
Pippa Butterfield
Pola Fanous
Prapti Sharma
Priyasha Naidoo
Rachelle Silsby
Rasnam Mehrok
Régis Lansac
Reid Perry
Reina Takeuchi
Renata Commisso

Riri Treweeke
Rob McCredie
Robyn Dunbar
Rodney Te Tauei
Romain Hassanin
Rory Warne
Ruby Howard
Ruby Stephens-Naughton
Sabrina Muszynski
Sally Dashwood
Sam James
Sarah Kalule
Sarah-Vyne Vassallo
Sarita Quasam
Saskia Ellis
Savannah Richards
Shanaye Donovan
Shannon Kenmare
Shaun Parker
Sheiden Natua
Shiara Robson
Sonia Vojnovic
Sophia Kaloudis
Sophie Mavridis
Sophie Yates
Sreya Suresh
Stacey Manolakoudis
Stephanie Kurlow
Tala Issaoui
Tamara Bouman
Tamelanee Tauei
Tamsyn Brazzill
Taylah Martin
Taylor Hallett
Taylor Mikic
Thalia Apostolou
Thelma Clarke
Thomas J Egan
Thomas Kelly
Thubalethu Ndibali
Tiarna Wolffe
Toby McKnight
Tori Franklin
Trent Curran
Tricia McConnell
Tuaine Pakari
Twinkle Arokiasamy
Vir Kaula
Wenny Tan
Western Sydney
Youth Orchestra
Xara Xaineddine
Yasmin Li
Yerko Leiva
Yoonji Jung
Zaina Shah
Zayde Martin
Zoe Faulkner

ARTISTS IN THE PROGRAM: 354

LETTERS OF SUPPORT PROVIDED BY FORM TO ARTISTS: 20

APPENDIX TWO

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

FESTIVAL AUDIENCE	
ENCOUNTER & PRELUDE	1,300
NSW Seniors Festival (Feisty Femmes)	200
POP UP AUDIENCES	
ENCOUNTER Storybox	1,200
THEATRE AUDIENCE	
Sharp Short Dance	60
STUDIO AUDIENCE	
Out of the Studio showing	10
TOTAL LIVE AUDIENCE	3,770

ONLINE AUDIENCE	
Sharp Short Dance Final Livestream	98
Sharp Short Dance Heat Website Votes	4,361
Podcast download	166
Together We Dance film views	802
Storybox Website	441
We Are Here Parramatta Lanes	1,000
Blog Views	2,447
TOTAL ONLINE AUDIENCE	9,315

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Seniors classes in the studio	20
Dance for Parkinson's in the studio	25
Dance for Parkinson's classes online	66
Seniors classes online	199
A Day of Dance	25
Flamenco In your Home	180
We Are Here auditions	17
Sharp Short Dance participants	267
Artists in Residence	80
MASKED Bundanon residency	8
TOTAL	887

ALL COMBINED 13,972

MEDIA LISTINGS

ENCOUNTER	31
Sharp Short Dance	96
TOTAL	127

MEDIA REACH

PRINT	
French Waves 2020	1,000
Riverside programs	8,000
Sydney Festival Programs	140,000
Sydney Festival WS programs	5,000

RADIO MEDIA

ENCOUNTER 2SER	13,200
ENCOUNTER ABC	592,000
SBS Flamenco	1,791

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

FORM website pageviews	58,020
FORM Facebook engagement	9,003
FORM Facebook reach	107,710
FORM Enews audience	1,405
FORM Youtube views	6,827
FORM Instagram followers	1,514
FORM Twitter	550
CPAN Facebook engagement	75
CPAN Facebook reach	790
Riverside Facebook likes	21,052
Riverside Twitter followers	3,680
Riverside Instagram	3,403

OTHER MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

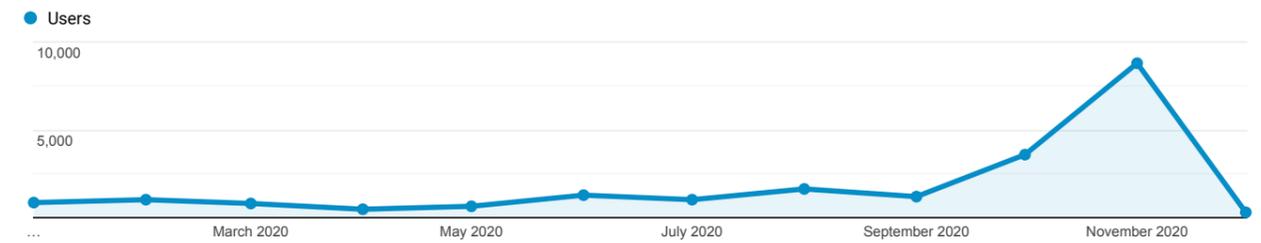
Pulse Autumn Story - Feisty Femmes and Dance Bites	97,000
Pulse July Edition - FORMidables Podcast	56,633
AsCCA Newsletter Aug 2020 - Together We Dance	1,000

TOTAL 1,129,653

ALL COMBINED 1,129,780

APPENDIX THREE

WEB STATISTICS WEBSITE TRAFFIC JAN - DEC 2020



Users
20,278

New Users
20,187

Sessions
27,656

Number of Sessions per User
1.36

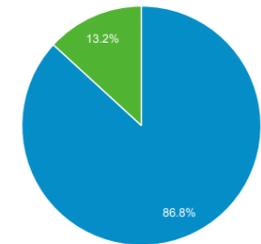
Page Views
58,020

Pages/Session
2.10

Avg. Session Duration
00:01:34

Bounce Rate
67.72%

■ New Visitor ■ Returning Visitor



APPENDIX FOUR

FINANCIALS

THIS IS AN ABRIDGED VERSION OF FORM DANCE PROJECTS 2020 AUDIT. FULL VERSION IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT THE ACNC WEBSITE.

Supplied by Alex Whitehead BCom LLB CPA
Certified Practising Accountant
ABN 74 912 871 902

DETAILED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Box office and fees received	56,933	106,070
Grants -government		
Australia Council for the Arts	39,950	-
Cash Flow Boost	33,030	-
Jobkeeper	41,400	-
Create NSW	185,000	310,600
Department of Aging, Disability and Home Care	4,855	-
Department of Communities and Justice	18,005	-
Department of Finance and Small Business	13,000	-
Parramatta City Council	15,000	45,000
Grants - non-government		
Crown Resorts Foundation	50,000	50,000
Packer Family Foundation	50,000	50,000
Interest	232	770
Other	536	14,808
	507,941	577,248
EXPENSES		
Audit	7,500	5,500
Production expenses	197,320	322,783
Salaries and on-costs	217,868	235,923
Other	21,578	13,853
	444,266	578,059
Profit/(loss) for the year	63,675	(811)

The above statement is an extract from the full set of financial statements which can be found on the ACNC or FORM Dance Projects' website.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Retained surplus at the beginning of the financial year	47,895	49,407
Adjustments to retained earnings	-	(701)
Profit/(loss) for the year	63,675	(811)
Retained surplus at the end of the financial year	111,570	47,895

The above statement is an extract from the full set of financial statements which can be found on the ACNC or FORM Dance Projects' website.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER, 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	337,128	431,962
Receivables	770	440
Prepaid expenses	4,985	5,212
TOTAL ASSETS	342,883	437,614
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	32,474	58,100
Provision for employee entitlements	11,785	13,995
Grants received in advance	167,273	302,676
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	211,532	374,771
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provision for employee entitlements	19,781	14,948
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	19,781	14,948
TOTAL LIABILITIES	231,313	389,719
NET ASSETS	111,570	47,895
EQUITY		
Retained surplus	111,570	47,895
TOTAL EQUITY	111,570	47,895

The above statement is an extract from the full set of financial statements which can be found on the ACNC or FORM Dance Projects' website.

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Cashflows from operating activities		
Interest received	232	770
Fees and other income received	371,976	795,637
Payments to suppliers and employees	(467,042)	(628,463)
Net cash (used)/provided by operating activities	(94,834)	167,944
Net (decrease)/increase in cash held	(94,834)	167,944
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	431,962	264,018
Cash at the end of the financial year	337,128	431,962
Reconciliation of Net cash (used)/provided by operating activities to Profit/(loss) for the year		
Profit/(loss) for the year	63,675	(811)
Adjustment to retained earnings	-	(701)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		
(Increase)/decrease in trade debtors	(330)	7,297
Decrease/(increase) in prepaid expenses	227	(3,128)
(Decrease) in trade creditors	(25,626)	(8,597)
Increase in provision for employee entitlements	2,623	14,208
(Decrease)/increase in grants received in advance	(135,403)	159,676
Net cash (used)/provided by operating activities	(94,834)	167,944

The above statement is an extract from the full set of financial statements which can be found on the ACNC or FORM Dance Projects' website.

MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

FORM Dance Projects strategically aims to promote contemporary dance to wide audiences both in the theatre and on-line. FORM collaborates with designers at Alphabet Studio and photographers and video artists to develop a unique brand, which promotes and presents artists' productions to the highest standards possible. Images are a powerful way to communicate with audiences and our creative team work hard to convey evocative and powerful marketing collateral to capture people's attention and elevate contemporary dance. FORM continues to work with Jaladesign who created our new website design launched in 2017.

In 2020, FORM cleverly pivoted to digital platforms. New online audiences made up for lost live audiences and FORM saw its

online engagement jump by 200%. Digital initiatives including Storybox, Parramatta Lanes' All That I Am Right Now, the FORMidables podcast series, Together We Dance and Flamenco in Your Home, all succeeded in keeping FORM's audiences engaged with dance artists. Moreover, Sharp Short Dance Digital enabled FORM to keep the youth festival brand alive throughout the pandemic, recording strong participation from young people and schools across NSW and beyond.

FORM engages highly regarded publicist company Kabuku PR to gain excellent media exposure for all our presentation programs including Dance Bites and Sharp Short Dance. This ensures that our artists gather valuable reviews and audience interest in their work.



PARTNERS, SUPPORTERS & SPONSORS

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



FORM Dance Projects Incorporated is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW



CITY OF PARRAMATTA



PACKER FAMILY FOUNDATION

PROGRAM PARTNERS



SYDNEY YOUTH ORCHESTRAS



DESIGN

alphabet.

PR AGENCY

KABUKU®

WEBSITE DESIGNER



FORM DANCE PROJECTS WORKS WITH

Agile Not Fragile
Ausdance NSW
Australian French Embassy
Australian Tap Dance Company
Blacktown Arts
Campbelltown Arts Centre
Compañia Pepa Molina
Creative Caring
Critical Path
Dance for Parkinson's Australia
Dance Makers Collective
DirtyFeet
Diversity Arts

Information & Cultural Exchange
Joan Penrith Performing and Visual Arts
March Dance
Paris - Sorbonne University
Parramatta Lanes
Parramatta Artists Studios
Performing Lines
ReadyMade Works
Residential Gardens
Storybox
Sydney Opera House
Western Sydney Business Chamber

SPONSORS

Academy of Music and Performing Arts
Ausdance NSW
Australian Film Television and Radio School
Bloch
Cowra Civic Centre
Dance Central
Dance Cinema
Department of Community and Justice
DirtyFeet
NSW Seniors Festival
Shaun Parker and Company
Sydney Dance Company

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Image: Régis Lansac, MASKED, Director Meryl Tankard, Dance Artist Jeremy Santos

