

# KAIROS

Sydney  
Festival  
2023

Image: Régis Lansac



# KAIROS

Meryl Tankard  
WORLD PREMIERE

Carriageworks - Bay 20  
19 - 21 January  
Approx. 60 minutes (no interval)

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Commissioned and Produced by  
FORM Dance Projects

## CAST AND CREDITS

**Concept, Direction, Choreography** Meryl Tankard

**Composer, Pianist** Elena Kats-Chernin

**Video Design and Photography** Régis Lansac

**Assistant Director** Kate Dunn

**Performance and Choreography** Lillian Fearn, Cloé Fournier, Taiga Kita-Leong, Jasmin Luna, Julie Ann Minaai, Thuba Ndibali

**Child** Isabelle Kharaman

**Understudy** Naomi Hibberd

**Sound Design** Bob Scott

**Costume Design** Melanie Liertz, Sam St. Aubyn

**Set Design** Meryl Tankard, Mason Browne

**Associate Set Design** Benedict Janeczko-Taylor,  
Ruby Jenkins

**Lighting Design** Verity Hampson

**Associate Video Design** Morgan Moroney

**Production Manager** Mark Haslam

**Stage Manager** Frankie Clarke

**Costume Assistants** Nicole Artsetos, Eloise Cochrane

**Executive Producer** Annette McLernon

**Production Co-Ordinator** Naomi Hibberd

**Business Manager** Sally Ebert

**Production Intern** Joshua Sherwood

**Program Manager** Agnès Michelet

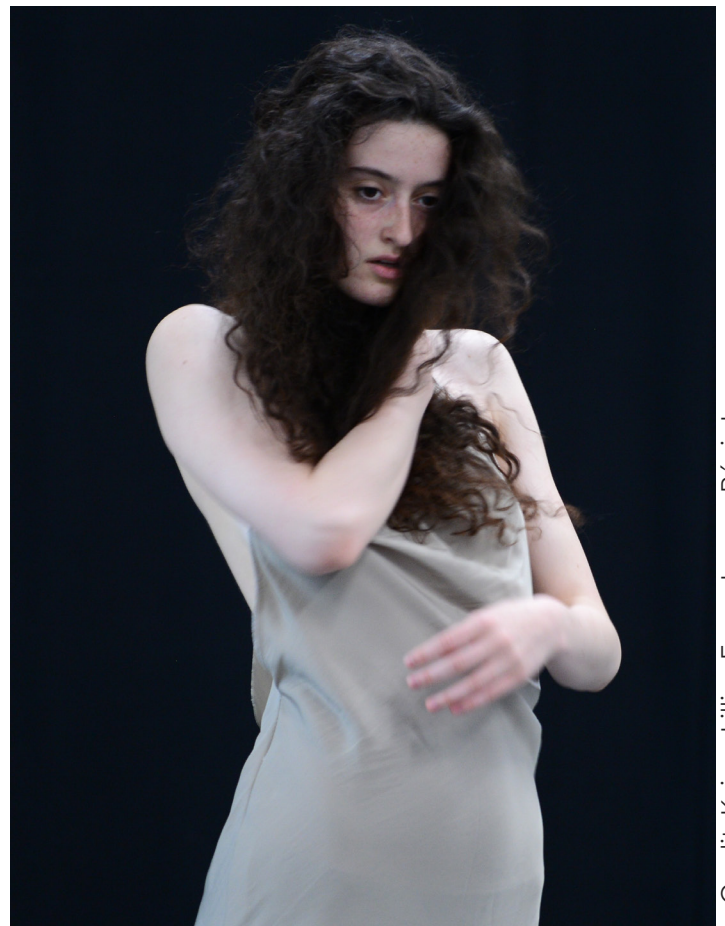
## ABOUT THE SHOW

In ancient Greek, *Kairos* is “the right or opportune moment for doing, a moment that cannot be scheduled”. That moment is now for director Meryl Tankard AO, composer Elena Kats-Chernin AO and visual artist Régis Lansac OAM, who have created a vibrant new dance work responding to these uncertain and challenging times.

Commissioned and produced by FORM Dance Projects and created by three world-renowned Australian artists and long time collaborators, with the next generation of dance makers, this Sydney Festival world premiere will encompass a vast lexicon of human experience and human movement: the dark and challenging; the ugly and beautiful; the humorous and joyful.

*“Tankard is the humanist of our choreographers and one of the most inventive.”*

- The Age, Melbourne (on Meryl Tankard)



Credit: Kairos, Lillian Fearn, Image: Régis Lansac

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## A NOTE FROM THE CREATOR - MERYL TANKARD

I am interested to collaborate with the next generation of independent artists who are curious, have unique voices and dance vocabularies, and are passionate about exploring their dance practice.

The framework for *Kairos* was initiated in an immersive residency at Bundanon, where dance artists created individual solos in personal response to paintings by modernist Sidney Nolan in the Bundanon Collection. The natural bush environment on the banks of the Shoalhaven River at Bundanon, post 2020 bushfires, and some rare and radical spray painted portraits by Sidney Nolan from his little known *Heads* series in the 1980s, were an inspiration for Regis, Elena and I and the dance artists.

I was impressed by these huge bold portraits in the environment of Bundanon. I'd never seen this work before...had no idea Nolan painted like this...it seemed so free and contemporary. I felt it was a good starting point for the work as there were many stories behind these portraits. We began with the dancers' response to these paintings and individual solos. The soldier and war seemed to reappear often in Nolan's work. This led us to the poem of Rimbaud of the soldier lying in the verdure/greenery...not resting, not asleep but with two bullet holes in his side.

*Kairos* leapt from these foundations. Elena created a piece for each individual dancer but rather than present these dances as a series of solos I wanted to create a world around each dance, around these isolated humans. I wanted to create a dramatic and turbulent world like the one we have experienced in the last three years - a world collapsing and expanding through a concertina of floods, fire, plague and war. A pandemic that has left us isolated and impacted the very essence of dance, the artform of touch. I have attempted to capture glimpses of the goddess Iris, a

messenger between heaven and earth...and the great archetype, Mother Earth...the romantic and the everyday.

*"C'est un trou de verdure, où chante une rivière"*

*"It is a green hollow, where a river sings"*

Arthur Rimbaud, *The Sleeper in the Valley*, 1870

## ABOUT FORM DANCE PROJECTS COMPANY

FORM Dance Projects is a presenter and producer of contemporary dance, based in Parramatta, Western Sydney. FORM's mission is to support Australian independent dance by driving an artistic program that engages a community of local, national and international artists.

FORM partners with Riverside Theatres, Parramatta, to create a dynamic hub for dance in Sydney, working with a diverse group of choreographers to realise their artistic vision. FORM's signature Dance Bites program has launched the choreographic careers of many independent dance artists and companies.

FORM's ambitious vision includes the commissioning of large-scale and innovative new dance works in collaboration with leading choreographers, artists and partners. Since 2011, FORM has successfully commissioned and produced four genre-defying festival productions including the current production, *Kairos*, directed by Meryl Tankard (Sydney Festival 2023).

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FORM Dance Projects would like to thank and acknowledge project funding and support from Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund—an Australian Government initiative, Create NSW, The Packer Family Foundation, Sydney Dance Company, Riverside Theatres, Bundanon Trust, Sidney Nolan Trust and DACS/Copyright Agency.

FORM Dance Projects would like to thank:

Meryl Tankard, Régis Lansac, Elena Kats-Chernin, Kairos dancers, designers and crew, Katina Olsen, Maxwell Dillon, Sydney Festival, Mark Lillis, Pamela Thornton, Dolla Merrillees, Julie-Anne Long, Jane Witter, Pepa Molina, Martin del Amo, Craig McMaster,

City of Parramatta, Caroline Baum, Jennifer Thompson, Glen Menzies, Shiho Ogawa, Sarah Hindson, Felicity Woodhill, Michael O'Donnell, Lyle Chan, James Pensini, Mark Adams.

*Kairos* Hero Image

Thuba Ndibali, Image: Régis Lansac

Homage to Jack Mitchell from Alvin Ailey's "Hermit Songs"

Source images in video projections by Régis Lansac  
Sidney Nolan, Head, 1983, spray paint on canvas.  
Bundanon Collection, Sidney Nolan Trust.

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Credit: Kairos, Cloé Fournier, Image: Régis Lansac

GOVERNMENT PARTNER

