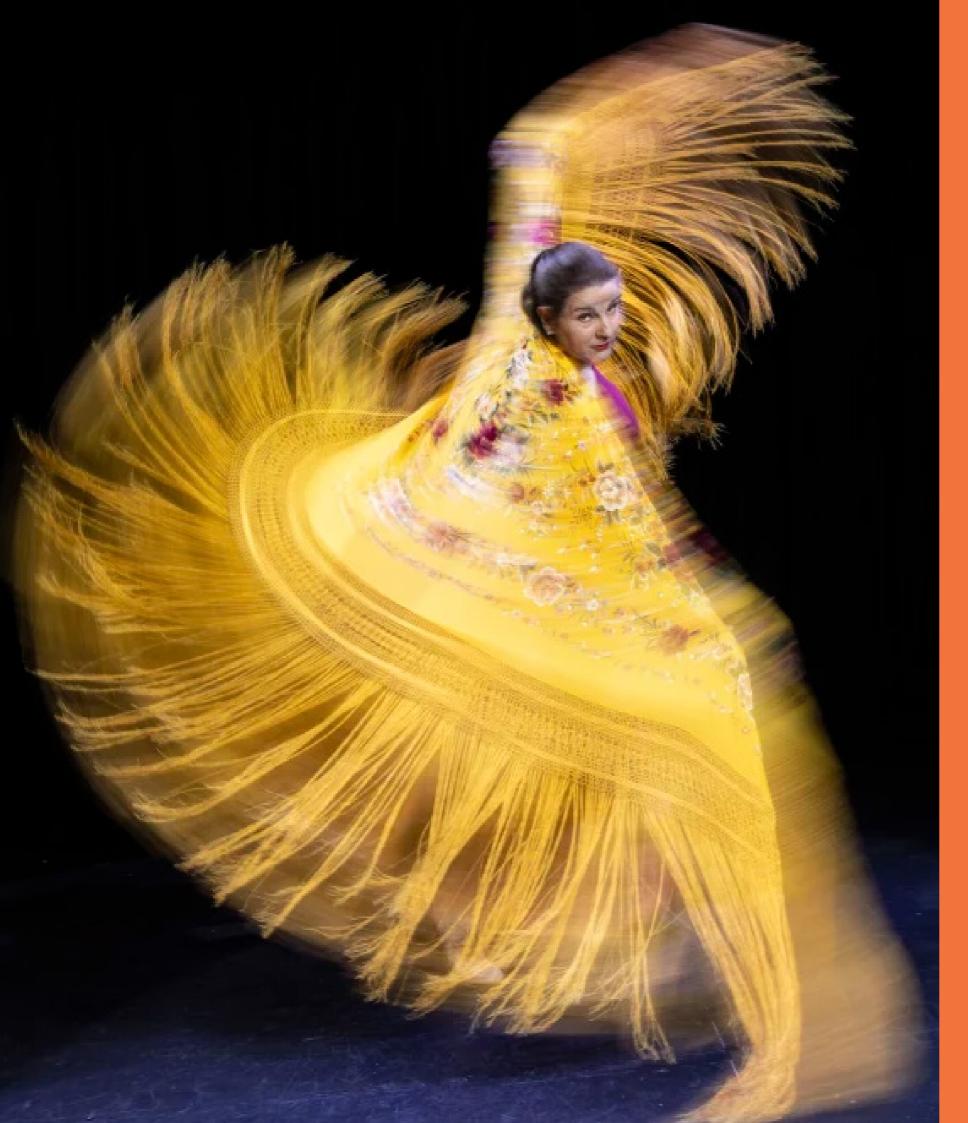
ANNUAL REPORT 2023 **DANCE PROJECTS** FOSTERING DANCE CULTURE IN WESTERN SYDNEY form.org.au



FORM Dance Projects respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and dance: The Burramattagal people and clans of the Dharug Nation. We pay our respects to Dharug Elders past, present and emerging. We celebrate the continuing culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and extend our respect to all First Nations people.

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Emerging 24 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 we extend professional development 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. As Parramatta rapidly transforms 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 and identity 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 wider understanding and 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 diverse partner companies and leading Australian independent choreographers and artists, 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

BOARD EXECUTIVE

CHAIR MARK LILLIS **VICE CHAIR** DOLLA MERRILLEES (from June 2023) TREASURER PAMELA THORNTON

SECRETARY JANE WITTER (from June 2023)

BOARD MEMBERS

DOLLA MERRILLEES JANE WITTER DR. JULIE-ANNE LONG (until June 2023) MARK LILLIS MARTIN DEL AMO MARYLIN MILLER (from June 2023) PEPA MOLINA

TEAM

DIRECTOR ANNETTE McLERNON (until March 2023)

ACTING DIRECTOR AGNES MICHELET (March to May 2023)

CREATIVE DIRECTOR PAUL SELWYN NORTON (from May 2023) PROGRAM MANAGER AGNES MICHELET

(until March 2023) **BUSINESS MANAGER** SALLY EBERT

(until November 2023) **PRODUCER** NAOMI HIBBERD

CONSULTANT ANNETTE McLERNON **BLOGGER IN RESIDENCE VICKI VAN HOUT SHARP SHORT DANCE ARTISTIC PRODUCER** JAMIE WINBANK

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It's fair to say that 2023 was a year of large-scale change for FORM Dance Projects. Our new Creative Director took the helm and worked tenaciously to review, listen, imagine and test the role that FORM should play into the future. While that (almost existential) questioning is difficult and brings with it an element of risk, the reformed team successfully delivered the 2023 program while also presenting the Board with bold new programming approaches and a recalibrated commitment to artists, audiences and the artform.

That critical thinking was aided by a strategy day in October, where the Board and team came together to better understand where we are now, and discuss where we want to be in medium-to-long term. This enabled us to interrogate the value FORM looks to create, which was then refined into refreshed vision and mission statements and strategic goals; underpinned by organisational values that have evolved over the last 24 years. Our refreshed approach will be trialled in the first half of 2024, before becoming part of a new Strategic Plan that will guide us from 2025.

This process of challenging existing notions was beautifully reflected in the 2023 program. The world premiere of Pepa Molina's *Perceptions* at Riverside Theatres was an expression of the contemporary revolution that is taking place in the art form of Flamenco. Molina, also a member of the FORM Board, created a fresh and bold work, to question "...the rigidity that lies in the traditional Flamenco form (which I love and respect)". This impressive and transporting practice of experimentation, showed the value of questioning what we know, while also reminding us of the importance of supporting and presenting cross-cultural work.

It's fitting of course, that we are emboldened by creative practice, and it is exciting that the team now driving FORM's impact are artists themselves. We look forward to seeing what such an understanding of the artform allows us to achieve. This will be enhanced by the addition of Marilyn Miller to our Board. Marilyn has worked across the dance sector as a practitioner, Board Member, Creative Producer, Festival and Artistic Director, and mentor to many. Marilyn is also the Founder of BlakDance Australia Ltd and sits on its Cultural Council. We look forward to drawing on Marilyn's deep knowledge, skills, and community and sector experience to feed into the development of FORM's next strategic plan.

Generous support across 2023 included financial contributions from the Packer



Family Foundation that enabled future creatives to continue to be nurtured, Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund an Australian Government initiative supporting the development and presentation of Kairos, and City of Parramatta aiding the initial research and development of EDEN.

Thanks also to stakeholders at Create NSW and the City of Parramatta, who continue to support and contribute to FORM's yearly program. I would also like

to thank Craig McMaster and his team at Riverside Theatres, and Sydney Festival, for their ongoing and committed partnership with FORM as a presenter of new works. I encourage you to support FORM in whatever way you can over the coming years, as we continue to reshape our contribution to greater Sydney's dynamic cultural landscape through exciting new partnerships and programming.

Mark Lillis

Chair



REFLECTION - CELEBRATION - RENEWAL

2023 was a year of reflection and celebration of the many creative successes of the last 12 months. It was also a celebration of the great achievements of our Executive Producer and Director Annette McLernon, who moved back to WA after nearly a decade of brilliant service to the NSW dance sector.

With our incoming artist-lead executive and producing team, 2023 has renewed our commitment to contemporary dance as a vital expression of Australian cultural life. It has also allowed us to review our own mission and purpose as we begin forging ahead into exciting new realms for both our organisation and our artform.

From a sold-out Sydney Festival world premiere by Australian luminary Meryl Tankard to far-reaching and impactful programs for emerging dance-film makers, from our curated Dance Bites classics to workshops and development opportunities with local and global greats, FORM Dance Projects has continued to enrich Western and Greater Sydney with a diverse and thrilling pallet of contemporary dance programming in 2023. Programming that engaged, nurtured and entertained artists, audiences and communities across our city.

As a home-base, Riverside Theatres in Parramatta has cradled and supported many of these programs and we are deeply grateful to CEO Craig McMaster and the team. We also celebrate Riverside Theatre's vision to become a cultural beacon in Western Sydney and we are thrilled to be embraced as part of the exciting new arts precinct as it rises out of the river.

The turbulence of multi-year funding outcomes playing into the space of

significant new cultural policies has afforded FORM in 2023 some breathing space to examine how the pipeline of creative support and productivity in NSW is servicing our sector. This has enabled FORM Dance to look to where we can best value-add our expertise, network and connectivity moving forward.

With such a supportive sector and community, FORM Dance Projects is primed for the journey ahead.

My personal thanks to Annette for setting us up for success with such a wealth of programming, to the Board for their steady hand during this transitional period and to the FORM staff for rising to all these occasions with such dedication and stamina.

Paul Selwyn Norton
Creative Director

FORM Dance Projects works with Australia's leading choreographers and dancers and a diverse range of partners, from Riverside Theatres and Sydney Festival 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.

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.



MERYL TANKARD FORM DANCE PROJECTS I WORLD PREMIERE

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 Regis 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 encompassed a vast lexicon of human experience and human movement: the dark and challenging; the ugly and beautiful; the humorous and joyful.

CONCEPT, DIRECTION, CHOREOGRAPHY MERYL TANKARD

COMPOSER, PIANIST ELENA KATS-CHERNIN

VIDEO DESIGN AND PHOTOGRAPHY RÉGIS LANSAC

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR KATE DUNN

PERFORMANCE AND CHOREOGRAPHY CLOÉ FOURNIER, THUBALETHU NDIBALI, TAIGA KITA-LEONG, JASMIN LUNA, LILLIAN FEARN AND JULIE ANN MINAAI

UNDERSTUDY NAOMI HIBBERD

CHILD IZABELLE KHARAMAN

COSTUME DESIGN MELANIE LIERTZ, SAM ST. AUBYN

SET DESIGN MERYL TANKARD, MASON BROWNE

ASSOCIATE SET DESIGN BENEDICT JANECZKO-TAYLOR, RUBY JENKINS

SOUND DESIGN BOB SCOTT

LIGHTING DESIGN VERITY HAMPSON

ASSOCIATE VIDEO DESIGN MORGAN MORONEY

PRODUCTION MANAGER MARK HASLAM

STAGE MANAGER FRANKIE CLARKE

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ANNETTE MCLERNON

BUSINESS MANAGER SALLY EBERT

PRODUCER NAOMI HIBBERD

PROGRAM MANAGER AGNÈS MICHELET

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 and Riverside Theatres.

E D E N PARRAMATTA Creative Lab 11-28 April 2023 Westmead/Parramatta

A French-Australian Art and Science interdisciplinary project commissioned and produced by FORM Dance Projects in collaboration with Olga Kisseleva (Sorbonne University, Paris), the MARCS Institute for Brain, Behaviour and Development and the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment (Western Sydney University), supported by Embassy of France in Australia.

E D E N (Ethical Durable Ecology Nature) is a concept created by Olga Kisseleva, Director of the Art and Science Department of La Sorbonne University. Kisseleva is a cross-disciplinary artist who uses video, immersive virtual reality, wireless technology to create large scale art installations and performance. With EDEN, Kisseleva aims at reinventing with art and technology traditional scientific approaches to environmental issues, notably the survival of trees. With her imagined tools, Kisseleva connects trees to trees, trees to human, trees to memories. FORM's commissioned work was the first embodied incarnation of her concept, placing dance at the core a new large scale participatory work inspired by the natural and urban trees of the National Parks bordering Western Sydney and the Parramatta Park.

FORM Dance Projects invited Olga
Kisseleva to collaborate with five leading
Australian choreographers/performers in
association with scientists of the MARCS
Institute and Hawkesbury Environment
Institute. The creative lab was facilitated by
award winning dance artist and researcher
Dr. Julie-Anne Long. Video artist Samuel
James contributed to the collaborative
process. Darug Elder Chris Tobin provided
cultural awareness and Acknowledgement
of Country for the project.

E D E N was an exciting challenge for FORM Dance Projects. It brought together five choreographers with a trusted FORM history to foster an international artscience collaboration in the creation of a site-responsive work of hope about the future of our country.

CONCEPT CREATOR/VISUAL ARTISTOLGA KISSELEVA

COLLABORATIVE PROCESS FACILITATORDR JULIE-ANNE LONG

CHOREOGRAPHER/PERFORMER

CLOÉ FOURNIER

CHOREOGRAPHER/PERFORMER RAGHAV HANDA

CHOREOGRAPHER/PERFORMER
RHIANNON NEWTON

CHOREOGRAPHER/PERFORMER
RYUICHI FUJIMURA

CHOREOGRAPHER/PERFORMER VICKI VAN HOUT

DOCUMENTOR/VIDEOGRAPHER

SAMUEL JAMES

CULTURAL ADVISOR

CHRIS TOBIN, DARUG CUSTODIAN

PARTNERS

PROFESSOR KATE STEVENS
DIRECTOR, MARCS INSTITUTE FOR BRAIN,
BEHAVIOUR & DEVELOPMENT WESTERN
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

DOCTOR MANUEL ESPERON-RODRIGUEZ HAWKESBURY INSTITUTE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

"This project was supported through a City of Parramatta Council Community Grant"



BY GUTS DANCE//CENTRAL AUSTRALIA TOURED BY ARTBACK NT

4 - 6 MAY

CONCEPT AND CHOREOGRAPHY SARA BLACK, JASMIN SHEPPARD ORIGINAL COLLABORATING PERFORMERS WAANGENGA BLANCO, GABRIEL COMERFORD, MADELEINE KRENEK, ASHLEY MCLELLAN, FRANKIE SNOWDON

TOURING PERFORMERS FRANKIE SNOWDON, CHANDLER CONNELL, SAMAKSHI SIDHU, GABRIEL COMERFORD, TARA ROBERSTON

SOUND DESIGN AND COMPOSITION TOM SNOWDON

LIGHTING DESIGN CHRIS MERCER

TOURING LIGHTING TECHNICIAN THOMAS ROACH

TOUR MANAGER ASH MUSK

DRAMATURGE JONNY ROWDEN

RESEARCH ASSISTANT TESSA SNOWDON

PRODUCTION MANAGER AMANDA HARRIS

COSTUME DESIGN AND CONSULTATION ELIZABETH VERSTAPPEN, ANDREW TRELOAR

PRODUCED BY GUTS DANCE // CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

TOURED BY ARTBACK NT

LOCATION PARRAMATTA RIVERSIDE THEATRES. LENNOX THEATRE

"Value for Money is all instinct, muscle, pulse, balance, and pure, transformative performance magic."

Geoffrey Williams, Stage Whisper. Value For Money, choreographed by Jasmin Sheppard and Sara Black, interrogates how relationships, community, proximity and place change our perception of a life's worth.

We all come from a common place-land, dust, molecule. The human journey separates us from other animals by our drive to find our individual worth. What makes us a valuable and unique addition to this place? How do we value human life? Is it the calculable economic value or the intangible emotional and physical value of a person we should be considering? In addition, this human desire to discover our individual and collective value contradicts a human need to control and have dominion over other humans, animals and land; to project collective value onto objects, deities, other individuals: the polarity of power and vulnerability inherent within

PEPA MOLINA (AUSTRALIA/SPAIN)

20 - 22 JULY

DIRECTOR JESÚS FERNÁNDEZ

CHOREOGRAPHERS ALEJANDRO MOLINERO, OLGA PERICET, JESÚS FERNÁNDEZ, PEPA MOLINA

PERFORMERS JESÚS FERNÁNDEZ, PEPA MOLINA

SINGER DAVID VÁZQUEZ

GUITARISTS MARCO VAN DOORNAM, PACO LARA

ELECTRO ACOUSTIC COMPOSER JESÚS MAÑERU

GUITAR COMPOSER PACO LARA
DRAMATURG MARTIN DEL AMO

LIGHTING DESIGNER/ STAGE MANAGER FRANKIE CLARKE

COSTUME DESIGN JOSE GALVAÑ FLAMENCO SHOES ANTONIO GARCÍA PRODUCER CARL SCIBERRAS

LOCATION PARRAMATTA RIVERSIDE THEATRE, LENNOX THEATRE

"Molina and Fernández move with energetic vivacity tempering their meticulous control with moments of humour – a slight smile, a cheeky wink, a raised eyebrow – that reinforce the physical and sensual appeal of this very special artform."

Carol Wimmer, Stage Whispers. Perceptions saw flamenco dance artist Pepa Molina return to the Riverside stage following Bush Bailando premiered by FORM in 2016. Bush Bailando earned the artist the 2016 Dance Australia critic's choice for Most Interesting Artist. The work explored the intricacies, superstitions and cliches in Flamenco's past and present.

Perceptions was a unique opportunity for lovers of music and dance to see some of Spain's finest Flamenco artists live on stage. Award-winning Flamenco dancer Jesús Fernández (Cádiz), Top Flamenco singer David Vazquez (Madrid) with local guitarists Marco Van Doornam and Australia's own Andalusian maestro Paco Lara.

DANCE BITES 2023



DANCE MAKERS COLLECTIVE

12 - 14 OCTOBER

CHOREOGRAPHY, DIRECTION AND PERFORMERS MADELEINE BACKEN, JANA CASTILLO, MITCHELL CHRISTIE, ELIZA COOPER, AMY FLANNERY, EMMA HARRISON, JYE UREN, ASHLEIGH VEITCH, ELLA WATSON-HEATH

LIGHTING DESIGNER BENJAMIN BROCKMAN
PRODUCTION MANAGER KAYLEE ASHTON
PRODUCER CARL SCIBERRAS

"It's mind-boggling the creativeness that shines on stage. What stands out from these challenging, poignant and at times humorous works is the love, energy, passion, and hard work that these talented artists have devoted to their craft."

Mark Morellini, CityHub

Big Dance 2.0 is a smorgasbord of big ideas in tiny morsels, co-curated, created and performed by the next generation of dance leaders in Sydney.

Ten years ago, a group of ten budding independent dance makers got together and created nine new and exciting short works presented in Dance Bites 2013 by FORM Dance Projects at Riverside Theatres. Explosive dance in tiny bursts, Big Dance in Small Chunks launched Dance Makers Collective, almost 10 years ago to the day, and to celebrate this milestone, we propose a revival of a different kind.

Big Dance 2.0 invites a new cohort of makers to reimagine the task DMC set in 2013, to work together and create a series of brand new short works, as makers, performers, outside eyes and producers.

MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

FORM Dance Projects strategically aims to promote contemporary dance to wide audiences both in the theatre and online. 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 Jala Design who created our website design launched in 2017.

Since 2013 FORM has commissioned the successful and widely respected Blogger in Residence program, with Indigenous choreographer Vicki Van Hout, reaching online audiences both in Australia and internationally, creating much needed critical discourse around contemporary dance. FORM engaged dance specialist publicist Emma Collison and publicity company Original Spin to gain excellent media exposure for the 2023 Dance Bites program. This ensures that our artists gather valuable reviews and audience interest in their work.









VALUE FOR MONEY

"Guts is top quality Australian modern dance, of the calibre and polish you might ordinarily associate with big cities. Its dancers move with a unity that shows a disciplined awareness of each other and a deep understanding of their shared performance goals. This is even more remarkable since Value for Money is performed by a "touring cast" of experienced dancers drawn from different cities. But they are so in sync - physically and artistically that you'd think they'd trained together for years in the same company style."

Chantal Nguyen, Sydney Morning Herald

PERCEPTIONS

"Never wear yellow, not even on the street': Flamenco superstitions this dancer ignores - Flamenco is steeped in history and superstition. Pepa Molina honed her craft in the caves at Sacromonte and is smashing tradition with her new show."

Interview with Steve Dow, Sydney Morning Herald

POSTER BIG DANCE

"Another highlight of the night is Ella Watson-Heath's CAT-AND-MOUSE. 'Two aliens and some doomsday preppers walk into a dystopian hellscape'. This work truly understands the language of dance. It creates the perfect mis en scene of a Orwellian world."

Jade Kops, Broadway World

SHARP SHORT DANCE

"What a wonderful program FORM has delivered for many years. It has been a valued stepping stone for many young choreographers. Bravo!!!"

Michelle Maxwell, Artistic Director of AUSTI Dance & Physical Theatre

TOTAL ANNUAL REVIEWS AND INTERVIEWS: 51

platFORM - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FORM Dance Projects 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 2023. Riverside studio and Northmead studio continued to be offered as studio venues operated by Riverside Theatres. courtesy of the City of Parramatta. FORM was able to support rehearsals, creative developments and dance workshop programs supporting professional artists in all stages of their careers.

RESIDENCIES

Throughout the year we welcome our program artists, as well as quest artists in creative development into our studio.

WE ARE HERE COMPANY

ALL YEAR

The WE ARE HERE Company is a breakthrough contemporary dance company comprising of 11 powerful performers (aged 20-30 yrs) who are open minded, able to dance with 'heart' and exhibit performative and choreographic potential. The company rehearsed at the Northmead studio every Tuesday developing new work and remounting ENCOUNTER for Berry and Bleach Festival presentations in 2023.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Emma Saunders ARTISTS Naomi Reichardt, Josh O'Connor, Clayton Webb, Gabriela Green Olea, Sabrina Muszynski, Sarah Kalule, Carlie Shaw, Malaki Sylvester, Emily Yali, Warren Foster, Julian Chan

MARCH DANCE

20 - 29 MARCH

ANNALOUISE PAUL

Annalouise Paul works on 'A Late Bloomer', OMER BACKLEY-ASTRACHAN a new VR Dance work that explores identity, trade and heritage. The integration of emergent technologies to preserve and respond to these living spaces together with the human body, hold a multiplicity of stories. In this first development towards new choreographic material, Annalouise aims to develop a suite of new movement scores using her extant choreographic tools, Dance DNA and Hidden Rhythms. Annalouise will seek to develop aesthetic continuity in choreographic material when working with diversely trained

dance artists. Collaborating with NSW contemporary dance artists and Malaysian artists by zoom, each of whom has a unique contemporary practice informed by their cultural ancestries and/or training in a tradition.

ARTISTS Annalouise Paul, Lisa Maris McDonell, Reina Takeuchi, Luvenia Kalia, Ruby Jayaseelan, Chan Kar Kah

Artistic Director Emma Saunders Artists Fiorella Bamba, Gabriela Green Olea, Sarah Goroch, Sarah Kalule, Sabrina Muszynski, Naomi Reichardt, Josh O'Connor, Claire Rodrigues, Rachelle Silsby, Emily Yali, Vishnu Arunasalam, Liam Berg, Cynthia Florek, Warren Foster, Romain Hassanin, Bedelia Lowrencek, Katrina Sneath, Chris Wade, Rory Warne.

PEPA MOLINA AND COMPAÑÍA PEPA MOLINA

Pepa Molina (choreographer) Miguel Olmo (Visual artist) and Manuel Barco (Composer) will undertake research to develop a new work combining electronic music & Contemporary Flamenco dance for Molina's emerging artist's Flamenco Ensemble "Las Flamenkas". Arts leader & mentor to the next generation of artists, Compañía Pepa Molina (Est. 2004) created Flamenco Ensemble "Las Flamenkas" in 2017 to provide unique performance opportunities to emerging artists in NSW. This exciting creative collaboration incorporating a new and diverse musical genre to that of the established traditional Flamenco form will further expand and develop Molina's practice, providing a unique development opportunity to explore different approaches and choreographic perspectives relevant today in contemporary Flamenco dance making. ARTISTS Manuel Barco (Musician) Pepa Molina (Choreographer) Emerging artist Ensemble "Las Flamenkas" dancers: Amari Leiva Urzua, Lily Cook, Ynez Campos, Eliza Cooper, Farah Irani, Anna Rocias (Understudy role).

24 - 29 JULY

Common Place by Omer Backley-Astrachan is an exhilarating dance duet featuring two seasoned Sydney-based performers. It is a captivating story of two individuals coming together. It is a rite. A ritual. A celebration. Together and apart they ride the edge of chaos. The joy of movement is their strength. Reaching, swiveling, gripping onto dance as a monumental force of life. "Common Place is the work I dreamt of making for more than 3 years. Beyond the arc of the choreography itself, this work to me is a love letter to life with all its complexity; a homage to the child within me that danced before he was a dancer. I'm grateful to share the stage with my good friend and collaborator Jana Castillo and I'm so eager to bring this work to the eyes, ears and hearts of the people in Sydney and indulge in sharing this special dance with our community here, which is where it belongs." Omer Backley-Astrachan.

Common Place will be presented by FORM in 2025.

ARTISTS Omer Backley-Astrachan, Jana Castillo, Anton and Linda Gamblin (Artistic Advice). Hugo Poulet and Remy Rochester (Additional Collaborators)

OUT OF THE STUDIO - DIRTYFEET SARAH-VYNE VASSALLO

6 - 20 SEPTEMBER

Dirtyfeet's Out of the Studio returned in 2023 providing choreographers the opportunity to develop new ideas and a platform to present new dance works to audiences in a theatre context. FORM Dance Projects continued its partnership with Dirtyfeet and provided studio space for Sarah-Vyne Vassallo for her development

Sarah-Vyne Vassallo is an artist known for her vibrant and thought-provoking work that explores human behavior and its guirks. With a remarkable ability to observe and capture the intricacies of the human experience collaborating with Bonnie Curtis. Through a seamless blend of humor, grit, and virtuosic movement, the work invites audiences to reflect on their own lives and question societal norms, leaving audiences both entertained and deeply moved.

ARTISTS Sarah-Vyne Vassallo, Bonnie Curtis and Anthea Doropoulos (outside eye)

TOTAL DAYS IN RESIDENCE: 75



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**

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 the workshop, students experience a matinee performance and post show Q&A with the artistic team.

VALUE FOR MONEY SATURDAY 6 MAY 2023

Workshop Masterclass for professional/ pre-professional dancers.

Led by GUTS Director Frankie Snowdon and collaborating performer Gabriel Comerford, the workshop began with a warm up followed by an introduction to improvisational tools used within the process of creating Value For Money, designed to build trust, consideration and high level listening between bodies. Dancers learnt a portion of repertoire from the work that is concerned with uniformity and masking of the individual, both as movement and conceptual concerns.

PARTICIPANTS 14 **TEACHERS** 2 SCHOOLS 3

BIG DANCE 2.0

FRIDAY 13 OCTOBER 2023

Workshop, Show and Seminar for emerging dancers

DMC offered a unique opportunity for senior high school, tertiary students and emerging artists to participate in a full-day program of dance, including a choreographic workshop, matinee performance, artist talk and dance business seminar.

LEARN THE REPERTOIRE WORKSHOP:

This workshop gave participants an insight into the individual and collective making processes of artists in DMC, sharing the ways DMC members generate, pass on and manipulate choreography to harness the unique individual skills of the diverse performers who make up the collective.

SHOW AND Q&A

A matinee performance of Big Dance 2.0 followed by an artist talk with the entire cast and creative of DMC.

THE DANCE ARTIST AS SMALL BUSINESS SEMINAR:

Facilitated by DMC's General Manager Carl Sciberras, this seminar tackled the baffling world of being a freelancer. Carl shared insights into running an arts business. with a snappy business basics explainer and an open discussion unpacking all the things artists want to know about running a business. Carl is a Creative Industries Specialist Business Advisor with Creative Plus Business and a certified Mental Health First Aider.

PARTICIPANTS 23 **TEACHERS** 2 SCHOOLS 2



FORM DANCE PROJECTS AND SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL PARRAMATTA 28 MARCH, 2023

FORM Dance Projects continued its partnership with Sydney Dance Company for this must-do Choreographic Workshop for HSC students. This popular program provided dance students with the unique opportunity to develop their choreographic skills under the guidance of outstanding industry professionals. Mentored by Sydney Dance Company Teaching Artists, the practical workshop shared choreographic tools and techniques used by the Company's Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela's creative process.

TEACHING ARTISTS

MIA THOMPSON **BRAD CARTER**

PARTICIPANTS 48 **TEACHERS** 6 SCHOOLS 6

"I found everything really interesting and learnt a new way off thinking." TLSC student, Year 10

"The students were challenged but at the right level of challenge. The instructors were clear and concise... It's important that this work is accessible and enjoyable for Western Sydney teenagers."

Catherine McAuley Westmead Teacher, Karin Smith

RUSSELL MALIPHANT AND DANA FOURAS MOVEMENT AND CHOREOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

PRESENTED BY LEWIS MAJOR AND FORM DANCE **PROJECTS**

RIVERSIDE THEATRES STUDIO **SATURDAY 25 AND SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER**

Hosted by international, award winning choreographer Dr. Russell Maliphant OBE, this workshop explored in-depth approaches to connection, flow and momentum, for healthy sustainable and dynamic movement. Dana Fouras accompanied on sound to connect and augment the creative environment with her wide-ranging collection of musical energies. With the intention of increasing kinaesthetic awareness & acuity, building strength and expanding movement

possibilities on all levels whilst releasing holding patterns – participants used movement exercises and improvisational tasks to explore effects upon movement articulation, range and sequencing, both through the body and through space to expand individual movement patterns and group connection.

PARTICIPANTS 21



FORM DANCE PROJECTS AND RIVERSIDE THEATRES PRESENT

SHARP SHORT **DANCE 2023**

FILM HEAT 10 - 14 NOVEMBER **LIVE HEATS** 15 – 16 NOVEMBER **FINAL 18 NOVEMBER**

Sharp Short Dance is a one-of-akind Australian youth dance festival unearthing the finest young dancers and choreographers from Sydney and beyond. The festival provided a rare platform for aspiring choreographers and dancers, 21 years and under to display their works in a supportive environment. Sharp Short Dance inspires young performers to strive for artistic excellence and actively engages dance artists in all genres and media of dance.

Over two heats entrants performed in a professional theatre setting. A panel of industry professionals invited the best works to participate in the Final, vying for valuable industry awards and secondments.

FILM

Since 2020 dance films have become a key feature of Sharp Short Dance. Dance films were presented on FORM's website where audiences were invited to vote for their favourite work. Films selected for the final were equally eligible for industry awards and secondments.

"I had such an amazing experience and am so grateful to Sharp Short Dance for guiding me with lighting and allowing me to present my work."

Andie French, participant

SHARP SHORT DANCE AWARDS

MOST INNOVATIVE CHOREOGRAPHY HAYLEY CORDEROY, HANNAH MANSFIELD AND ZIA HUSBANDS SHIFTED **OUTSTANDING DANCE FILM**

CARMEN YIH EMPTY YOUR PLATE **OUTSTANDING DANCER 17 & UNDER**

OUTSTANDING DANCER 18+ JANNAH ALLEN SEARCHING INSIDE

HAYLEY CRISP WULMINDA

OUTSTANDING SOLO PERFORMANCE ANDIE FRENCH YOUR INTERPRETATION

OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE DUBBO BALLET STUDIO - KATE ARMOUR, ESTELLE BLOOMFIELD, SPENCER BLOOMFIELD, JAZMYN

HAKSTEEG, CALLIOPE HURFORD, CAITLIN MCCARTHY AND LAURA WILCHER DISPOSITION

REGIONAL AWARD

ALFIE TAIT RHYTHMIC POLARITY **AUDIENCE CHOICE LIVE** LILLY JACKSON UNINVITED

AUDIENCE CHOICE FILM JADE HOWE RUN

"I loved so much seeing all these young artists. Playing a part in the future of their lives is the most precious thing.

Image: Hayley Crisp, Sh Photo: Dom O'Donnell

Agnes Michelet, industry panel

DANCENORTH AUSTRALIA SECONDMENT KATE MERRICK

BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE **SECONDMENT** HARLISHA NEWIE CRITICAL PATH RESIDENCY CARMEN YIH **DANCE MAKERS COLLECTIVE SECONDMENT** ZIA HUSBANDS **CATAPULT DANCE SECONDMENT**

PHILLIPA KEOGH **AUSTI DANCE & PHYSICAL THEATRE SECONDMENT JANNAH ALLEN**

SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY PPY SECONDMENT ANDIE FRENCH AMPA SECONDMENT CHARLIE BERNICE-YU AND AURIELLE SMITH

BRENT STREET SECONDMENT HAYLEY

TOTAL WORKS: 39 **TOTAL PERFORMERS: 110 TOTAL ONLINE VOTES:** 1,120 **TOTAL AUDIENCE: 183**

TOTAL FESTIVAL PARTICIPATION: 149



BLOGGER IN RESIDENCE VICKI VAN HOUT form.org.au/blog

Since 2013 FORM Dance Projects has commissioned Australia Council Dance Award (2019) recipient Vicki Van Hout to be our blogger in residence. Throughout the year, Van Hout wrote 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.

INDIGENOUS DRAMATURGY

BLOG 15 APRIL 2023

The discourse between an Indigenous writer/ performance arts maker and a dramaturg who is well versed in western theatrical convention could in fact prompt the Indigenous creative to articulate their perspective, of cultural alterity, with more clarity than with a dramaturg who is well versed in Indigenous cultural ways of being and doing. Because there is a shared shorthand of assumed intercultural knowledge, crucial foundational information may be lost to those outside the community because it may be overlooked.

Consequently, to combat cross cultural misunderstanding there has been a tendency for Indigenous artists (including myself) to take a position as teachers of culture within our works. This includes assuming the tone and trappings of the pedagogue. It is an all-too-common trap which can hinder artistic diversity and growth, as well as imbue a patronising or condescending air to a production. By

entering a dramaturgical relationship with a cultural outsider, new literacies have the potential to be built through the development of artistic strategies, as opposed to perpetuating tired pedagogical representations.

KIA MAU FESTIVAL BLOG 20 JUNE 2023

As to the concept of co-governance I see the arts as leading the way. Cultural difference, acceptance, acknowledgement and celebration are at the core of our existence. Through the implementation of arts protocols regarding engagement with other cultures, particularly Indigenous, we have inadvertently broadened the scope and impact of arts on and with the greater populace. This includes increased opportunities for intergenerational engagement through our consultancy with community Elders.

The Kia Mau Festival demonstrated such forward thinking and action through facilitated whakawhanaungatanga (relationship-building) and korero (discussion) sessions which focused on the future of First Nations arts as integral expressions for the dual purpose of cultural perpetuity and as contributors to the overarching euro centric entertainment industry.

ROYA THE DESTROYA

BLOG 3 NOVEMBER 2023

In *The Birth and Death of a Physical Artist*, Roya was joined by Peter Sette Aka Bboy Sette in a performance that

also felt like a roller coaster ride in that it was an autobiographical narrative of sorts, charting the trials and tribulations of making a career of what is still not considered a real job by many. The death that Roya alludes to is the inability to perform which Modern dance pioneer Martha Graham articulated so succinctly,

"A dancer, more than any other human being, dies two deaths: the first, the physical when the powerfully trained body will no longer respond as you would wish."

For those of us in the biz of showbiz, whatever it's manifestation, we can empathise with Roya's regaling of endless practice, bad pay, and ridiculous requests. We are all too aware of the precarity of our chosen station and the comparatively short shelf life. This of course is compounded by Roya's disability, as her already laden arms, which are otherwise engaged with walking sticks, are made to carry extra props as part of a ridiculous costume, ironically designed to celebrate inclusivity and diversity.

Through the integrated use of her walking sticks, Roya has built an extensive movement vocabulary. In *The Birth and Death of a Physical Artist* she performs hip hop moves that even I recognise, such as the crazy legs, the head spin and other ballistic inversions including popping from a single sided shoulder stand into a handstand and much more including a vast array of fast moving hand, leg and torso isolations and gestures

APPENDIX ONE

APPENDIX ONE ARTIST LIST 2023

Abbey Fotheringham Alejandro Molinero Alfie Tait Alisha Subritzky Ally Young Amalia-Grace Thompson Amanda Brown Amanda Harris Amy Flannery Andie French Andrew Treloar Annalouise Paul Anthea Doropoulos Antonio García Ash Musk Ashleigh Veitch Aurielle Smith Bedelia Lowrencev Benedict Janeczko-Taylor

Benjamin Brockman **Bob Scott** Bonnie Curtis Brad Carter Caitlin Eugenio Caitlin McCarthy Calliope Hurford Carl Sciberras Carlie Shaw Carmen Yih Cass Mortimer Cassidy Thomson Celeste Stone Chandler Connell Charlie Bernice Yu Chris Mercer Chris Tobin Claire Rodrigues Clare Dark Clayton Webb Cleo Berkmortel Cloé Fournier Cynthia Florek

Dana Fouras

Daniel Craig

Daniel Ross

Danni Cook

Danny Riley

David Capra

David Vázguez

Denis Beaubois

Dom O'Donnell

Eliza Cooper

Eloise Stone

Emily Yali

Dr Julie-Anne Lona

Elena Kats-Chernin

Elizabeth Verstappen

Elizabeth Vowles

Elka Holden-Price

Ella Watson-Heath

Dr Manuel Esperon-Rodriguez

David Ta

Darby Rosenbaum

Emma Geng Emma Harrison Emma Saunders Ephraim Bani Erica Dixon Erika Barnier Estelle Bloomfield Ethan Barrett Ethan Gillett Fatima Sultani Felicity Castagna Fiorella Bamba Frankie Clarke Frankie Snowdon Gabriel Comerford Gabriela Green Olea Hana Truban Hannah Mansfield Harlisha Newie-Joe Harrison Cook Harry Haggar Hayley Corderoy Hayley Crisp Heidrun Löhr Hillary Do Holly Fleming Isabel Bantog Isabella Butterworth Isha Constable Izabelle Kharaman Jacinta Mullen Jack Tuckerman Jade Howe Jamie Winbank Jana Castillo Jane McKernan Jannah Allen Jaslyn Boughton Jasmin Lancaster Jasmin Sheppard Jasper Clark Jazmyn Haksteeg Jeanny Vo Jemima Hallam Jenna Howard Jeremy Ainsworth Jerinel Bay Jesús Fernández Jesús Mañeru Jodi Phillis Jonny Rowden Jose Galvañ Joshua O'Connor Joshua Doctor Julian Chan Julie Ann Minaai Justine Priest Jye Uren Kai Luxa Kate Armour Kate Dunn

Kate Merrick

Emma Baird

Kaylee Ashton Keila Terencio Kenzie Sciberras Laura Wilcher Lena Parkes Lewis Major Liam Berg Lillian Fearn Lilly Jackson Madeleine Backen Magnus Meagher Malachi Sylvester Marco Van Doornam Martin Del Amo Mason Browne Matina McAneney Maya Williams Melanie Liertz Meryl Tankard Mia Canton Mia Thompson Mikah BatachEl Miriam Garrido Mitchell Christie Morgan Moroney Naomi Hibberd Naomi Reichardt Nat Cartney Natalie Watts Nicole Artsetos Olga Kisseleva Olga Pericet Olivia Schweizer Omer Backley-Astrachan Otis Lauder Otto Pye Paco Lara

Paris Hall

Pepa Molina

Perdita Brydon

Phaedra Brown

Phillipa Keogh

Professor Kate Stevens

Quirine Van Nispen

Rachel De Padua

Rebekah Kennedy

Rhiannon Newton

Romain Hassanin

Russell Maliphant

Ryuichi Fujimura

Sabina Muszynski

Sam St.Aubyn

Samakshi Sidhu

Samuel James

Sannie Ek

Sara Black

Sarah Kalule

Sebastian Kua

Sienna Lopez

Skye Macleod

Sarah-Vyne Vassallo

Raghav Handa

Régis Lansac

Skye Thadanabath Sophie Grattan Spencer Bloomfield Stephanie Dixon Taiga Kita-Leong Tara Robertson Tayla Jackson Tessa Snowdon Thomas Roach Thuba Ndibali Tom Snowdon Verity Hampson Vicki Van Hout Warren Foster Zia Husbands Zoe Harris Zoe Heidorn

ARTISTS IN THE PROGRAM: 207 LETTERS OF SUPPORT PROVIDED BY FORM TO ARTISTS: 23

APPENDIX TWO

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT 2023

Festival Audience	
Kairos	1360
Encounter Berry	1,112
Encounter Gold	
Total 1	1,157
Theatre Audience	
Value For Money	228
Perceptions	469
Big Dance 2.0	260
Sharp Short Dance	183
Total 2	1140
Studio Audience	
OOTS showing	170
EDEN Showing	7
KAIROS Showing	5
Total 3	182
Total Live Audience	3082
Online Audience	
Sharp Short Dance Online votes	1120
Podcast Listeners	47
Blog Views	785
Total Online Audience	1952
Education and Professional Development	
Choreographic Workshops	46
Learn the Repertoire Value For Money	17
Learn the Repertoire Big Dance 2.0	25
Sharp Short Dance participants	110
Russell Maliphant Workshop	21
Artists in Residence	35
Kairos Development	21
Eden Development	10
Total	285
All combined	5319

Kairos	12
1 (31) 00	
Value For Money	3
Perceptions	8
Big Dance 2.0	8
Sharp Short Dance	2
Total	21
Print Media	
Sydney Festival Program	165000
Kairos Publicity print	89,000
Riverside April - June Program	10000
Riverside July - September Program	10000
Riverside October - December Program	10000
Bleach Festival Program ENCOUNTER	50000
SMH - Perceptions	39000
Dance Train Magazine - Sharp Short Dance	18000
Total	391,000
Online Engagement	
FORM website visits	7,300
FORM facebook reach	35,500
FORM Instagram reach	18,100
FORM Enews audience	1,627
FORM Vimeo views	570
Pulse Autumn	55,000
Pulse Winter	55,000
Pulse Spring	55,000
Kairos social media marketing reach	408,356

APPENDIX THREE

WEBSITE TRAFFIC JAN - DEC 2023





APPENDIX FOUR

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

THIS IS AN ABRIDGED VERSION OF FORM DANCE PROJECTS 2023 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, 2023

Profit for the year	2,167	38,875
Total expenses	476,098	555,180
Other	20,380	26,577
Salaries and on-costs	204,350	249,361
Production expenses	248,868	276,642
Audit	2,500	2,600
Expenses		
Total Income	478,265	594,055
Other	14,657	39,224
Interest	3,941	678
Packer Family Foundation	50,000	50,000
Crown Resorts Foundation	-	50,000
Grants - non-government		
Parramatta City Council	14,879	2,740
Create NSW rescue and restart	18,915	
Create NSW project	60,000	
Create NSW core	185,000	185,000
Department of Arts, Sports & Recreation	52,888	198,566
Grants -government		
Box office and fees received	77,985	67,84
Income	2023	2022

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2023

	2023	2022
Retained surplus at the beginning of the financial year	156,470	117,595
Profit for the year	2,167	38,875
Retained surplus at the end of the financial year	158,637	156,470

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER, 2023

	2023	2022
Current Assets		
Cash	249,175	379,281
Prepaid expenses	27,050	300
Total Assets	276,225	379,581
Current Liabilties		
Creditors	26,593	62,380
Provision for employee entitlements	8,874	18,092
Grants received in advance	82,121	134,889
Total Current Liabilities	117,588	215,361
Non-Current Liabilties		
Provision for employee entitlements	-	7,750
Total Non-Current Liabilties	-	7,750
Total Liabilties	117,588	223,111
Net Assets	158,637	156,470
Equity		
Retained surplus	158,637	156.470
Total Equity	158,637	156.470

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2023

	2023	2022
Cashflows from operating activites		
Interest received	3,941	678
Fees and other income received	421,556	374,272
Payments to suppliers and employees	(555,603)	(559,743)
Net cash used by operating activities	(130,106)	[184,793]
Net decrease in cash held	(130,106)	(184,793)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	379,281	564,074
Cash at the end of the financial year	249,175	379,281
Reconciliation of Net cash used by operating activities to Profit for the year		
Profit for the year	2,167	38,875
Changes in operating assets and liabilities	2,107	30,073
Decrease in trade debtors	_	8,799
(Increase)/decrease in prepaid expenses	(26,750)	41
[Decrease]/increase in trade creditors	(35,787)	1,283
(Decrease) in provision for employee entitlements	[16,968]	(5,887)
(Decrease) in grants received in advance	(52,768)	(227,904)
Net cash used by operating activities	(130,106)	[184,793]

PARTNERS, SUPPORTERS & SPONSORS

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS











FORM Dance Projects is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW and the Restart Investment to Sustain and Expand (RISE) Fund—an Australian Government initiative.

PARTNERS

DESIG







The MARCS Institute for Brain,
Behaviour and Development

alphabet.

PR AGENCY

WEBSITE DESIGNER

Emma Collison
Publicity
Original Spin
Common State



FORM DANCE PROJECTS WORKS WITH

Andalucia Instituto Cervantes Sydney Artback NT Lewis Major Projects Ausdance NSW March Dance Australia Council for the Arts, Northern Territory Regional Arts Fund Playing Australia PACT Centre for Emerging Artists Australian French Embassy Paris - Sorbonne University Blacktown Arts Parramatta Artists Studios Brand X ReadyMade Works Bundanon Trust Residential Gardens Campbelltown Arts Centre Russell Maliphant Dance Company Centro Coreografico Canal Spanish Community Care Association City Of Parramatta Sydney Dance Company Compañia Pepa Molina Western Sydney University Critical Path Hawkesbury Institute Dance Makers Collective Western Sydney University

MARCS Institute

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Dance Makers Collective

Dancenorth Australia

FORM DANCE PROJECTS INCORPORATED

Escuela de Flamenco de Andalucía

GUTS Dance//Central Australia

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DirtyFeet

