



**ausdance victoria annual report
2017**

AUSDANCE VICTORIA 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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Foreword from the Chair

On behalf of the Ausdance Victoria Board, I am excited to welcome you to our 2017 Annual Report. 2017 saw a year of achievement and consolidation at Ausdance Victoria, as we embarked on the first year of our Strategic Plan 2017-2020. In the 40th year of Ausdance, we continued to lead, support and champion all things dance through increased advocacy, program delivery and production of key events, engaging our members at all levels. The organisation is truly flourishing under the leadership of Executive Director Michelle Silby and her dedicated team.

A new governance structure for Ausdance National signaled a time of change and renewal. The presidents of our state Ausdance boards now form a National Advisory Committee (NAC), and the chair of this group sits on the new Ausdance National board (I am the current Chair of NAC representing the group and Ausdance Victoria). We extended our advocacy and support to members through Michelle Silby's continued work on the Arts Industry Council Victoria (AICV), Industry Advisory Group on the Victorian Skills Commission and contributing nationally via the Independent Reference Committee for Arts and Culture Industries. We reviewed our constitution to ensure continued improvements in governance.

Our work as a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) remains strong and we saw the launch of our pilot Dance Teaching skill set, and our VCE VET Dance school partners and student numbers continue to grow, with 37 school partners and over 500 students. Ausdance Victoria's partnership with Dance Massive included the delivery of a Hip Hop "Battle Massive" in Melbourne's Federation Square, along with workshops and engagement activities that enriched and increased the impact and visibility of our organisation. In partnership with Youth Dance Australia and under the artistic direction of Adam Wheeler, AYDF2017 provided new opportunities for young people to access some of the finest dance experiences available in Australia. International Dance Day was celebrated with a Bollywood workshop.

A highlight of the year was the 20th Australian Dance Awards, which was presented by Ausdance Victoria with Arts Centre Melbourne, celebrating our Australian dance community. It was thrilling to host this celebration of annual and lifelong achievements in dance again in Melbourne. This was followed by the National Dance Forum, facilitating engagement with key issues affecting our industry, focusing on current digital practices and technological developments.

We thank and congratulate our talented and hard-working staff for delivering a year of such achievement across all areas. We welcomed Clare McKenzie to the organisation as our Industry Programs Manager, who was appointed as our new General Manager by year's end. RTO specialist Sue Dent left the organisation in good stead as she departed for new adventures, with Quinho Soler then joining the team. And we thank David Arnold for his work as bookkeeper. Also, thank you to our continuing staff in 2017, Dr. Katrina Rank, Sasha Leong and Jonathan Homsey. We maintain our commitment to efficiency, and our agreement with Ausdance NSW to share resources and staffing for some projects.

I want to thank our board for their ongoing dedication, stewardship and service to our organisation, particularly those who departed the group over the year. Thank you to Jack Ho, Bernie Holland, Alana Long and Eilidh Dragovic. We also welcomed new board member Marija Grgic. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our outgoing president Emma Cochran who stepped down at the close of 2017. Under her steady and strong leadership, Ausdance Victoria was able to build on the hard work, success and optimism of 2016. That Ausdance Victoria is flourishing is testament to her leadership, vision and support of our valued Ausdance Victoria team. Here's to continuing that work with passion!

We look forward to an exciting year of "Big Dance" to come in 2018, as we continue to increase Ausdance Victoria's organisational capacity and sustainability, working across all levels of dance practice to promote health, lifelong learning and social well-being through the power of dance.

Jasmine Moseley
Chair
Ausdance Victoria

Foreword from the Executive Director

A new strategic plan for 2017-20

What an extraordinary year for the organisation and the sector resulting in: Renewed core funding through Creative Victoria, for four years with a 10% increase. Which coupled with our income generated through other avenues, enabled us to slightly grow our team for a huge year of activity and development for future years.

A snapshot of activities:

- Piloted, DAIR, Dance Artists in Residency Program
- Dance Massive, producing public and Industry programs
- The Australian Youth Dance Festival and Emergence Performance
- The Australian Dance Awards at the Arts Centre Melbourne
- The National Dance Forum, held at Victorian College of the Arts
- Introduced a new Customer Relationship Management CRM to administrate memberships

Our Registered Training Organisation partnered with 37 schools with over 500 students enrolled in courses. We also provided industry days and professional training to students and teachers.

I myself have had the privilege of seeing the organization grow in width and depth and the key partnership with Ausdance NSW develop.

I sat on the following Industry committees in 2017:

- Co-convenor Arts Industry Council
- Industry Advisory Group, Business, Victorian Skills Commission (VIC)
- Independent Reference Committee, Creative Industries (National)
- Chair Regional Arts Fund NSW / ACFIPS (NSW)

My sincere thanks to both the board and staff, whom are individually all highly skilled, dynamic people who collectively work together to develop the capacity of the sector. I am very lucky to have such a wonderful team of people to work with.

Michelle Silby
Director, Big Dance Australia
Executive Director Ausdance Victoria
Director Ausdance New South Wales



2018 Ausdancer Kyal Shanks teaching at our 2017 VET/VCE Industry Day, Photography by Vlad Slavin

About Ausdance Victoria & The Ausdance Network

THE AUSDANCE NATIONAL NETWORK

Celebrating 40 years of Ausdance 1977 - 2017

The Australian Dance Council – Ausdance National is the peak professional organisation for dance in Australia. Its mission has been to educate and inspire the dance community to reach its potential as a dynamic force within local, national and international communities.

The story of Ausdance is inextricably intertwined with the story of dance in post-war Australia. The idea for the Australian Association for Dance Education, as Ausdance was first known, was born out of the last of four innovative workshops that were held at the University of New England between 1969 and 1976. Organised by Peggy Van Praagh and Donna Greaves of the Australian Ballet, the workshops brought together artists from all the major dance genres – classical ballet, contemporary dance, ballroom, tap and commercial.

It was the first time that anyone anywhere sought to weave a common thread through the entire dance sector, here the defining traits of Ausdance were first articulated: it would be genre-blind, it would be about developing dance through education and it would try to carve a 'career pathways' for professional dancers.

And one night in 1977 nearly 500 people from across the full spectrum of the dance sector packed Melbourne Town Hall to be present for the birth of the AADE. The predecessor organisation to Ausdance - the Australian Association for Dance Education (AADE) – now known as Ausdance was born.

The Ausdance network is a federated association of separately funded State and Territory organisations. This currently includes ACT, SA, NSW, QLD, WA. Whilst the network is united through shared national aims, each organisation has its own priorities, services and programs.

ABOUT AUSDANCE VICTORIA

Ausdance Victoria mission is to create, support and promote opportunities for dance in Victoria, and invest in its ongoing development. Ausdance represents your interests at both a national and international level for dance development in Australia. Through our political advocacy in Canberra, our partnerships and national projects, such as the National Dance Forum, the Australian Dance Awards and the National Curriculum, we provide leadership for a strong and unified voice for dance in Australia.

Ausdance Victoria was founded in 1977 and is the sole peak body for dance in Victoria and plays a key role in providing high-level strategic advice and vision for the sector. Ausdance Victoria supports individuals, companies and organisations in a coherent ecology of arts services. It enables members and partners to flourish, creating connections and opportunities to increase the capacity of the sector. Our members consist of individuals and organisations (dancers, choreographers, directors, teachers, administrators, related professionals, venues, dance schools, companies, organisations, education providers, students and dance enthusiasts).

Ausdance Victoria is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO), a Tax Concession Charity (TCC) and has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. Ausdance Victoria is part of the national Ausdance network.

Ausdance is also the subject association for dance in Victoria. We create resources, advice, work with key partners and provide professional development programs.

Ausdance Victoria works closely with Ausdance National and the Ausdance Network to advocate for members on a local, state and national level. In 2018, we look forward to extending our services to Tasmania.

Strategic Framework

Our mission is to create, support and promote opportunities for dance in Victoria, and invest in its ongoing development by:

- Championing innovation, creativity and diversity in dance
- Advocating and demonstrating high standards of professionalism in the dance industry
- Mobilising cooperation in support of dance development (art form and sector)
- Promoting dance creation, presentation and participation
- Promoting the interaction of Victoria dance within the national and international arenas
- Ensuring the stability and sustainability of the organisation

PRIORITIES 2017-2020

- Strengthen sector networks and access to resources
- Improve capacity building and industry sustainability
- Increase access, engagement and participation
- Advocate for art form and sector development
- Develop lifelong learning opportunities
- Build Ausdance Victoria's organisational capacity and sustainability



ausdance
celebrating
40 years



Ausdance Victoria Board

Jasmine Moseley, Chair (November 2017 – present)

Currently Company Manager at The Australian Ballet, Jasmine has toured and managed in major performing arts venues and regional centres across all states and territories of Australia. Recently Jasmine was Company Manager for local artists in the landmark presentation of Taylor Mac's A 24-Decade History of Popular Music at the 2017 Melbourne Festival. She has toured internationally to Japan, United States, China and the UK.

Jasmine began her career at youth arts organisation Express Media, and continued to grow working with diverse artists and communities at Cultural Infusion. Jasmine is a graduate of the 2016 Asialink Leaders Program and the inaugural China Australia Millennial Project (CAMP 2015). Jasmine holds a Masters in Arts and Entertainment Management (Deakin University) and Bachelor degrees in Arts and Music Performance (Monash University). A passionate arts advocate, Jasmine has served on the boards of Ausdance Victoria since 2014 and Ausdance National since March 2017.

Emma Cochran, President (until November 2017)

Emma Cochran has been working in the arts and creative industries since the early 2000s. With a background in classical music (Bachelor of Music, University of Adelaide) and a Masters in Arts Management (University of Melbourne), Emma worked with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and Opera Australia before moving to Melbourne. Her work in Melbourne initially focused on supporting opportunities for children, families and young people to access and engage in the arts.

This was achieved whilst working with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Regional Arts Victoria and in her work with ArtPlay and Signal. For the last four years, Emma has focused on strategic planning and business improvement, particularly in the creative industries. Following strategy and improvement roles across the City of Melbourne, she joined Creative Victoria as their Strategic Planner, Arts Investment in 2017. Emma joined the Ausdance Victoria board in 2014 and was successfully nominated as Chairperson in 2015.

Adam Wheeler, Vice President

Adam Wheeler is a Stompin and Victorian College of the Arts Alumni. Adam is currently the Artistic Director of Yellow Wheel. He has created, produced and performed in dance works with companies such as Chunky Move, Lucy Guerin Inc, Tasdance, 2NDTOE, The Australian Ballet, Opera Australia, Yellow Wheel, Stompin, Steps, QL2 and Fling Physical Theatre. Other career highlights include performing in Opera Australia's The Ring Cycle, the Australian Ballet's Out There Project, Festival Directing Short+Sweet Dance Melbourne/Sydney and The Australian Youth Dance Festival and developing a Contemporary System of Training for the Australian Teachers of Dancing, which is now taught all over Australia, Thailand, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Marija Grgic, Secretary (began May 2017)

Marija Grgic is the Secretary of Ausdance Victoria, having joined the board in May 2017. Marija has had a 20-year career in various roles across the retail industry across Finance, Compliance and Merchandise, most recently at Myer, as the National Manager – Merchandise Operations. She is currently consulting at various organisations including Carbon Revolution and Monash University. Marija has a passion for the arts and a long history in philanthropy, including Board roles with the Myer Community Fund as Company Secretary (2006-2017) and Director (2014-2017). Marija continues to have an ongoing association with the St. Vincent de Paul Society (Vinnies), as a Soup Van Coordinator (2004-2014) and Treasurer (2006-ongoing).

Laura Osborne, Treasurer

Laura is a qualified Chartered Accountant with a number of years' experience providing compliance and advisory services to businesses across a vast variety of industries and structures. Additionally, Laura has a wealth of experience in business planning, development and implementation of enterprise growth strategies and overall governance management.

Outside of Ausdance, Laura is a manager of Business Advisory for a mid-tier accounting firm based in Melbourne and Geelong. Laura lives on the Bellarine Peninsula, and in her spare time enjoys netball, cycling and running. Laura is passionate about the Arts and the not-for-profit sector, and is incredibly proud of the amazing work that Ausdance Victoria does within the community.

Lauren Brewerton

With a passion for the arts as well as HR, currently Lauren is a Senior HR Advisor at Arts Centre Melbourne where she is responsible for the Development and Audience Engagement pillar. Lauren has 10 years of Recruitment and generalist HR experience and has worked across the private, higher education and government sectors. Lauren also works as a casual usher at Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre where she has worked for the last 10 years. Prior to this she worked in Scotland in theatre, spanning stage and venue management, merchandising and front of house at The Playhouse Theatre and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Eilidh Dragovic (until December 2017)

Eilidh is currently the Director of Education and Business Development at Jason Coleman's Ministry of Dance. Prior to this career highlights have included time at Federation University - Dance Lecturer Arts Academy, where she lectured and coordinated all dance courses for both the BA Music Theatre and BA Acting programs. Jason Coleman's Ministry of Dance 2009 - 2014 - Eilidh was an employee of Jason Coleman's Ministry of Dance where she managed the Curriculum and Course Development of the Full Time Course. During this time Eilidh established the Full-Time Course as a nationally accredited institute of training delivering Certificate IV in Dance and Diploma in Dance (Elite Performance). In 2008 / 2009 Eilidh was awarded an Artist in Schools grant by Arts Victoria to deliver a dance program at Port Phillip Specialist School in Melbourne. Prior to moving to Australia in 2006, Eilidh was appointed as the Youth Dance Development Officer for Citymoves Dancespace Aberdeen where she developed and facilitated dance opportunities for young people in the North East of Scotland.

Alana Long (until May 2017)

Alana Long is the Secretary of Ausdance Victoria, having joined the board in August 2014. Alana is an intellectual property Senior Associate with mdp Law and enjoys sharing her expertise, particularly in the areas of IP protection and commercialisation, with Ausdance Victoria. Alana is from Taranaki, New Zealand and is a great supporter of the arts community in both New Zealand and Australia. Alana's involvement with Ausdance Victoria provides a valuable insight into the Victorian arts community and not-for-profit sector. Her membership on the Board contributes to the knowledge and expertise she can offer clients in her professional career.

We thank Jack Ho as Treasurer and Bernie Holland as a board member for their time who stepped down in February 2017.



Ausdance Victoria Staff

Michelle Silby, Executive Director

Michelle Silby has an extensive career in dance in both creative and administrative functions. Over the last 25 years, Michelle has worked across a variety of contexts as a dance performer, teacher, choreographer, educator and management roles: as a director, festival director, company manager and education consultant in the UK, Europe, and the last 10 years, in Australia. After successfully leading Ausdance NSW since Oct 2012, she was appointed Executive Director, Ausdance Victoria in Nov 2015. She is inspired by the opportunities that leading both states will bring to the dance sector, wider communities and respective organisations. Michelle was born in the UK, where she studied dance at Arts Educational Schools London, followed by a post-graduate year at London Contemporary Dance School, The Place in 1992. Later in 2000-1, after moving into management and leadership roles, she undertook an intensive arts and business management course for arts leaders, and was most recently awarded a subsidised place to attend short course in Australia for not-for-profit leaders by Harvard Business school. Michelle moved to Sydney in 2006 and Melbourne in 2015 where she has continued to work in the arts. She has held roles as the Program Manager, Dance at the Australia Council for the Arts, Executive Producer for the 2014 Australian Dance Awards, and is also an Independent Consultant for Arts and Dance with various clients across Australia. As an arts leader, she is strategic, entrepreneurial and generous with her time and support of others.

Katrina Rank, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

Dr Katrina Rank is a leading Australian educator and dance artist, contributing to national and international movement education outcomes through organisations such as the National Advocates of Arts Education. Her recent dance focus has been on dance for health, with particular reference to aging and Parkinson's disease. In 2013, Katrina initiated Fine Lines, intergenerational dance and projects. Fine Lines began with contemporary dance classes for experienced dancers now entering their 50's, 60's and 70's. From 2008-2013 she worked with Ausdance Victoria as Acting Director and Education Manager. She was the author and project leader of the hugely successful: The Alice Project, a community dance initiative that reached across four regional Victorian municipalities and more than 15,000 participants over two years, as part of the VicHealth MOTION program. Katrina has been shortlisted several times for an Australian Dance Award, in the category, Services to Dance Education. She rejoined Ausdance as an Education Consultant in 2016 and has worked for Ausdance Victoria as Director of Education and Lifelong Learning since 2017.

Clare McKenzie, General Manager

Clare is an experienced arts manager, having worked in managing, producing and marketing roles in the arts industry for over ten years. As General Manager of Ausdance, Clare manages the financial and operational aspects of the organisation as well as industry programs. Prior to joining Ausdance Victoria, Clare was Executive Producer for KAGE Dance Theatre, overseeing finance, strategic planning and business development including national and international touring. Clare also has significant experience in international market development and marketing gained through her previous position at Circus Oz. Clare has experience in music and literary management, having worked for acclaimed vocal group Coco's Lunch and independent bookstore Readings Booksellers. Clare completed her Masters of Arts Management at The University of Melbourne in 2010.

Sue Dent, RTO Coordinator (until November 2017)

Sue Dent has worked within the private RTO sector since 2007 and holds formal qualifications in business, training and assessment, and quality auditing. Sue joined Ausdance Vic in October 2014 in the position of RTO coordinator. She is responsible for the day to day running of the RTO, ensuring service standards are met with a focus on quality assurance. Sue's strong background in compliance and auditing sees her support the RTO's continuous improvement processes, adherence to governing bodies and requirements for RTO registration.

Sasha Leong, Dance Development Officer

Sasha Leong is a multidisciplinary performing artist and worked with not-for-profit organisations for more than 6 years, with at least 5 years of project management experience. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Communications and Psychology (Honours) from Upper Iowa University. In 2011, Sasha started her career with Dignity International, an international human rights organisation, and was actively involved with a number of human rights events and programs in Kuala Lumpur. Her work focused on supporting grassroots communities and movements in education and human rights training through different mediums. She juggled her role alongside performance arts as a dancer and actor on stage and screen. Sasha joined Ausdance Vic in 2015 and took on the role of Dance Development Officer in 2016. Her involvement with Ausdance Victoria has provided a valuable insight into the arts and dance sector in Australia. Sasha is passionate about diversity in the arts, community engagement, social activism, and has been actively volunteering with Travellers Aid Australia since 2014. As an independent artist, she continues to venture in collaborative creative projects in Melbourne.

Jonathan Homsey, Arts Media & Marketing Officer

Jonathan is an arts maker and manager interested in the intersection of street dance, visual art and social engagement. Born in Hong Kong and raised in the United States of America, he immigrated to Australia in 2010. He is a graduate of Victorian College of the Arts (BA Dance) and Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (MA Arts Management with Distinction). He has worked in community management and marketing for other organisations such as Gertrude Street Projection Festival and Phillip Adams Balletlab. Jonathan oversees all digital and physical collateral for Ausdance New South Wales and Victoria as a shared role across both states and was also the mentor for the 360 Artist Development Project, and curator for Ancestors and Anecdotes, both 2017 projects.

Accounts: Kacey Carey – Keeping Company, David Arnold (until August 2017)

Auditor: Joseph Boyar

Volunteers:

Audrey Desmond
Caroline Ellis
Chelsea Byrne
Chloe Dobson
Hayley Chong
Jaala Jensen
Lydia Connolly-Hiatt
Maggie Chen
Marion Brazier
Maxine Rose
Michelle Aitken
Paula Pabel
Rachael Wisby
Rahul Mahato
Sarah Biron
Tegan Ollett
Wei Fei Chin

Thank you to the team, board and volunteers in 2017.

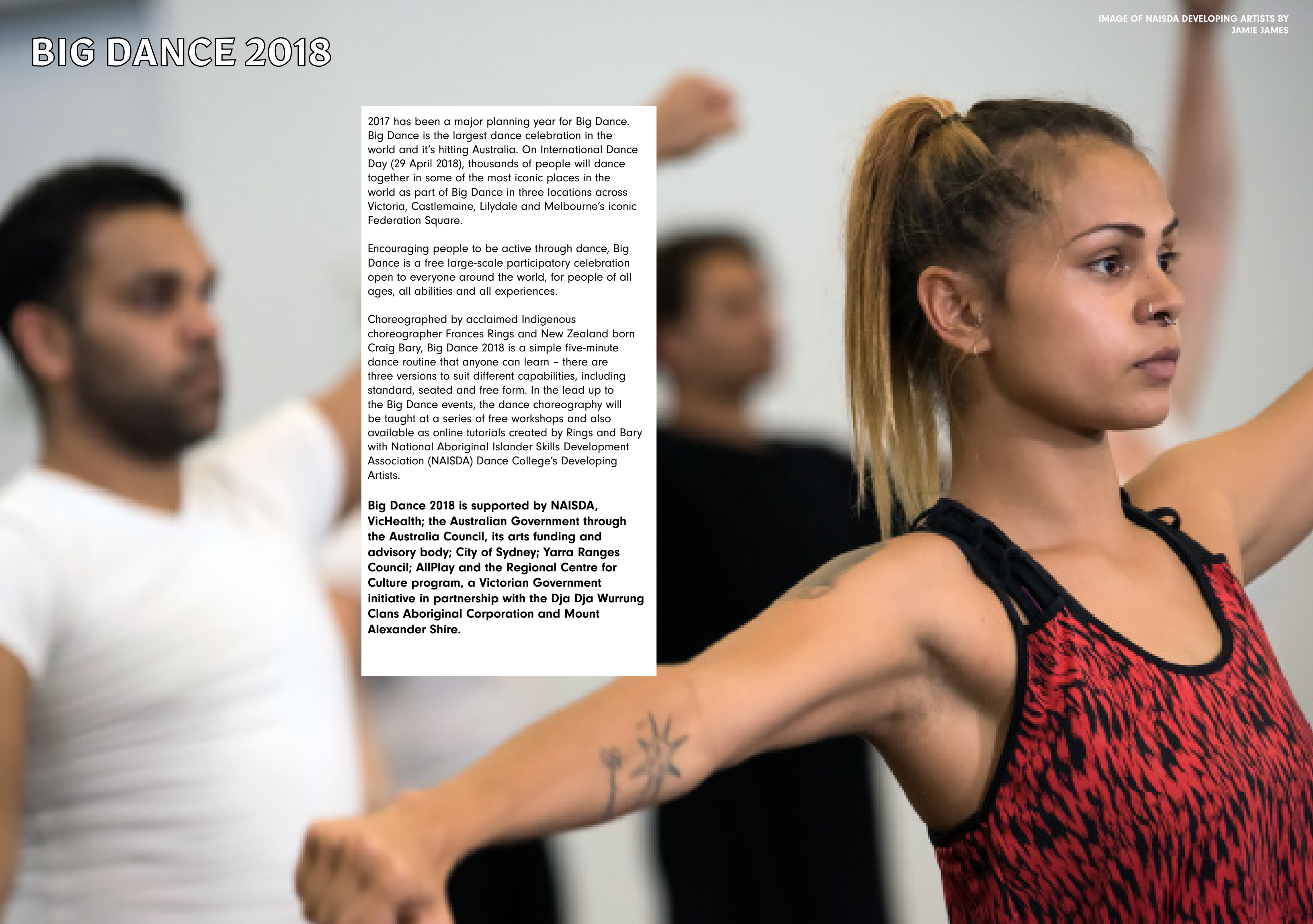
BIG DANCE 2018

2017 has been a major planning year for Big Dance. Big Dance is the largest dance celebration in the world and it's hitting Australia. On International Dance Day (29 April 2018), thousands of people will dance together in some of the most iconic places in the world as part of Big Dance in three locations across Victoria, Castlemaine, Lilydale and Melbourne's iconic Federation Square.

Encouraging people to be active through dance, Big Dance is a free large-scale participatory celebration open to everyone around the world, for people of all ages, all abilities and all experiences.

Choreographed by acclaimed Indigenous choreographer Frances Rings and New Zealand born Craig Bary, Big Dance 2018 is a simple five-minute dance routine that anyone can learn - there are three versions to suit different capabilities, including standard, seated and free form. In the lead up to the Big Dance events, the dance choreography will be taught at a series of free workshops and also available as online tutorials created by Rings and Bary with National Aboriginal Islander Skills Development Association (NAISDA) Dance College's Developing Artists.

Big Dance 2018 is supported by NAISDA, VicHealth; the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body; City of Sydney; Yarra Ranges Council; AllPlay and the Regional Centre for Culture program, a Victorian Government initiative in partnership with the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and Mount Alexander Shire.



2017 IN REVIEW

DANCE MASSIVE 2017 PROJECTS PRODUCED BY AUSDANCE VICTORIA

BATTLE MASSIVE

The first free public program in the festival's history included a large-scale public dance event, Battle Massive. Ausdance Victoria project managed this street dance battle at Federation Square which had an all-styles and breakdancin' battles. This event was a staple in the 2017 Dance Massive calendar and included performances from Nick Power and collaborators, Australian Beatbox Champion Spillage and showcases from judges Demi Sorono, Arch Ilias and Caetlyn Watson.

Battle Massive had over 3000 attendees and 72 participants across two categories, all styles and breakin'. It also had a digital reach of 18000 thanks to a media partnership with Stance.

MEET & GREET / OPEN STUDIOS

Ausdance Victoria managed a number of programs as part of Dance Massive 2017:

Dance Massive Tour Ready – Meet & Greet

provided the opportunity to ten small-to-medium dance companies and established choreographers from all state and territories in Australia, to present a documentation of Tour-Ready Contemporary Dance work/s to national and international audiences and producers.

Dance Massive Open Studios – New Works

provided the opportunity for ten dance artists and choreographers from all state and territories in Australia, to present Contemporary Dance work-in-progress in an informal context to audiences and producers.

WORKSHOPS

Ausdance Victoria provided a dance intensive and two masterclasses. The largest attendance in the history of Dance Massive workshops managed by Ausdance Victoria with an average of 20 people in each workshops, this series each focused on certain curated themes.

Dance and text were explored in the masterclass based on Nicola Gunn's Piece for Person and Ghetto Blaster with Nicola Gunn and Jo Lloyd; the energetic body and anatomical improvisational scores were investigated in Kinaesthesia with Phillip Adams, Melanie Lane and Victoria Hunt; Battle Massive judge Caetlyn Watson facilitated a choreography based street dance workshop, a first to have street dance at Dance Massive.



Battle Massive, Image by Sarah Walker

Australian Youth Dance Festival 2017 (AYDF2017)

In partnership with Youth Dance Australia and under the artistic direction of Adam Wheeler, AYDF2017 was remodelled to provide new opportunities for young people to access some of the finest dance experiences available in Australia, in a supportive, non-competitive environment. Held in Melbourne for the first time, 96 young dancers participated in three-and-a-half-days of intensive technique, performance-based and choreographic masterclasses with some of Australia's most respected and prolific dance artists and choreographers, including Swedish choreographers, Lee Brummer and Israel Aloni of iIDance. On the final night, six youth dance companies and a youth dancer showcased their work at Emergence, at the Meat Market to an audience of 160.

Arts Learning Festival

We partnered with Independent Schools Victoria to deliver a number of exciting programs at the first Arts Learning Festival 2017. A professional development session for generalist primary and secondary teachers covered dance standards in practice and choreography 101 for primary and secondary teachers. The Alice Project was also revived for the festival, with a Mad Hatter's Tea Party of fun and games and silliness. With support and in partnership with Independent Schools Victoria, we also developed a new dance program for primary school students called "Teaching Dad to Dance", which was launched at the festival.

Knowing You Knowing Me

Knowing You Knowing Me is a community dance project delivered in partnership with the City of Whittlesea and funded by Creative Victoria through its Creative Suburbs program. Ausdance Victoria delivered dance and creative movement sessions around Doreen and Mernda, with the aim to connect individuals and groups within local communities while promoting dance. The project runs till the end of 2018, with creative outcomes by the local communities and Ausdance Victoria working alongside local talents.

National Dance Forum

Dance in the Digital Domain

Ausdance Victoria supported Ausdance National in the delivery of the 2017 National Dance Forum (NDF). Held at the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne on 25 and 26 September, the fourth NDF brought together makers, producers and presenters to discuss and share knowledge on current digital practices and technological developments. The two-day forum focused on strengthening the dance sector's capacity within the digital domain. It engaged artists in developing and sharing skills in this environment. 360-dance works from the Australian Dance Theatre, Sydney Dance Company and Jonathan Homsey, along with dance and technology exhibition, Dance X, were set up throughout the forum for delegates to experience dance in a wider context. Keynote speakers included Sue Healey and Wesley Enoch. This forum was supported assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.



Promotional Image of OL2 who performed at AYDF's Emergence

AUSTRALIAN DANCE AWARDS

The annual Australian Dance Awards returned to the Melbourne in 2017, the first time in seven years. Over **650** people attended this celebration at the Playhouse, Arts Centre Melbourne. In addition to the presentation of 12 awards, the Ausdance Peggy Van Praagh Fellowship was awarded to Kristina Chan. The Awards were hosted by Yana Alana and Benjamin Hancock.

This year's awards featured performances by over fifty performers from:

- Origins Dance Company - Transit Dance
- Lehenda Ukrainian Dance Company
- Raw and Rugged Dance Crew
- Stephanie Lake Company
- The Australian Ballet
- Djirri Djirri Dancers
- Yellow Wheel
- Murmuration
- Fine Lines



Images by Samara Clifford from left to right , top to bottom: The Australian Ballet, Yellow Wheel, Djirri Djirri Dancers, Host Yana Alana, Host Benjamin Hancock, Marlo Benjamin in Stephanie Lake's Pile of Bones.

ANCESTORS AND ANECDOTES



Image above of Sarah Aiken in 2014 Keir Choreographic Award, Image by Gregory Lorenzutti

Opening concurrently with the Awards was *Ancestors and Anecdotes*, 40 years of Australian Contemporary Dance, an exhibition that paid homage to the invaluable work of Australia's dance pioneers and the manner in which their legacy endures today. The exhibition was held at Lulu Gallery in North Melbourne, and focused on five legendary dance pioneers, Carole Johnson, Cheryl Stock AM, Margaret Lasica (via the perspective of her daughter Shelley), Shirley McKechnie AM and Elizabeth Cameron Dalman OAM. It included archives from companies such as Bangarra Dance Theatre and Danceworks, the Ausdance WA Oral History project and featured the photography of Jeff Busby and Gregory Lorenzutti.

The podcast in partnership with *Delving into Dance* recieved over 1000 listens in the first month.



ausdance victoria 2017 annual report

EDUCATION

REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATION (RTO)

In 2017, we had 37 partnerships with schools and studios, totalling 524 students. In 2018, we expect a few more partnerships and an increase in student enrolments. We developed our first partnership with a Tasmanian secondary school to deliver Certificate II and III in Dance. We introduced the Child Safety Standards to our organisation and embedded the seven standards within our processes. We supported the dance community in understanding the Standards and provided resources to help them implement them. We provided teacher professional development days and the very popular Industry Days for students. Our VET Coordinator Sue Dent, having been with Ausdance Victoria for 3 years, moved on to pursue other interests at the end of the year. We are very grateful for the work Sue did and the improvements she brought to Ausdance Victoria and the RTO.

SKILLSET

In 2017, we developed and launched the fully online version of the Dance Teaching Skill Set to 12 students. The students, from ACT, NSW and Victoria, started the program in November and are due to end mid-April 2018. The program introduced a tutorial element, utilizing Zoom conferencing and this built on the discussion board posts on various topics to establish a community of learners. On completion of the delivery we will review the feedback and continue to work to improve the program.

RESEARCH INTO DANCE PROGRAMS FOR OLDER PEOPLE

In 2017-2018 Ausdance Victoria successfully applied for funding to undertake research into the breadth and prevalence of dance programs delivered specifically for older people in Australia. The research was a response to a flood of inquiries relating to opportunities to participate in seniors' dance programs and recommendations for dance teachers with suitable experience and qualifications.

The research report, completed in March 2018 provides a valuable overview of the dance with older people sector and will act as a valuable resource in guiding the future work of Ausdance Victoria. Our research discovered a small and healthy mature dance sector operating throughout the country with concentrations in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales. It identified training programs available and where the gaps in professional learning lie. The report will be available mid-2018.

ALLPLAY DANCE

Ausdance Victoria began a partnership with Deakin University in mid 2017 to support the development of an online resource called AllPlay Dance. AllPlay Dance provides evidence-based resources to enable participation in inclusive dance programs nationally.

The program will provide:

1. Easy to access online information including a searchable online directory of 'NDIA disability-friendly dance centres'.
2. Greater engagement and meaningful participation in dance programs, rather than 'tokenistic inclusion'.
3. Online resources to help dance centres and teachers adopt inclusive dance practices.

Ausdance Victoria and Allplay aim to change community attitudes about disability and inclusion, particularly in the dance community. We have begun this work with our inclusive videos for Big Dance, to empower dance to be accessible to all.

STUDENT INDUSTRY DAYS

Ausdance Victoria continues to hold itself to the highest standards when considering the best interests of the students enrolled through our RTO, with particular reference to safe dance practices and delivering the best possible age-appropriate skills, content, and materials. This inclusive learning is supported through current industry connectivity and engagement. With this in mind, we engaged respected dance artists and choreographers in the industry to deliver dance workshops through our annual Industry Days. In 2017, students had the opportunity to learn and dance with:

- **Jack May**
- **Kyall Shanks**
- **Luke Alleva**
- **Lydia Connolly-Hiatt**

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2017, we provided professional development to VCE VET, secondary and studio teachers with an open workshop on the difference between styles in Jazz and discussions on the extensions and changes to Jazz in the 2017 workbook. Other sessions focused on assessment protocols, mapping assessments, and child safety standards.

In partnership with Independent Schools Victoria, Ausdance Victoria developed a comprehensive program called Teaching Dad to Dance (TD2D). This is an incursion program for primary and early secondary school students. TD2D included a comprehensive resource pack and is included in Regional Arts Victoria's 2018 education program. We provided teacher professional development sessions on TD2D as part of the Independent Arts Learning Festival, as well as several other sessions for teachers.

In addition, Katrina Rank delivered professional learning opportunities for teachers in the ACT in the Move Up Conference and in Sydney at the 9th Conference for Art and Health.



IMAGE FROM 2017 VET INDUSTRY DAY,
PHOTO BY VLAD SLAVIN



ADVOCACY

Michelle Silby is on the following boards and committees to advocate for dance across Victoria and New South Wales for industry needs, professional training, education and funded courses. There is a clear intersection working across ACFIPS / IAG and the IRC.

Arts, Communications, Finance Industries and Property Services, for Creative Industries (ACFIPS) Industry Training Advisory Board, NSW (ACFIPS)

ACFIPS looks at the needs of the industry, reviews current training qualifications, training packages and funding for people undertaking study. We provided feedback on the funded course list to ensure government continue to fund (provide loan options) to students undertaking arts courses, including dance. ACFIPS successfully put forward a case to re-instate several dance courses. We meet two-three times a year, with consultation with the sector in-between. The board have worked very closely with TAFE in NSW to create short professional development courses for artists, administrators and leaders that have been provided at no cost in arts administration, business skills, project management, resilience, risk, health and wellbeing of the sector.

Regional Arts Fund New South Wales, Chair 2014-17

Overseeing the state regional funding applications across all artforms. Which show such a breath of artforms, scale and geographical locations.

Industry Advisory Group (IAG) for business run by the Victorian Skills Commission

Michelle represents Arts & Culture, on behalf of Ausdance and AICV. Similar to ACFIPS this group also looks at the training and professional needs of the Industry and arts education for the state of Victoria in a much broader business context.

Independent Reference Committee (IRC), for Arts and Culture Industries, Vice Chair (National)

Appointed by AISC, Australian Industry Skills Council.

The committee drawn from around the country, provide representation of different artforms and creative industries. To look at the training needs of the industry, assess and review current training qualifications. We set a four year work plan endorsed by government. This IRC is run by Price Waterhouse Coopers, PWC. Michelle has championed a key piece of work, Working Safely With Children in the Performing Arts. There are two units of competency (training) available. They can be done as stand alone subjects or as part of a larger course, training package or Skill Set.

Arts Industry Council of Victoria (AICV), Co-convenor

Is made up of various organisations and Peak Bodies that lead and champion the Arts sector. The purpose is to advocate for the arts sector and provide information to them and the government. We meet with the Minister for the Arts and CEO of Creative Victoria four times a year.



IMAGE OF LEHENDA UKRAINIAN DANCE COMPANY AT 2017 AUSTRALIAN DANCE AWARDS, IMAGE BY SAMARA CLIFFORD

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR MEMBERS

DAIR

Ausdance Victoria's Dance Artist in Residence Program (DAIR) offers artists free access to dance spaces for the development of their dance practice, creative development or rehearsal of work. Started in 2017, Ausdance Victoria partnered with the following venues who made DAIR's six residencies possible.

- Shirley Burke Theatre
- Melbourne City Ballet
- Frankston Arts Centre
- Melbourne Academy of Performing Arts

2017 DAIR Recipients:

- Leah Landau, Trevor Santos and Isabelle Beauvard at Melbourne Academy of Performing Arts
- Lydia Connolly-Hiatt and Sarah Elsworth at Melbourne City Ballet
- Leandra Osmond at Shirley Burke Theatre
- Ellen Davies at Frankston Arts Centre

360 ARTIST DEVELOPMENT

The 360 Artist Development is an initiative of Ausdance Victoria in conjunction with Gertrude Street Projection Festival and West Projections to assist dance practitioners stage works for the virtual realm. This artist development program provides mentorship, and equipment to stage a dance work in Virtual Reality. As the digital world accelerates, dance needs to keep up with the latest technology. 360 Artist Development is a platform for artists to engage with new technology. 360-degree videos, also known as immersive videos or spherical videos, are video recordings where a view in every direction is recorded at the same time, shot using an omnidirectional camera.

The final works by Dr.Tracie Mitchell and Hillary Goldsmith was viewed by over 400 people across 43 screenings.

MARKETING, MEDIA AND MEMBERSHIP

Being a member of the peak body for dance in Victoria provides holistic membership benefits on and off the dance floor. From discounts for workshops to helping a member promote their new project, Ausdance Victoria is passionate about every member's dance practice reaching its full potential. Membership benefits exclusive discounts, ability to promote their projects through Ausdance Victoria's digital reach and exclusive programs such as DAIR and 360 Artist Development.

Ausdance Victoria's marketing, media and membership engagement is about advocating for the best dance practice that benefits the practitioner and the community. As part of the 40th anniversary from August 2017-August 2018 Dance Australia, magazine became the media partner for Ausdance New South Wales and Victoria.

Through our partnership with Dance Australia we reached 35,000 people.

Website views to ausdancevic.org.au tripled in 2017.
E-News subscribers increased to 2,200 recipients
Social media reach increased by 60%
Instagram followers doubled in 2017
Facebook reach up to 18,000



ausdance vic

Ausdance Victoria
59 Francis St
Yarraville, Victoria 3013
Phone: 03 9689 2055
victoria@ausdance.org.au
www.ausdance.org.au



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