

Media release
For immediate release

New Breed

The triumphant finale to an era-defining contemporary dance program

3 – 13 December 2025

Carriageworks
245 Wilson St Eveleigh, Sydney
[Tickets on sale now](#)

Sydney Dance Company's acclaimed *New Breed* program returns to Carriageworks to mark its twelfth and final season, presenting four world premiere works, celebrating a program that has expanded choreographic opportunity in Australia.

Blossoming from the kernel of an idea between Neil Balnaves AO and Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela, *New Breed*, co-presented by Carriageworks, has been a vibrant platform for Australia's independent dance voices, renowned for presenting emerging choreographic talent and searing new ideas that forge the future of contemporary dance. Made possible through the extraordinary commitment of Principal Partner The Balnaves Foundation, the remarkable 12 year partnership is a testament to their inspired and visionary philanthropic support.

By the end of the 2025 season, *New Breed* will have commissioned 49 new Australian dance works by 47 choreographers. Their practice continues to define contemporary Australian dance in an extraordinary legacy that will resonate long into the future. Sydney Dance Company is committed to building on this achievement and its investment in the contemporary dance landscape.

From 3 – 13 December 2025, *New Breed* will feature new dance works by **Emma Fishwick**, **Ngaere Jenkins**, **Harrison Ritchie-Jones** and **Ryan Pearson**, performed by Sydney Dance Company dancers on the Carriageworks' stage.

Championing the next wave of choreographic voices, the 2025 program features:

Emma Fishwick – *marathon, o marathon*

Choreographer Emma Fishwick presents a new dance work titled *marathon, o marathon* that gestures towards the endless loop of lessons not learnt, the collapse of scale and severity and the desire to continue performing personal convictions in a time of exhaustion. With marathon-like persistence the work plays with the facts and fictions that emerge when watching bodies in motion, to consider, if there is no cavalry coming over the hill to save us, can a descent into dancing generate a hopeful desire?

Media Contacts

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Ngaere Jenkins – *From the horizon thereafter*

Current Sydney Dance Company dancer born in Aotearoa/New Zealand, Ngaere Jenkins will make her choreographic debut this season. Jenkin's work is an evocative contemplation on the whenua (land) she comes from, its misted horizons, fern-fringed bays and lakes encircled by mountains that stand as her tupuna (ancestors). In her work Jenkins embodies the ephemeral beauty and memory of her homeland — its holding and yielding, its silences and calls, its quiet invitation to listen and be led.

Harrison Ritchie-Jones – *Pigeon Humongous*

Celebrated dancer, choreographer and filmmaker Harrison Ritchie-Jones returns to the Sydney Dance Company stage with *Pigeon Humongous*, following his award-winning work *CUDDLE* in *INDance 2024*. Ritchie-Jones investigates a dystopian vision in which a global virus collapses humanity and gives rise to a post-apocalyptic world of punk pigeon people. In this disintegrated society, where words, structures and rules no longer hold, movement emerges as the only language and the only salvation.

Ryan Pearson – *Save Point*

Ryan Pearson, Sydney Dance Company dancer and 2020 Australian Dance Awards nominee for Most Outstanding Performance by a Male Dancer, presents *Save Point*. Inspired by video games from his childhood, the work moves between nostalgia and invention, using movement to reconnect with a time when games felt limitless. Pearson explores movement, combat choreography and nostalgic worlds, blending imagination with physicality and deeply personal reflection.

As *New Breed* celebrates its final season, Sydney Dance Company remains committed to supporting independent choreographers and the incredible diversity of contemporary dance practice in Australia. In 2026 the Company will continue to foster new opportunities for artists to create, experiment and connect with audiences, alongside the ongoing support of The Balnaves Foundation through The Balnaves Foundation Artist in Residence program, with Jenni Large announced as our third recipient of this initiative.

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Sydney Dance Company Artistic Director Rafael Bonachela said: “New Breed has been an anchor of Sydney Dance Company’s vision to nurture and platform the voices of emerging choreographers. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of The Balnaves Foundation over 12 seasons, we’ve experienced thrilling, compelling, and deeply original works that have left a lasting impact on Australian dance. While 2025 marks the final season of New Breed, it is not an ending but an interval. It was early conversations with Neil Balnaves about what is possible that inspired the first iteration of New Breed and in continuing those conversations we remain committed to supporting independent practice.”

Carriageworks CEO Fergus Linehan said: “Over the past decade New Breed has been one of the most joyous and impactful events in the Australian cultural calendar. Its legacy will continue to ripple across the Australian dance landscape for decades to come. We salute Sydney Dance Company and The Balnaves Foundation for their foresight, courage and generosity.”

Victoria Balnaves of The Balnaves Foundation said: “Over the past 12 years The Balnaves Foundation has been proud to support such an important incubator for contemporary dance in Australia. When my father, Neil Balnaves and Rafael conceptualised New Breed all those years ago, we never imagined the powerful and lasting impact it would have on the choreographers and the dance sector as a whole. This year we celebrate an extraordinary partnership that has created phenomenal works of dance, brought new ideas to Sydney Dance Company’s mainstage both in Australia and overseas, as well as providing a launching pad for 47 remarkable choreographers. As the curtain closes on this chapter, we are excited to continue our partnership with Sydney Dance Company through The Balnaves Foundation Artist in Residence program where New Breed alumni can continue their creative journey.”

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About Sydney Dance Company

Based on Gadigal Land at Sydney's Walsh Bay Arts Precinct, Sydney Dance Company is at the forefront of contemporary dance, pioneering and continuously evolving the artform. The Company's international reputation reflects contemporary Australia on a global scale, connecting with diverse audiences worldwide under artistic direction of Rafael Bonachela.

Sydney Dance Company is also a place of learning, encouraging engagement and participation through quality classes and a range of education and development programs that foster a robust creative sector, nurturing Australian talent and providing exposure to international opportunities.

More information sydneydancecompany.com

About The Balnaves Foundation

The Balnaves Foundation is a private philanthropic organisation established in 2006 by Neil Balnaves AO. The Foundation disperses \$5 million annually to eligible organisations that aim to create a better Australia through education, medicine and the arts with a focus on young people, the disadvantaged and Indigenous Australia.

More information balnavesfoundation.com

About Carriageworks

Carriageworks is one of Australia's most significant creative industry hubs, renowned for its dynamic cultural events, performances and exhibitions. Housed in a historic railway workshop in Sydney on Gadigal Land, Carriageworks offers a vibrant platform for contemporary art, theatre, music, dance and more, collaborating with leading local and international artists to foster innovation and creativity in its distinctive industrial setting.

More information carriageworks.com.au