

PRESENTING PARTNER

SONY



SPRING DANCE

**MEDIA
KIT/**

**/SPRING
DANCE/
27 AUG-
27 SEP/**

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE 

/2

/THE BODY SAYS WHAT WORDS CANNOT/

/MARTHA GRAHAM/



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SPONSORS

/SPRING DANCE/

**/SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
SONY PRESENTS SPRING
DANCE, THE FIRST OF OUR
ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS OF
DANCE, FROM AUGUST 27
TO SEPTEMBER 27 /**



Sydney Opera House in partnership with Sony presents **Spring Dance**, the first of our annual celebrations of dance, from August 27 to September 27.

As Sydney embraces spring, people are given the chance to experience and participate in both the artistry

and athleticism of dance, with stars of the artform including **Eva Yerbabuena, Meryl Tankard, Lucy Guerin, Kelley Abbey** and **Paul White**.

There are also many new names to discover such as cutting-edge Japanese video artist, **Hiroaki Umeda**, along with bold new choreographers from **Sydney Dance Company** and **Australian Dance Theatre**.

In collaboration with **YouTube**, Sydney Opera House moves away from its physical site to open up new ways to introduce people to dance through our online competition, **MyMutation**. By uploading your own interpretations of our choreographic challenge, you could win the chance to perform live at the House in the finale of **Spring Dance**.

As the Opera House moves offsite and online, **Spring Dance** is the perfect platform to engage with local, regional and international audiences, using digital innovation to deliver performing arts experiences to the broadest audience, whoever and wherever they are.

In addition to events staged indoors and online, free public screenings of iconic **dance films** on the forecourt, and free pre-performance dance events around the House offer everyone the chance to participate in **Spring Dance**.

With \$25 tickets and great value package deals, **Spring Dance** gives you the opportunity to indulge your passion for dance, meet the people who make dance and unleash your inner dancer.

RICHARD EVANS

/CHIEF EXECUTIVE, SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE/

/OVERVIEW/



We're fools whether we dance or not, so we might as well dance!

Japanese proverb

Spring Dance at Sydney Opera House will present work by some of the thrilling artists who are igniting our passion for dance.

From Spain's Flamenco superstar Eva Yerbabuena, to young Japanese artist Hiroaki Umeda, a rising star on the international dance scene, whose work is influenced by everything from butoh to beatbox.

The Oracle is a specially commissioned new work, in which renowned Australian choreographer Meryl Tankard creates her take on Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* with dance phenomenon, Paul White.

Can anyone dance? Do we all have an inner performer?

Lucy Guerin's *Untrained* puts two men who have never done a dance class in their life alongside two of Australia's finest contemporary dancers and asks them to follow her instructions. It's a quirky and irreverent approach to making dance.

Who will be the next generation leading our dance companies? *Spring Dance* uncovers the stars of the future premiering four works from the 'New Breed' of Australian choreographic talent, featuring two of Australia's premiere dance companies, Sydney Dance Company and Australian Dance Theatre.

Hollywood has forever been captivating our imaginations with dance. Sydney Opera House has invited David McAllister, Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet to choose his dance film favourites. For three consecutive nights this spring, Sydneysiders will be invited to join McAllister under the stars on the Forecourt of Sydney Opera House for free screenings of Fred and Ginger's *Swing Time*; the classic choreography of Jerome Robbins in the Academy-Award winning *West Side Story* and the pursuit of a dream 1980s style in *Fame*.

And if you think you can dance there's *MyMutation*, the Sydney Opera House online dance competition which we hope will create an explosion of creativity in cyberspace. Developed by Sydney Opera House from an original idea by Creative Producer, Stephen Burstow.

Acclaimed choreographer Kelley Abbey, who has created the dance magic on everything from George Miller's *Happy Feet* to the arena spectacular *The Boy from Oz*, has created a dance solo that has been posted on YouTube. Everyone from professional dancers to those who like to dance alone in front of the mirror are encouraged to reinterpret Kelley's choreography dancing to music composed by CODA's Nick Wales. An elimination competition will take place and dance lovers from across the globe can compete to win the ultimate prize of coming to Sydney and performing live at Sydney Opera House at *MyMutation Live!*

My Mutation Live! is a very special Studio club night that will bring cyberspace to life and celebrate the winner of our online dance competition. With special guests DJ Duo Stereogamous (aka Paul Mac and Seymour Butz) and chameleon pop orchestra CODA with their new dance set 'Tokyo does the Charleston'. The winner of *MyMutation* will star in a dance production number created by Kelley Abbey, who will bring elements of *MyMutation* online to life – in real time, in the House. This is your chance to dance!

And our free Artists Talks program offers you the opportunity to meet the movers and shakers including special events with two of our leading dance luminaries. Stephen Page, Artistic Director of Bangarra Dance Theatre will look back over the twenty year history of his acclaimed company, and Meryl Tankard will talk about her life and career showing footage of highlights from her extraordinary body of work.

So, whether you just want to sit back and watch or you want to be part of the action we hope there's something for everyone in our inaugural *Spring Dance* celebration – not only inside our venues but on film on the forecourt and online.

WENDY MARTIN

/HEAD OF THEATRE AND DANCE/

/PROGRAM/

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		27 AUG	28 AUG	29 AUG	30 AUG
		8PM EVA YERBABUENA	8PM EVA YERBABUENA	8PM EVA YERBABUENA	5PM EVA YERBABUENA
1 SEP	2 SEP	3 SEP	4 SEP	5 SEP	6 SEP
	7.30PM LUCY GUERIN INC UNTRAINED	7.30PM LUCY GUERIN INC UNTRAINED <i>/POST SHOW Q & A /</i>	7.30PM LUCY GUERIN INC UNTRAINED	7.30PM LUCY GUERIN INC UNTRAINED	4.30PM BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE <i>/20 YEARS/ /STEPHEN PAGE TALK/</i>
8 SEP	9 SEP	10 SEP	11 SEP	12 SEP	13 SEP
	7.30PM NEW BREED	7.30PM NEW BREED	6.30PM SWING TIME <i>/FILM/</i> 7.30PM NEW BREED	2PM NEW BREED <i>/POST SHOW Q & A /</i> 6.30PM WEST SIDE STORY <i>/FILM/</i> 7.30PM NEW BREED	6.30PM FAME <i>/FILM/</i>
15 SEP	16 SEP	17 SEP	18 SEP	19 SEP	20 SEP
	7PM HIROAKI UMEDA 8.30PM THE ORACLE	7PM HIROAKI UMEDA 8.30PM THE ORACLE	7PM HIROAKI UMEDA 8.30PM THE ORACLE	2PM THE ORACLE 7PM HIROAKI UMEDA 8.30PM THE ORACLE	4.30PM PRE-SHOW TALK <i>/MERYL TANKARD/</i> 6.30PM THE ORACLE
22 SEP	23 SEP	24 SEP	25 SEP	26 SEP	27 SEP
				9PM MYMUTATION <i>/THE LIVE EVENT/</i>	8PM MYMUTATION <i>/THE LIVE EVENT/</i>

/EVA YERBABUENA/

/27 - 30 AUGUST 2009/ CONCERT HALL/

"...an artist of remarkable expressive powers."

Los Angeles Times

Following on from her successful European and American tours, the legendary Seville based flamenco dancer, Eva Yerbabuena returns to Sydney Opera House with her new self titled show from 27 August, 2009

Yerbabuena was created on request by legendary German choreographer Pina Bausch who invited Yerbabuena to present an evening of solos (to be performed at Bausch's 2008 festival) that would highlight her exceptional artistry.

Yerbabuena creates highly individualistic pieces, in a style influenced by modern dance, while faithfully interpreting traditional flamenco. Renown for her faultless technique Yerbabuena is nevertheless most celebrated for her sensibility - her characteristic intensity of feeling revealed by the depth and mystery of her performances.

"She seemed to touch on every facet of human experience."

The New Yorker

In her latest production, Yerbabuena will reprise some of the outstanding flamenco choreography she has created and performed over the years. This provocative series of solos, rooted in the traditional Andalusian dance style, is a perfect showcase for her unadulterated technical prowess where her explosive, dramatic footwork contrasts with the fluid, seamless articulation of her arms and torso.

Renowned for making extraordinarily difficult performances seem effortless, Yerbabuena's integrity stands out in a field in which many artists use pop music or other dance moves to embellish their work.

Performing alongside her is one of the great flamenco guitarists, her husband **Paco Jarano**. Leading with dazzling skill a group of three male vocalists, two guitarists and a percussionist, Jarano often improvises, with a jazz embellishment, through the layered melodic music and songs from Andalusia. Showcasing her astonishing musicality, Yerbabuena reflects and responds to his improvised electric rhythms.

Standing barely five-feet tall Yerbabuena is a towering presence on the international flamenco circuit. The recipient of every major Spanish award for choreography, including Spain's most prestigious dance honour the *Premio Nacional de Danza*, she has also won the *Flamenco Hoy* for Best Dancer for three consecutive years and in 2000 at the 11th Biennial in Seville she received the Best Performance and Best Ballerina honours for her work.

Yerbabuena established Ballet Flamenco Dance Company in 1998. The company has toured the world playing to packed houses from Paris to Buenos Aires.

38 years old, Yerbabuena has been involved in flamenco all her life. Acknowledged by the leading contemporary choreographer, William Forsythe, as one of his great inspirations, Yerbabuena has also featured in two films by Oscar-winning director Mike Figgis, *Flamenco Women* and alongside John Malkovich and Salma Hayek in *HOTEL*. She was also the star of Stomp's award-winning IMAX presentation of *Pulse*.

A bewitching and dramatic actress, Yerbabuena redefines flamenco while remaining true to the art form's pure rhythms and soulful roots.



/MEDIA
PARTNERS

JCDecaux



/MYMUTATION/

/PUT YOUR BODY ONLINE FOR YOUR CHANCE TO
DANCE ON THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE STAGE/

/MYMUTATION/

/AN INTERNATIONAL ONLINE DANCE COMPETITION/

MY: of, belonging to, or associated with me

MUTATION: the act or process of being altered or changed

MYMUTATION: an online celebration of the spirit of dance

MyMutation is an innovative worldwide online dance competition that gives aspiring dancers from across the globe the once in a lifetime opportunity to perform live at Sydney Opera House.

MyMutation is open to dancers at all levels from across the globe. The exciting new competition aims to create an explosion of creativity in cyberspace, exploring the way dance moves mutate as they are passed on, body to body.

Acclaimed choreographer Kelley Abbey (*So You Think You Can Dance Australia*) has created a dance solo performed by one of Australia's hottest dance talents Reed Luplau. Posted on Sydney Opera House's new YouTube channel www.youtube.com/sydneyoperahouse everyone from trained dancers to those who like to dance alone in front of the mirror are encouraged to reinterpret Kelley's choreography set to music composed by CODA's Nick Wales.

Kelley and a panel of judges will select 10 finalists to move into the elimination rounds. The public will then decide who will win the ultimate prize of working with Kelley Abbey to bring their unique performance to life at a very special club night on September 26 & 27 – *MyMutation Live!* in The Studio, Sydney Opera House.

“From the dawn of time we’ve danced and moved to communicate and express ourselves. MyMutation is a great opportunity to participate in a universal dance dialogue. You get the chance to interpret another person’s dance language and use your own creativity to express your authentic self. The sky’s the limit ... you can create any kind of dance conversation you want. How exciting!”

Kelley Abbey

- A dance video choreographed by Kelley Abbey and performed by award-winning Australian dancer, **Reed Luplau** was posted on the Sydney Opera House YouTube channel on Monday 13 July.
- Participants are then invited to respond by uploading their own short dance videos which must begin with their own unique re-interpretation of the “Starter Solo” then continue with a further 20 seconds of their own original choreography, set to original music composed by Nick Wales from CODA. The deadline for entries is Monday 10 August.
- A panel of judges led by Kelley Abbey will select ten finalists to compete in another two elimination rounds.

In addition to the thrill of performing their own work live at Sydney Opera House, the winner will receive \$2,000 in cash and a prize pack from SONY including a **SONY HD Handycam, SONY Cyber-shot Digital Still Camera** and a **SONY VAIO Notebook**.

MyMutation is the first project of an exciting new agreement between YouTube and Sydney Opera House that will see a new level of engagement with the community through a dedicated online channel www.youtube.com/sydneyoperahouse.

Kate Vale, Head of YouTube for Australia and New Zealand, said: “YouTube is a one-of-a-kind platform that can connect the world’s artists and inspire creative dialogue. The winners of the *MyMutation* competition will get to compete on two of the world’s most influential stages – the Sydney Opera House, and YouTube.”

/MYMUTATION LIVE! /

**/SATURDAY 26 AT 9PM & SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER AT 8PM/
/THE STUDIO, SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE /**

MyMutation Live! is a very special Studio club night that will bring cyberspace to life and celebrate the winner of our online dance competition.

With special guests including DJ Duo Stereogamous (aka Paul Mac and Seymour Butz) and chameleon pop orchestra CODA with their new dance set "Tokyo does the Charleston." The evening is hosted by Joel Salom.

And the ultimate prize. The winner of *MyMutation* will be brought to Sydney to perform in a big dance production number created by choreographic star Kelley Abbey who has been responsible for the dance magic on everything from George Miller's *Happy Feet* to the arena spectacular *The Boy from Oz*. Kelley will bring elements of *MyMutation* online to life in real time in the House. Come and see what she will make of your mutation.

CODA

Since forming in 1994, CODA have created a buzz among music audiences nationally and abroad. This string and keyboard four-piece are stalwarts of both the Australian classical and contemporary music scene. Borrowing much of their sound from traditional folk music, CODA produce music sitting at the edge of electronica. Fusing together strings, grooves and gypsy influences, they have delighted a broad range of audiences - from the Sydney Festival to school children with *Musica Viva* to the Big Day Out. CODA have also recorded soundtracks for the Bell Shakespeare Company and provided string arrangements for rock outfits, Leonardo's *Bride*, *Died Pretty* and *Big Heavy Stuff*.

KELLEY ABBEY

Recently seen on *So You Think You Can Dance*, Abbey has a wealth of experience in both performance and behind the scenes production. From principal performer and choreographer in the Oscar winning box office smash *Happy Feet*, to performing the lead role in *Sweet Charity* on stage, starring in Aussie TV soap *E-Street*, and choreographing pop artists, movie stars and huge casts in musicals, Abbey has won many awards for her outstanding performances and innate understanding of dance and movement.



ENTER ON
YouTube

/UNTRAINED/

**/LUCY GUERIN INC/
/2 - 5 SEPTEMBER/ THE STUDIO/**

After the sell-out success at Dance Massive in Melbourne, Sydney Opera House presents Lucy Guerin's latest work, *Untrained*, 2 - 5 September, 2009.

Quirky, irreverent and joyous, *Untrained* juxtaposes two trained dancers and two professional visual artists with no movement training whatsoever. The four performers are given the same instructions. How they execute them constructs an individual portrait of each man and also an unavoidable comparison between them.

In a humorous and courageous examination of themselves, we witness a revealing portrait of each artist.

Demonstrating how intimate movement can be, the artists not only expose their own particular strengths, but their private shyness and defence mechanisms as well.

Performed by dancers Luke Smiles, Byron Perry and visual artists Ross Coulter and Simon Obarzanek, the complex, refined movement that one man can do with ease, the other can only approximate. *Untrained* showcases what they have in common and what sets them apart.

Adelaide born **Lucy Guerin** is one of the most prolific choreographers in Australia's contemporary dance scene. After graduating from the Centre of Performing Arts in 1982, Guerin joined Russell Dumas (Dance Exchange) and Nannette Hassall (Dance Works). Guerin moved to New York in 1989 where she danced with Tere O'Connor Dance, the Bebe Miller company and Sara Rudner before commencing choreography as an independent artist in 1993. In 1996 she returned to Australia and along with creative producer, Angharad Wynne Jones created Lucy Guerin Inc in 2002. Based in Melbourne Guerin has been commissioned by local and international companies and is now recognised as one of Australia's most innovative and decorated contemporary dance companies.

Her works have toured throughout Europe and Asia and she has won many awards including a 'Bessie' (NY Dance award) for *Two Lies*, Australian Dance Award and a Helpmann Award for *Structure and Sadness*. Her most recent work, *Love Me*, performed at CarriageWorks in 2007, received high critical acclaim.

Luke Smiles received a Bachelor of Dance from Victorian College of Arts in 1994. A founding member of Chunky Move, he has worked with many of Australia's top contemporary companies and choreographers such as Australian Dance Theatre, Meryl Tankard, The One Extra Dance Company and Balletlab.

Smiles has a keen musical ear and has composed and produced soundtracks for many national and international dance companies including, Nederlands Dans Theatre,

Rambert Dance Company, Stompin, Tasdance, West Australian Ballet, Chunky Move and Australian Dance Theatre.

Since graduating from the Victorian College of the Arts, **Byron Perry** has toured throughout Australia, Europe and America with Douglas Wright, Leigh Warren, Nannette Hassall, DV8 Physical Theatre, Kate Champion and Chunky Move amongst others.

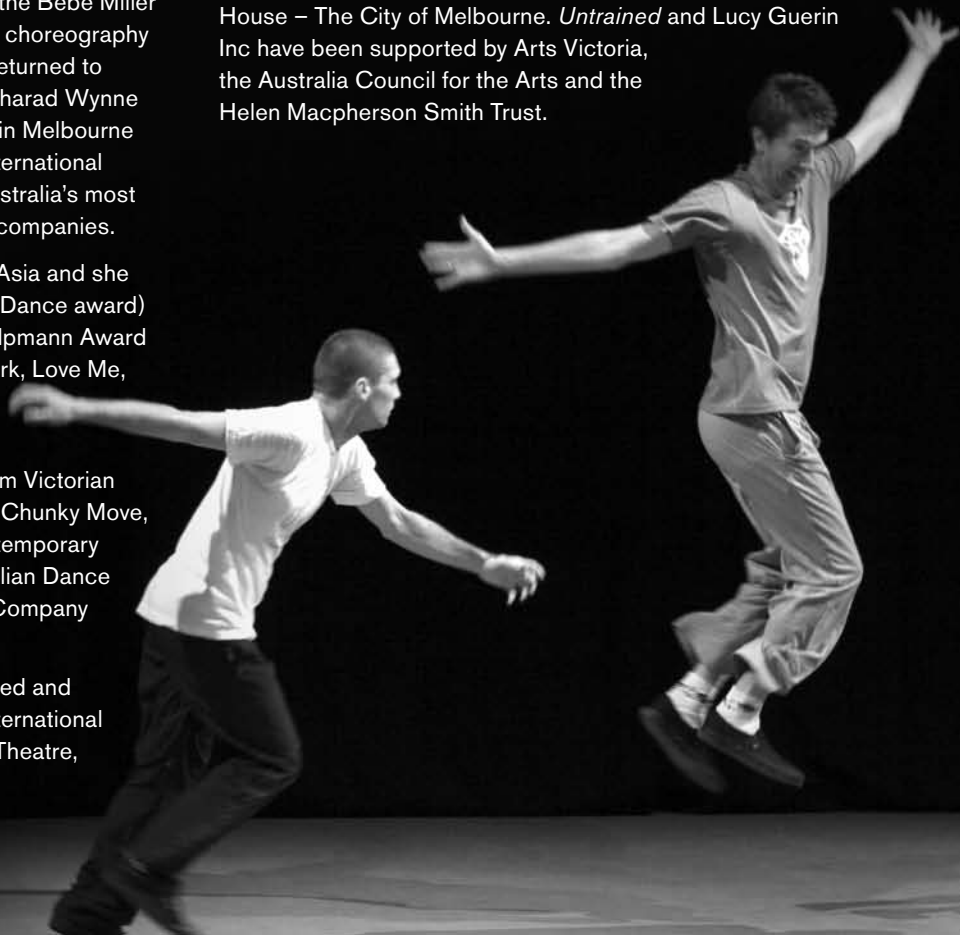
Perry has also choreographed his own works for Chunky Moves 'Next Move' program, Tasdance and The Studio, Sydney Opera House.

Recently he was a finalist in the Sony 'real photographers wanted' competition.

Visual Artist, **Ross Coulter** graduated with first class Honours in Fine Arts from Victorian College of the Arts. With many exhibitions and awards under his belt, he has also directed a short film, *When Your Feet don't Touch The Ground*, at the Melbourne International Film Festival in 2007.

The work of Israeli born **Simon Obarzanek** can be seen in several public collections including the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, National Gallery of Victoria and Powerhouse Gallery, Sydney. Obarzanek has also exhibited in numerous group shows including National Portrait Gallery, London and Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Untrained was developed in the Culture Lab through Arts House - The City of Melbourne. *Untrained* and Lucy Guerin Inc have been supported by Arts Victoria, the Australia Council for the Arts and the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust.



/NEW BREED/

/9 – 12 SEPT/ PLAYHOUSE/

Who will be the next generation choreographers making a difference to our dance landscape?

NEW BREED features three short works performed by Sydney Dance Company and choreographed by **Emily Amisano**, **Craig Bary** and **Connor Dowling**. Australian Dance Theatre presents one work choreographed by **Larissa McGowan**. NEW BREED gives you a sneak preview into the future of Australian dance.

NEW BREED springs out of Australian Dance Theatre's annual choreographic season, *Ignition* and Sydney Dance Company's successful *Overture Series*, an initiative made possible through the support of the Harold Mitchell Foundation. These initiatives have provided young choreographers with tools necessary for their craft – tools that are often the hardest to obtain – a group of dancers, a studio space, a designer, a stage, lights, sound and importantly, an audience.

Providing a platform for Australian choreographers to introduce their work to local audiences is an important way in which Sydney Opera House can nurture home-grown work.

DREAMT I WAS A REAL BOY

"Dreamt I Was a Real Boy" is essentially a journey taken by six characters in a fantasy world who fall into a dream-like state, and the relationships and situations that follow are left for the audience to decide whether they are real or imaginary."

Connor Dowling



/CHOREOGRAPHY/ Connor Dowling
/CAST/ Adam Blanch, Alexa Heckmann, Chen Wen, Janessa Dufty, Johanna lee, Kalman Warhaft

Music IOTA and J.S. Harvey
Design James Brown
Lighting Toby Sewell

**POST SHOW Q + A WITH
RAFAELA BONACHELA
AND CHOREOGRAPHERS**

**/SATURDAY 12 SEPT/
/2PM/**

PICTURES OF A ONE-NIGHT STAND



*"They say in a one night stand there is no past, no future and a limited present. **Pictures of a One-Night Stand** looks at the chance of catching the elusive moment of now, and forgetting all consequences."*

Craig Bary

/CHOREOGRAPHY/ Craig Bary

/CAST/ Emily Amisano, Juliette Barton, Janessa Dufty, Annabel Knight, Adam Blanch, Richard Chilli, Kynan Hughes

Music Adam Synnott, **Design** David Fleischer

Lighting Toby Sewell

BENDING THE MAP



"Bending the map" focuses on human survival in extreme environments. It contrasts the intrinsic qualities of human connection with the implacability of nature, mirroring many experiences of shared survival under extreme duress."

Emily Amisano

/CHOREOGRAPHY/ Emily Amisano

/CAST/ Janessa Dufty, Annabel Knight, Juliette Barton

Music Phonophani to Black Lung

Design Lucilla Smith, **Lighting** Toby Sewell

SLACK



Slack asks if we are a victim of our own patterns, does the same thing keep happening to you – different people, different place, same product, same consequence? Are you suspended in time, waiting and preparing for something to happen, even though everything is beyond your control?

/CHOREOGRAPHY/ Larissa McGowan

/CAST/ Xiao-Xuan Yang, Troy Honeysett, Tara Soh, Chris Aubrey, Kialea-Nadine Williams, Kimball Wong, Lauren Langlois

Music An original composition by Jethro Woodward

Design Lucilla Smith

/HIROAKI UMEDA/

**/ACCUMULATED LAYOUT + WHILE GOING TO A CONDITION/
16 – 19 SEPT/
THE STUDIO/**

“It is his combination of precise articulation and fluid grace that strikes you, achieving a vivid, pliant form of street dance that seems both to express and to defy the grim urban landscape behind it.”

Financial Times, UK

Sydney Opera House presents acclaimed Japanese performance and dance artist, **Hiroaki Umeda** for four performances only, 16 – 19 September.

Lacing visual effects of light, video and design into his choreography, Umeda explores the notion of survival of the human spirit when assailed by constant technological change.

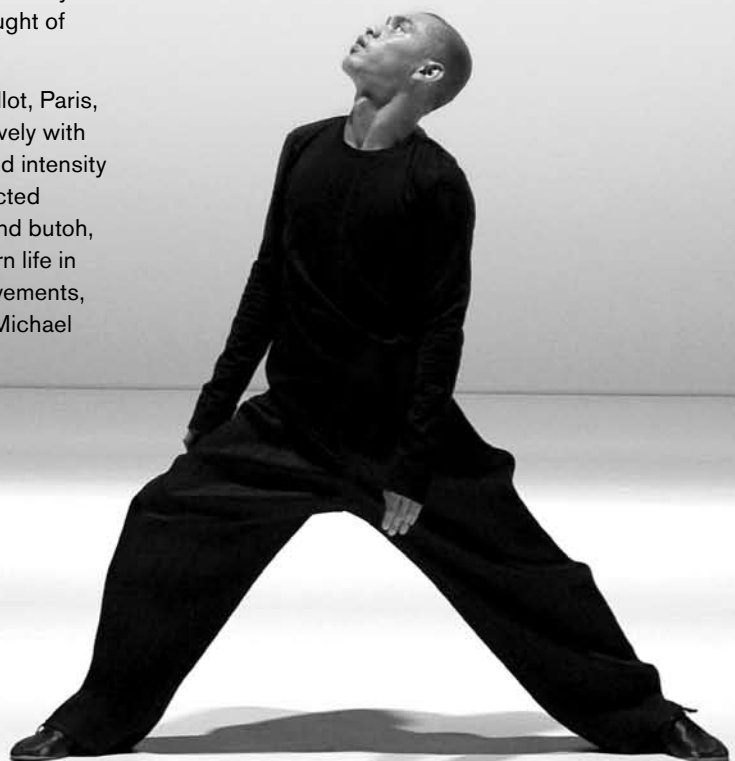
The evening features two of his distinct works, *accumulated layout* and *while going to a condition*. Amidst a blast of cyber-imagery, dramatic lighting and self-created music full of electronic beats and digital soundscapes, his provocative yet subtle choreography asserts itself against the onslaught of digital wizardry.

First performed in 2007 at Théâtre National de Chaillot, Paris, *accumulated layout* features Umeda working exclusively with light. Sculpting space by manipulating the source and intensity of the illumination, whilst dancing opposite his projected image. Drawing upon his training in ballet, hip-hop and butoh, his movement style embodies the extremes of modern life in Japan. Commencing with slow balletic - like arm movements, Umeda quickly branches out to a series of frenetic ‘Michael Jackson’ articulated movements.

In *while going to a condition*, Umeda explores the concept of time. Not afraid of using silence to provoke, Umeda fuses movement and sparse but dramatic lighting to conjure a futurist environment.

Hiroaki Umeda has earned a reputation as one of Japan's most exciting young dance theatre artists. Born in 1977, he currently lives and works in Tokyo. Umeda studied photography and began dancing at the age of 20, developing his own extraordinary original movement and refining a powerful sensuality in his work. He formed his own company, S20 in 2000 and has since created numerous works that have been presented at dance festivals and theatres throughout Asia, Europe, South and North America.

Umeda is not only a dancer and choreographer, but also designs the visuals and soundtracks for his productions. Since 2002 his performances have been a highlight at major festivals and venues across the world and Umeda is considered a standard bearer for the young generation of theatre makers.



/THE ORACLE/

/16 – 20 SEPT/ PLAYHOUSE/

**/WORLD PREMIERE/ A SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE AND
MALHOUSE MELBOURNE COMMISSION/**

/CONCEPT & DIRECTION/ MERYL TANKARD
/CHOREOGRAPHY/ MERYL TANKARD & PAUL WHITE
/VIDEO DESIGNER/ RÉGIS LANSAC
/PERFORMER/ PAUL WHITE
/LIGHTING/ DAMIEN COOPER

“There was a tension between her fragility and her courage. Meryl had an understanding of measure, of boundaries; this instinct and experience gave her that edge.”

Pina Bausch

Spring Dance will present the world premiere of the latest work by renowned Australian choreographer, Meryl Tankard, *The Oracle*, 16 – 20 September, The Playhouse.

Commissioned by Sydney Opera House and Malhouse Melbourne, Tankard reunites with photographer and visual artist Régis Lansac to create an oracle for our times.

Inspired by the haunting work of Scandinavian painter Odd Nerdrum and driven by the powerful score of Igor Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*, *The Oracle* is a vehicle for the astonishing talents of Paul White, winner of the 2008 Helpmann Award for Best Male Dancer.

Meditative and sensual, disturbing and wise, he is the oracle, the interpreter of signs we cannot afford to miss. What sacrifice will nature require to renew a harmony squandered by greed and indifference?

When Vaslav Nijinsky premiered *The Rite of Spring* in 1913 at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, the scandal of a riot made it one of the most internationally well-known and controversial works in performance history. Images from pagan Russia shocked audiences and the complex music and violent dance steps depicting fertility rites were soon followed by shouts and fistfights in the aisles.

Choreographer Meryl Tankard has enthralled Australian and international audiences with commissions for Australian Dance Theatre, Lyon Opera Ballet, Netherlands Dance Theatre, and as a pre-eminent dancer for the legendary Pina Bausch.

With support from Australia Council for the Arts, The Keir Foundation and Critical Path

PRE-PERFORMANCE TALK BY MERYL TANKARD: 20 SEPTEMBER

Before the final performance of *The Oracle* Meryl Tankard will talk about her life and career showing footage of highlights from her extraordinary body of work.



/DANCE ON FILM ON THE FORECOURT/

/11, 12, 13 SEPT/

Spring Dance is taking the celebration of dance outdoors and under the stars with three evenings of Academy-Award winning dance classics on film screened on the Sydney Opera House Forecourt 11-13 September.

The films selected by David McAllister AM, Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet are free and Sydney Opera House invites the people of Sydney to share in the experience of seeing some of the best choreography and dance moves ever to grace the big screen in the style that Sydneysiders love most – free, outdoor celebrations.

Commencing with the Fred and Ginger classic, **Swing Time**, followed by the cool moves of the warring Jets and Sharks in **West Side Story** and for all those who dream of dancing their way to success, we finish with the classic 80s dance film, **FAME**.

McAllister will host on the night and there will be pre-screening entertainment to link in with the style of the films from 80s jazz to Fred Astaire tap.

The films will be screened from 6.30pm.

So, bring your family, friends, a cushion and join David McAllister for a magical evening under the stars and celebrate the wonders of dance on screen.

Don't forget your legwarmers!

"I was so excited to be asked to choose some of my favourite dance films. The hardest decision was which ones to leave out. My final three choices were all seminal to me as I was growing up.

Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers danced across television screens (introduced by Bill Collins) when I was a young lad and who could better the glamour, sophistication and elegance that they brought to the screen.

West Side Story followed when I was a little older and was created by the great Jerome Robbins.

The dancing was dangerous, sexy and seminal to the story telling – really exciting stuff!

Then finally, being a teenager in the 80s made *Fame* a natural choice, especially as I embarked on vocational training. I was sure that Irene Cara would be there in Melbourne at The Australian Ballet School, singing"

David McAllister AM

Please note that the Forecourt has a limited capacity and the site will be closed when full. Please use public transport. Food and beverages will be available. In the case of bad weather please check the Sydney Opera House website for an update on the status of the event.

/FILMS SCHEDULE/

FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

SWING TIME (1936)

Starring: Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers

Singled out by many fans and critics as Fred and Ginger's greatest movie, *Swing Time* features four dance routines that are each regarded as masterpieces of their kind. A partnership seemingly made in heaven, *Swing Time*'s "Never Gonna Dance" is often cited and collaborator **Hermes Pan**'s most profound achievement in filmed dance, while "*The Way You Look Tonight*" won the *Academy Award for Best Original Song*.

Get there early and get in the mood by dressing 1930s and joining Fred & Ginger-style dance class.

SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

WEST SIDE STORY (1961)

Starring: Natalie Wood, Richard Beymer & Rita Moreno

Jerome Robbins' multi Academy Award winning film is set in New York City, where rival street gangs the Jets and the Sharks battle for territory and respect. Is the love affair between former Jets leader Tony, and Maria, sister to Sharks' leader Bernardo, doomed to failure? With a score by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim so many of the songs have become popular classics including "*Something's Coming*," "*Maria*," "*Somewhere*," "*Tonight*," "*Jet Song*" and "*I Feel Pretty*".

Come dressed as a Shark or a Jet and learn classic Latin dance steps.

SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

FAME (1980)

Starring: Irene Cara & Debbie Allen

At the New York City High School for the Performing Arts, students get specialized training that often leads to success as actors, singers, dancers.

This movie follows four students from the time when they audition to get into the school, through graduation. They are the brazen Coco Hernandez, shy Doris Finsecker, sensitive gay Montgomery MacNeil, and brash, abrasive Raul Garcia.

Pull out your leg-warmers, tease your hair and get ready to master your jazz moves as a DJ plays all your favourite 80s gems.

/FILMS ON THE FORECOURT IS A FREE EVENT/

Swing Time



/TICKET DETAILS AT A GLANCE/

/ARTIST/	/DATE & TIME/	/VENUE/	/PRICE/
EVA YERBABUENA	THURSDAY, 27 AUGUST 8PM FRIDAY, 28 AUGUST 8PM SATURDAY, 29 AUGUST 8PM SUNDAY, 30 AUGUST 5PM	CONCERT HALL	\$69 – \$109
LUCY GUERIN UNTRAINED	WEDNESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 7:30PM THURSDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 7:30PM /POST SHOW Q & A/ FRIDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 7:30PM SATURDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 7:30PM	THE STUDIO	\$25
BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE /20 YEARS/ STEPHEN PAGE TALK	SUNDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 4:30PM	THE STUDIO	FREE
NEW BREED /SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY AND AUSTRALIAN DANCE THEATRE/	WEDNESDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 7:30PM THURSDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 7:30PM FRIDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 7:30PM SATURDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2PM /POST SHOW Q & A, WITH RAFAELA BONACHELA AND CHOREOGRAPHERS/ SATURDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 7:30PM	PLAYHOUSE	\$25
HIROAKI UMEDA	WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 7PM THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 7PM FRIDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 7PM SATURDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 7PM	THE STUDIO	\$25
THE ORACLE /MERYL TANKARD/ /PAUL WHITE/	WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 8:30PM THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 8:30PM FRIDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 8:30PM SATURDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2PM SATURDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 8:30PM SUNDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 6:30PM	PLAYHOUSE	\$25
THE CHOREOGRAPHER /MERYL TANKARD TALK/	SUNDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 4:30PM	THE STUDIO	FREE
MYMUTATION /THE LIVE EVENT/	SATURDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 9PM SUNDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 8PM	THE STUDIO	\$25
FILMS ON THE FORECOURT			
SWING TIME	FRIDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 6:30PM	FORECOURT	FREE
WEST SIDE STORY	SATURDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 6:30PM	FORECOURT	FREE
FAME	SUNDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 6:30PM	FORECOURT	FREE

/KEEP UP TO DATE/

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/BOOKING DETAILS/

**All tickets for the contemporary program are \$25*. See more than one and pay \$20* per ticket.
See all five and pay only \$80*.**

Multipack Pass: See two or more shows and pay \$20 per ticket.

Ultimate Dance Pass: See five shows for \$80.

The allocation of Multipack and Ultimate Dance Passes are strictly limited.

Tickets must be purchased in the one transaction.

Offer excludes Eva Yerbabeuna. Not available for purchase online.

To book call the box office on 02 9250 7777.

**Transaction fee of \$5 to \$8.50 applies for all ticket bookings*

BOX OFFICE: +612 9250 7777
ONLINE: SYDNEYOPERAHOUSE.COM

/MEDIA CONTACT DETAILS/

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