

Melbourne puts on its dancing shoes for a day of free events to celebrate the Australian Dance Awards!

Australian Dance Awards Public Program
Sunday 15 June, the Arts Centre & ArtPlay

The Arts Centre precinct will come alive in a swirl of colour and movement on Sunday 15 June as Melbourne puts on its dancing shoes to celebrate the Australian Dance Awards with workshops and performances by some of the nation's finest choreographers and dancers. Audiences can join in the fun or simply enjoy the spectacle in the lead-up to the Australian Dance Awards gala awards ceremony that evening at the Arts Centre, State Theatre.

Highlights include:

Fresh Dance New Beats, a dynamic and exciting series of performances overseen by Creative Facilitator Jodie Farrugia, mixing traditional dance with contemporary style. Performers from five youth cultural dance groups will get outside their comfort zones as they take both creative and physical risks under the instruction of choreographers specializing in contemporary dance styles, including two that made it into the top 100 of the TV show, *So You Think You Can Dance*.

"One of the most exciting things in Fresh Dance New Beats is seeing young dancers (15 to 25 year olds) dancing and performing with energy, passion and a sense of purpose. Challenged by professional choreographers these young and inspired dancers bring culture, rhythm, energy, colour and creativity to each performance. This will be an amazing event where the public can see traditional Indian, Ukrainian, Sri Lankan, and Polynesian dances given a contemporary tweak."

Jodie Farrugia, Creative Facilitator, Fresh Dance New Beats.

The Kid's Dance Workshop where children can sample the colourful and fun dances of the Ukraine with dancers from Verchovyna Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, who will be also perform in Fresh Dance New Beats.

Open Stage, across the whole day a continuous series of short performances and workshops, from ballet to hip hop, to African to contemporary, will have dance lovers of all ages up and dancing or just being inspired by the rich variety of dance on offer in the Melbourne scene, and give the public the chance to mix it with some of the country's best choreographers.

Kath Papas, Director of Ausdance Victoria says, *'Dance is for everyone, for all ages, all cultures and all abilities. We hope to open a door into the rich variety of dance that happens every day in Melbourne. There is so much out there that people may not know about. We hope the day inspires people to get out and see some dance and do some dancing of their own'*.

The major event on the dance calendar, the Australian Dance Awards will premiere at 7.30pm in the Arts Centre, State Theatre on Sunday 15 June, hosted by ABC Sunday Arts presenter, Michael Veitch and featuring performances by some of Australia's finest dance companies and performers including The Australian Ballet, Chunky Move, Mabo Dance Company, Billy Elliot and Dancenorth.

For enquiries about the Australian Dance Awards Public Program go to www.australiandanceawards.net.au or call Ausdance Victoria on 9417 1200.

Kid's Dance Workshop @ ArtPlay

10.00-11.30am

\$10, bookings essential through ArtPlay on 9664 7900.

Class for children with artists featured in Fresh Dance New Beats, an ArtPlay-Ausdance collaboration

Fresh Dance New Beats

12.30pm repeated at 2.30pm @ the Arts Centre, ANZ Pavilion

FREE

For more information regarding this Media Release please call

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Fresh Dance New Beats: a performance program developed through collaborations between youth cultural dance groups and new dance forms

Fusian Pacific Hip Hop Dance Alliance + Arna Singleton (AKA Robotgirl) (hip hop)

Poly Nation + Nikki Ashby (hip hop)

Natya Sudha Dance Company + Tara Rajkumar (Classical Indian) + Jacob Boehme (contemporary)

Rangana & Udumbara Dance Troupe (Sri Lankan) + Fiona Cameron (contemporary)

Verchovyna Ukrainian Dance Ensemble + Nikki Ashby (hip hop & contemporary)

12.30pm performance will be Auslan-interpreted

'Open Stage'

11.00am – 4pm @ the Arts Centre, Black Box

Full timetable details available on website from 1 June.

FREE

A continuous series of short performances and interactive workshops in a wide range of dance forms, from ballet to Bollywood to contemporary to capoeira

The Australian Dance Awards Public Program is supported by Arts Victoria, the Victorian Multicultural Commission, and the City of Melbourne through its 2008 Arts Grants Program.

ARTPLAY

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