



Sydney Dance Company's Pre-Professional Year Announce Applications Open for 2026 Cohort

For over a decade, Sydney Dance Company's Pre-Professional Year (PPY) has been at the forefront of contemporary dance training, preparing inquisitive young artists and dynamic movers for fulfilling professional careers. Applications for our 2026 intake open 5 May.

Based at Sydney Dance Company's iconic, state-of-the-art studios on Gadigal Land at Walsh Bay Arts Precinct, students undertake full-time training with some of the country's most respected choreographers, educators and industry leaders - delivering one of the most comprehensive contemporary dance education in Australia.

Sydney Dance Company's PPY students complete a CUA51520 Diploma of Professional Dance (Elite Performance) in their first year of training which is built upon in second year, offering a CUA60120 Advanced Diploma of Professional Dance (Elite Performance).

Working with a range of creative voices, from Sydney Dance Company members to acclaimed international guest collaborators, students are immersed in a rich spectrum of practices and movement philosophies. This exposure, integral to the PPY experience, empowers dancers with a strong sense of personal agency and the artistic versatility, essential for navigating today's ever-evolving creative landscape.

A unique force in contemporary dance, the impact of PPY resonates globally, as graduates continue to make their mark on the world stage. Dancers have gone on to join the ranks of leading dance companies across Australia and around the globe, performing with renowned ensembles such as Wayne McGregor Dance Company, Opera Ballet Vlaanderen, National Ballet of Marseille, Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company, Göteborg Opera, Bangarra Dance Theatre, Australian Dance Theatre, Stephanie Lake Company, Chunky Move, and Sydney Dance Company's own professional ensemble. Many have also forged their own paths as independent artists, choreographers and interdisciplinary creators.

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Images available to download [here](#)

At the heart of PPY is a future-focused approach to training. Designed with psychological and physiological considerations integrated into all aspects of the program, PPY cultivates an environment for exploration, risk-taking and artistic self-discovery. Challenging industry norms and exploring creative boundaries, PPY graduates emerge as curious, technically accomplished industry ready artists poised to shape the dynamic landscape of contemporary dance.

Sydney Dance Company's Head of Training, Linda Gamblin said: *"What makes this program extraordinary is not just the training, it's the thinking, reflecting and risk-taking that happen within it; building artists, not just dancers. Allowing space for the individual to confidently accept and mature their genuine nature in preparation for a professional career."*

Sydney Dance Company Artistic Director, Rafael Bonachela said: *"With sophisticated technique, authentic movement and a strong sense of the artist within, PPY graduates are brave and generous when working within the contemporary dance industry."*

Philanthropic support continues to play a crucial role in shaping the next generation of artists. Through the generosity of our donors, Sydney Dance Company provides scholarships for Pre-Professional Year dancers, ensuring that financial barriers do not limit access to this transformative training program. These scholarships open pathways for emerging artists to pursue opportunities needed to build a future in the arts.

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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.

As a Registered Training Organisation (RTO #45863), Sydney Dance Company is a place of learning, encouraging engagement and participation through a range of education and development programs designed to develop the next generation of dance artists and educators.

More information sydneydancecompany.com