

Profiling

Ausdance NSW Workshop Leaders

Ausdance NSW presents Creative Workshops in September and October, led by Annalouise Paul and Dean Walsh.

Annalouise Paul



Annalouise is a Sydney based dancer with a diverse background, having worked as a dancer, actress and choreographer in London, Los Angeles and Australia. Most recently she has been exploring cross cultural dance through Western Sydney Dance Action and has received a grant through Critical Path to explore cross cultural forms and live music, which includes a collaboration with tabla musician, Bobby Singh.

Annalouise says "When I was dancing in London in the mid-80s there were a few independent companies experimenting with Indian and flamenco or contemporary, much of which was juxtaposed rather than fused. This really intrigued me to explore fusion in a deeper way, more integrated if you like. Having trained in both flamenco and contemporary it seemed natural and they were feeding each other in the way I moved anyway, so it made sense to experiment with choreography too."

"Critical Path provided an opportunity for initial exploration earlier this year and the project focussed on working with live musicians which is integral to traditional forms. In taking the cross cultural work a step further, I was able to work with contemporary dance in a new way too."

Annalouise says that the partnership with Bobby Singh came about "pretty much by word of mouth. I told people that I wanted to work with a live musician. Bobby's name kept coming up and then finally I

was introduced to him. This is a new partnership and the Critical Path project enabled that to happen. Bobby was so tuned in with contemporary dance, I got so excited, we just had to do more. So when Ausdance NSW offered the workshop I jumped at it. It will be an exploration for us as well as the dancers!"

Annalouise is currently working on a short new work for the *Unmasked* season, at Riverside Theatres, Parramatta this October, produced by Western Sydney Dance Action (WSDA). Annalouise says "I have six wonderful dancers of different backgrounds to work with who all do contemporary dance, as well as Tongan, Cuban, Greek flamenco and some Indian. It is highly ambitious, but I want to give it a try...."

The *Rhythm and Percussion* workshop will feature Bobby Singh and explores mood and emotional quality of rhythm and how this affects the dynamics of dance.

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Dean Walsh



Dean is a prolific choreographer whose works have been performed and toured around the world. In 2002 he was awarded the Australian Dance Award for Most Outstanding Performance by a Male Dancer for his role in ADT's *Age of Unbeauty*.

Dean's running a 4-day workshop *When your point is more than a foot* and we asked him what participants are likely to take away from the experience?

"Possibly some movement and/or text material, or at least ideas towards a new performance. For those who aren't necessarily interested in making work then I hope to at least inspire them to other ways of working and observing other artists' process. We will discuss what it means to be making work on oneself (solo) and heading a group towards specific content. But the focus will primarily be on process as opposed to loads of conceptualising."

We asked Dean what he thought were the main benefits of working as an independent.

"It's tough. But it can be very rewarding / satisfying too. It's extremely busy and therefore demanding in that way. Benefits I have reaped are that I have always put myself into projects that differ in terms of practice, form, content and demands. This has constantly fed back into my own practice and has allowed me a continued (re)inspiration / renewal."

From Back From Front stage 2 development / Photographer: Heidrun Lohr / Performers: Elizabeth Ryan, Sohon Ubrich