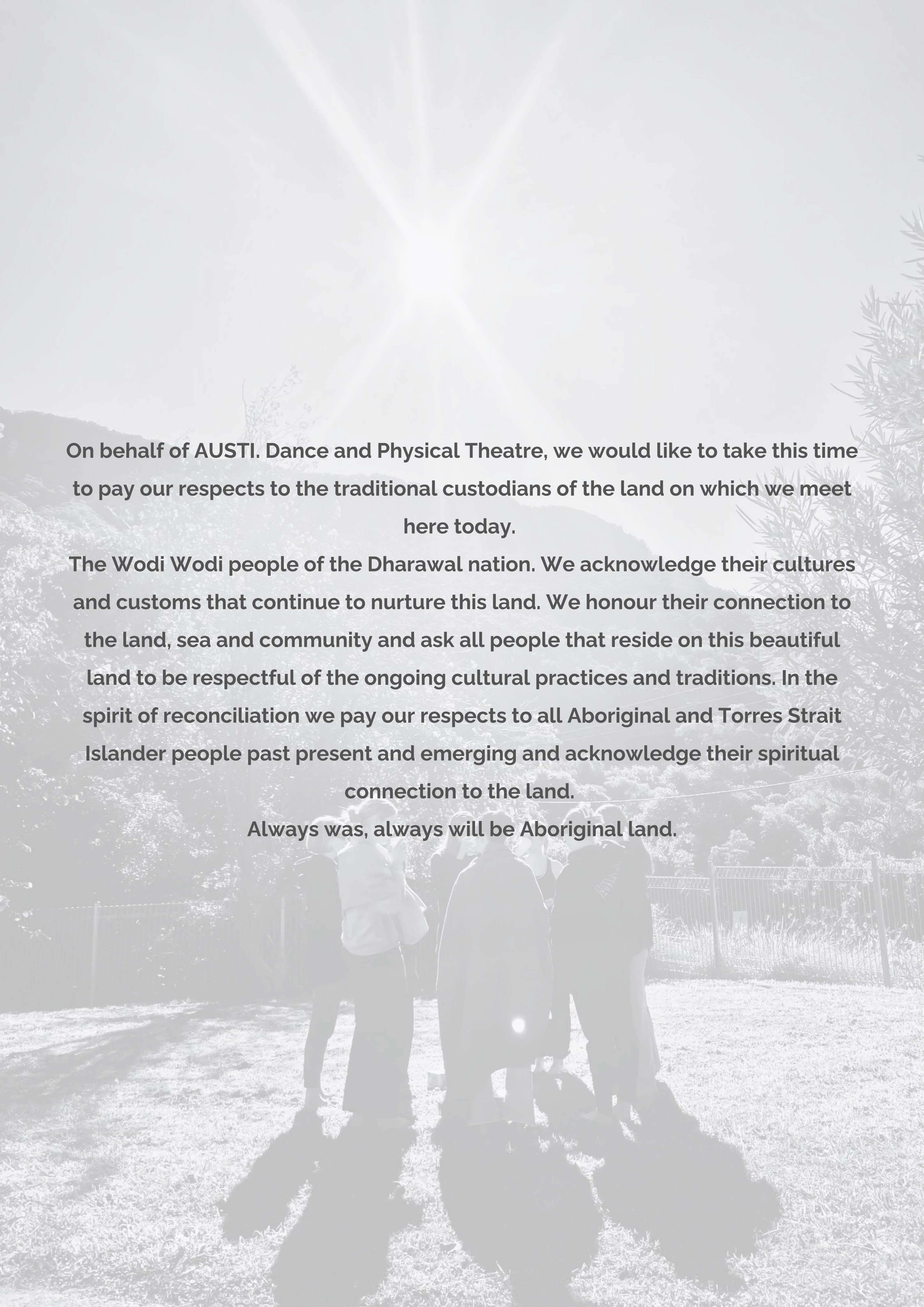


AUSTI. Dance and Physical Theatre presents

THIS MUCH IS TRUE


17th & 18th May 2024
at Illawara Performing Arts Centre



On behalf of AUSTI. Dance and Physical Theatre, we would like to take this time to pay our respects to the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet here today.

The Wodi Wodi people of the Dharawal nation. We acknowledge their cultures and customs that continue to nurture this land. We honour their connection to the land, sea and community and ask all people that reside on this beautiful land to be respectful of the ongoing cultural practices and traditions. In the spirit of reconciliation we pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people past present and emerging and acknowledge their spiritual connection to the land.

Always was, always will be Aboriginal land.



**Raw unfiltered truths (and untruths) shape our lives.
A canvas of complexities woven into the fabric of our
existence.**

Featuring 2 new works choreographed by French-born Australian
dance artist Cloé Fournier and Artistic Director Michelle Maxwell in
collaboration with AUSTI's 2024 company artists,

"This Much Is True" invites you to witness a convergence of
physical prowess, emotional depth, dialogue, dance and human
experience.

SYDFEST 2024

6-26 JAN

MADE IN AUSTRALIA
MADE BY ARTISTS
MADE ON EORA NATION
MADE WITH HOPE
MADE FOR SYDNEY

Rien & other nothings

Choreographed By Cloé Fournier

Rien*.

Space. Time. Absence of.

Searching for what will never be known...

Silence. One step. Two steps. And a big black void.

The asterisk which means nothing.

Blank.

The little things. Ten of them.

Bodies spread; Going nowhere.

Soon.

The murmur of frivolities,

The dance of non-sense.

To feel not. To feel more.

Back and forth and forth is back.

Decay for two.

The end is not when Rien is here.

Big bang! Rewind.

Hypothetically, nothing is something

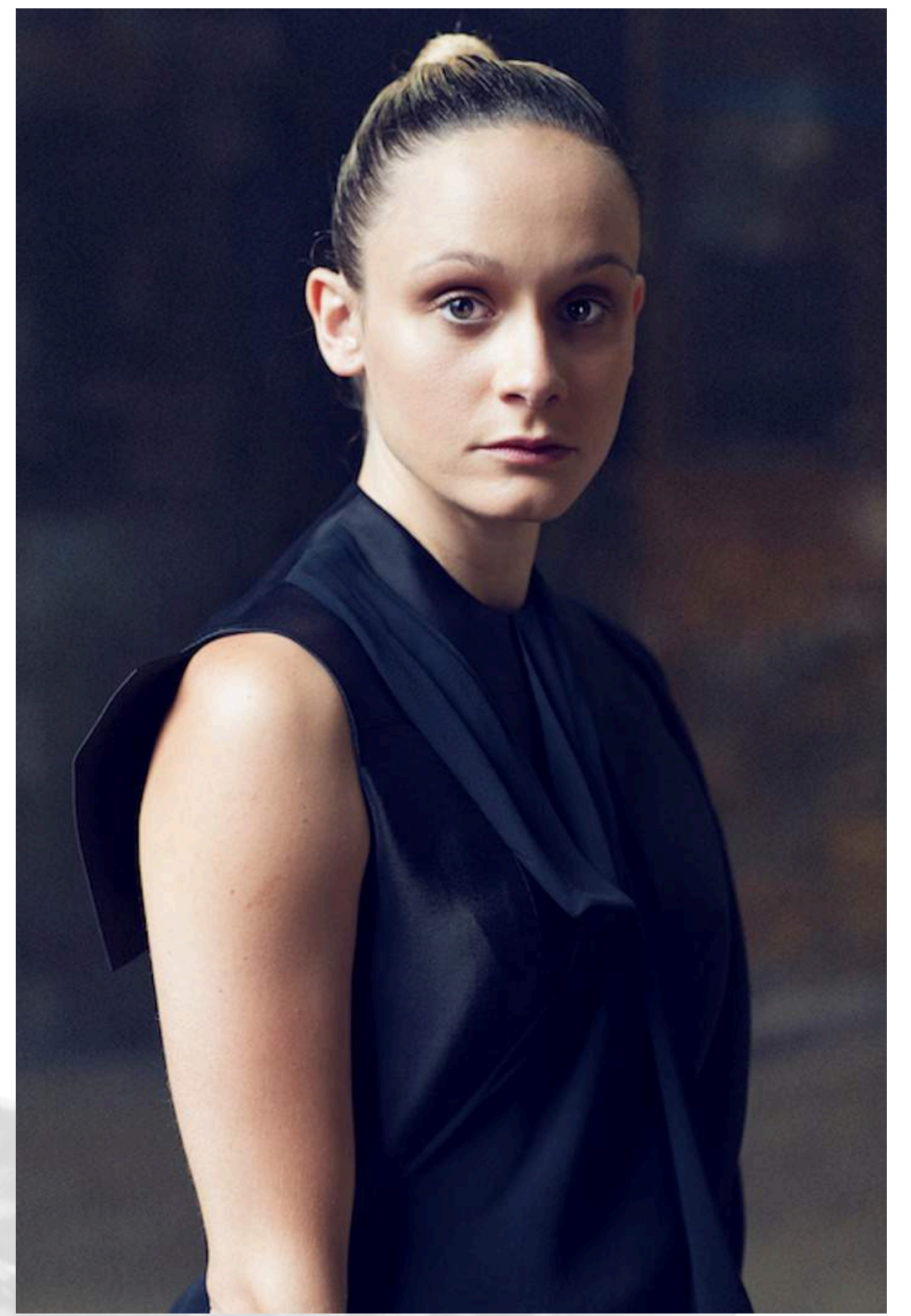
And it is already a lot.



Music: Light Effect by Nicolas Stocker, Colored by Nicolas Stocker, Yearning by Areni Agbabian And Nicolas Stocker, Ces petits riens by Serge Gainsbourg, Leila au Pays du Carrousel by Anouar Brahem:

Cloé Fournier

Cloé Fournier is a French-born Australian dance artist based on Gadigal Land. Her current practice involves a few slashes: choreography/direction/performance (dance, physical theatre, acting)/dramaturgy/a bit of writing/teaching/producing and probably more...



Her constant existential crisis, drives her to oscillate between worlds. But, she is slowly building her own under Cloé [F] Projects. Cloé's work is rooted in dance while spanning across theatre and visual arts. Cloé has performed in major international festivals in Australia and overseas and worked with acclaimed companies, choreographers, directors and visual artists.



"Thank you to Hamed Sadeghi."

UnFILTERED

Concept & Direction by Michelle Maxwell

RUMOURS. SPECULATION. HEARSAY.

UnFiltered examines the evolution of gossip, exploring its profound impact on society. From survival mechanisms to the stigmatisation of women in today's world, the complexities of communication have an enduring influence on our collective consciousness.



Music: Chairman by Ori Lichtik, Breathe. by Travis Lake, Thule by Travis Lake, Cadence by Travis Lake, StruBe by Ori Lichtik, Sin by Travis Lake

Michelle Maxwell

Michelle Maxwell is Artistic Director of AUSTI. Dance and Physical Theatre, an accomplished teacher and choreographer. Her driving passion for working with young dancers, giving them professional opportunities, mentorship and guidance is infectious. Michelle studied ballet full-time at the Sall Academy of Dancing, before attending Sydney's Bodenwieser Dance Centre, working with Margaret Chapple, Jane Beckett, and Patrick Harding Irmer among others. Her creative practice historically reflects real-life situations, world events, or personal experiences. This is clearly reflected in her choreographic history, including works based on concepts as diverse as the New York subway, Neuroplasticity, waiting for a bus in Kenya, and life in the Gaza Strip.

Michelle's choreographic work for AUSTI. Dance and Physical Theatre includes; Aggravated Disruption (2011) While We Wait (2012), Critical Shift (2013), REWYRED (2014), LOCKEDIN (2015), Odyssey (2016), EnTrance (2018), Life Interrupted (2019) and Sifting (2021). These pieces have humbly shared the stage with leading international and national choreographers for local and en tour productions at the Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide Fringe Festivals, receiving rave reviews.



“Thank you to our incredible 2024 AUSTI. artists who have contributed so freely to this process. Your willingness to explore new processes is inspirational and it is truly a gift to witness your transformation.”

Special thank you’s to former AUSTI. artists, Kate Arber and Natalie Cunzolo for providing that critical outside eye, which I crave in the creative process. Adelaide College of the Arts Secondee, Ella Molloy for sharing your dramaturgical insight, Kingsley Reeve for weaving your magic with my sound, and the adorable Sammy Read for your stunning lighting design.”

COMPANY DANCERS

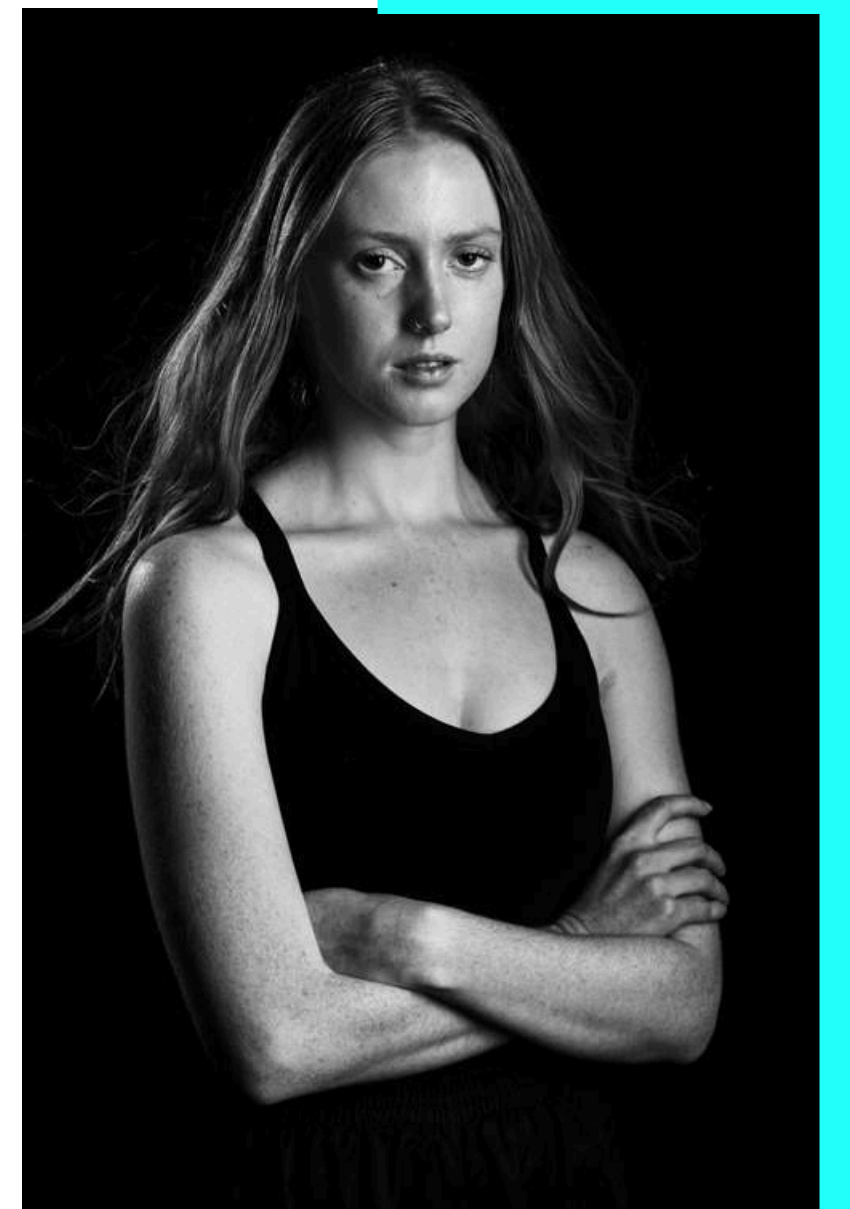
JENAYA GLADMAN

Jenaya grew up in the Sutherland Shire, training since age 4 in a variety of styles at Dance Kinetic School of Performing Arts. Here, she gained skills in both technical dance performance and choreography, and found her passion for contemporary dance and its ability to express ideas through movement. Jenaya successfully completed HSC Dance in 2023, receiving 3x Callback nominations for her core performance, core composition and major study performance. Joining AUSTI. Dance and Physical Theatre as a 2024 company artist, Jenaya aims to further her love of performing and expand her versatility through exploring different styles of contemporary dance.



TARA GILMOUR

Tara began her dance journey in her home town of Nowra on the South Coast of New South Wales at South Coast Institute of Performing Arts under the direction of Nirvana James Ricci. Tara trained in various styles from a young age, including ballet, contemporary, tap and jazz. In 2023 she joined AUSTI. Dance and Physical Theatre as a company artist, working with choreographers such as Timothy Farrar, LeeAnne Litton and Raul Pita Caballero. She was fortunate enough to tour with AUSTI. to Canberra for 'Meet Up' facilitated by QL2 and Brisbane to join Australian Dance Collectives youth season 'Echo'. Tara is excited to work with AUSTI. in 2024 as a second year company artist.



FREYA LOCKE PATERSON

Growing up dancing, Freya has both a passion and appreciation for the arts. She trained under a variety of styles, with a special fondness of ballet and contemporary and training up to Advanced 2 of the Royal Academy of Dance, under the guidance of exceptional teachers. One of Freya's favourite artistic memories include dancing in the Premier State Ballet's production of Sleeping Beauty. She loves learning and gaining inspiration from her peers; dance is not just a passion but a journey of self-expression. Freya believes that you only have the ability to reach your full potential when you're comfortable and confident in yourself.



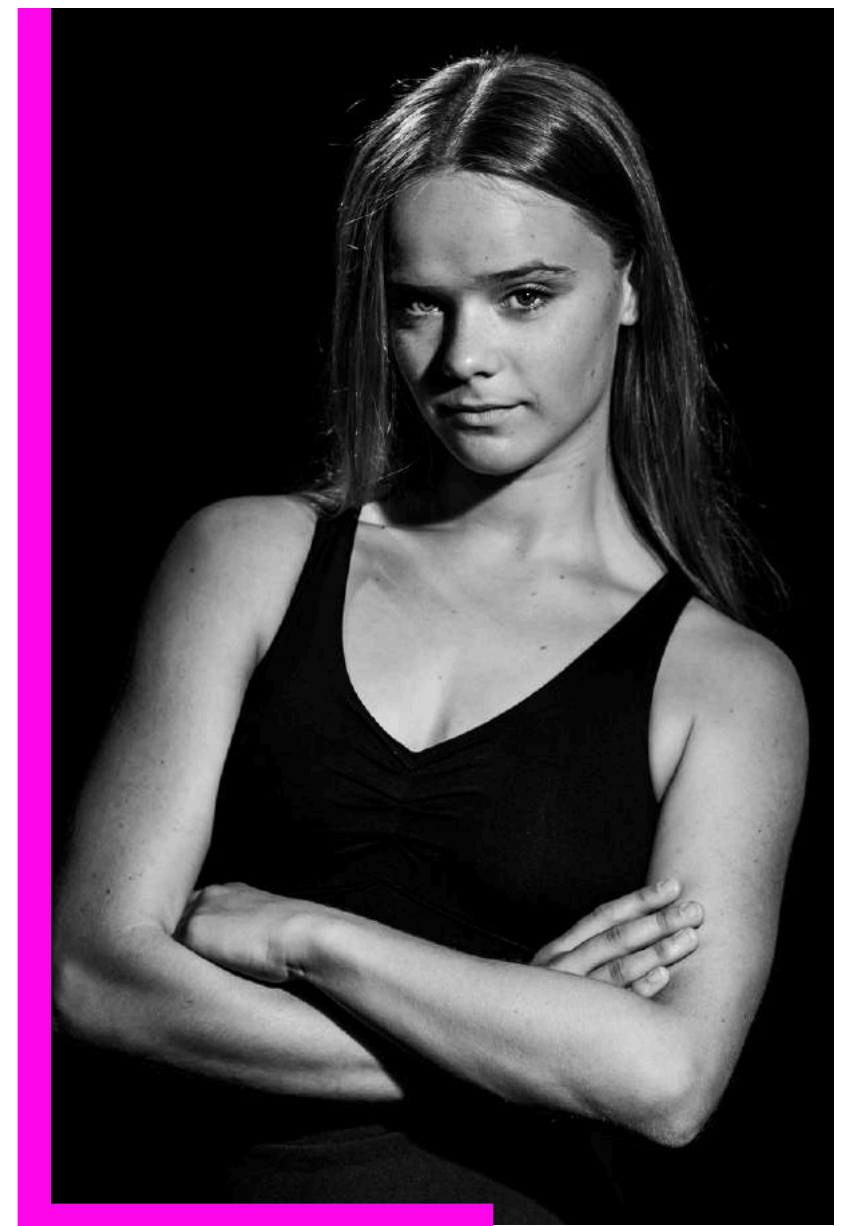


FIONA LARKIN

Fiona is a Sydney based dance artist, living, and working on Gadigal land. Fiona completed a Bachelor of Dance Performance at the Academy of Music and Performing Arts (AMPA). During this time, she was given her first choreographic opportunity, creating 'Weathered Heart', a contemporary piece exploring the physiological implications of Broken Heart Syndrome. Since graduating, Fiona has continued training with AUSTI. Dance and Physical Theatre, immersing herself in national dance opportunities and the choreographic process of various industry professionals including Timothy Farrar, LeeAnne Litton and Raul Pita Caballero. Fiona has also enjoyed partaking in Sydney-based and international projects including 'Partita' (Genevieve Morris) with Dancing Under the Influence (DUTI) and 'Train Escape' (Francesca Gozdek) with Interchange Dance Projects. Returning to AUSTI., Fiona aims to expand her creative capacity, exploring new ideas and different movement styles.

SUGAR MACGILLIVRAY

Sugar discovered her love of dance at a young age in her hometown of Ocean Grove, Victoria. In 2017, Sugar commenced her formative ballet training with the Queensland Ballet Academy Senior Program. She then fostered her love of ballet through six years of full-time pre-professional training at South Melbourne's Ballet Theatre Australia, under the direction of Leeanne Rutherford, Oleg Timursin and Ben Davis. In addition to classical training during this time, Sugar performed contemporary works by Samantha Hines, Ashley Mclellan and Louise Deleur, developing a strong passion for creating expressive storytelling through abstract movement. Sugar seeks to further explore the realms of contemporary dance as she joins AUSTI. Dance and Physical Theatre as a company member in 2024.



SOPHIE RICHARDS

Sophie was born and is based in the Illawarra region, where in 2023 she completed her high school studies at Wollongong High School for the Performing Arts (WHSPA) Sophie was granted the opportunity to choreograph on year 9 students at WHSPA showcase concluding the 2023 season, creating her work 'Footprint'. Sophie's love for contemporary dance continues to grow as she develops her style as a 2nd year company member for AUSTI. Dance and Physical Theatre. During her apprenticeship with AUSTI. in 2023 she worked alongside choreographer Timothy Farrar, Lee Anne Litton in the production of 'Constant', as well as the creation of 'uNCOILED eXposed' working with Jessica Hewett and Buddy Malbasias. She is also a recent graduate of the Ev&Bow Youth Company program..





HANNAH MOURIN

Sydney-based dance artist Hannah has training in various genres and disciplines. Hannah's formative training occurred at Harbour Performing Arts Centre in Coffs Harbour, where she completed RAD ballet exams up to Advanced 2 and developed her love for contemporary dance. She recently completed a Bachelor of Dance degree under Dr. Maya Gavish at the Academy of Music and Performing Arts, collaborating with renowned choreographers such as Raul Tamež. She also choreographed 'Shallow Pockets,' featured as part of AMPA's 2023 mid-year show 'IN FLUX', which received high acclaim. Hannah is passionate about discovering the limits of the body and how much it can truly convey.

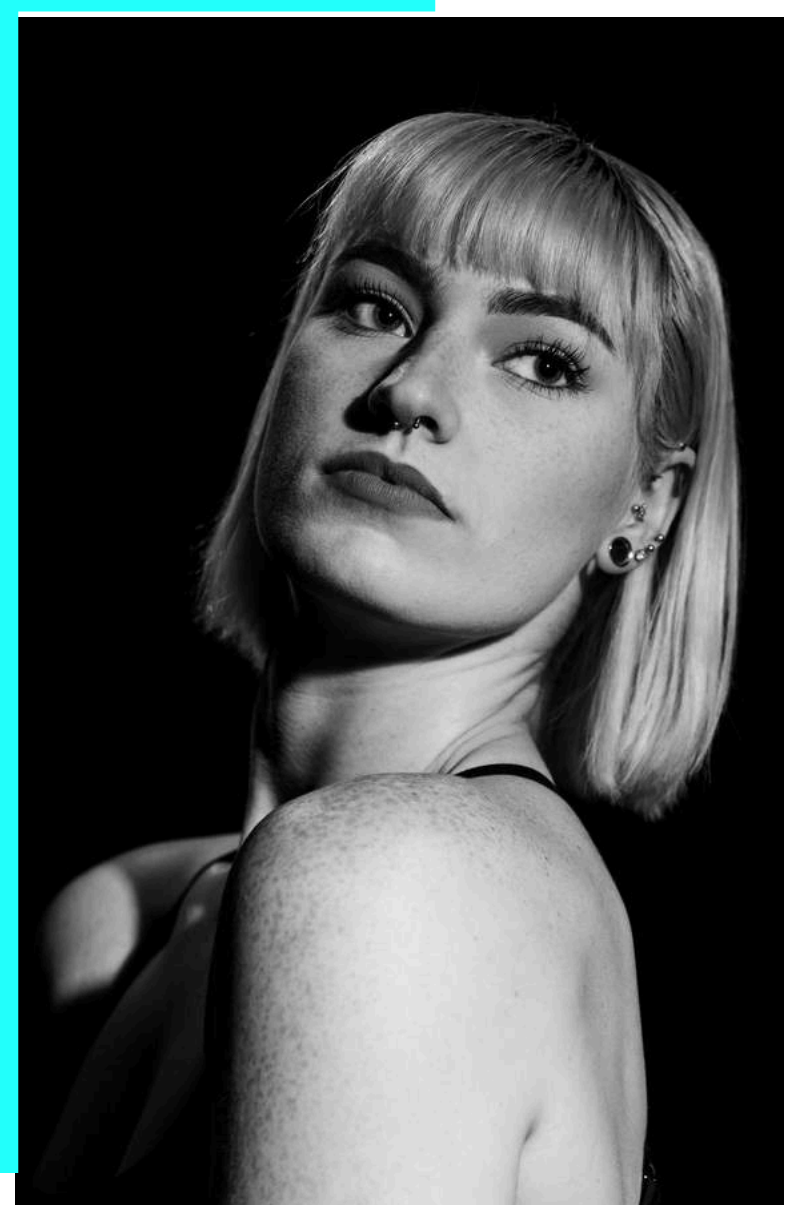
BELLA LOPES DI OLIVIERA

Bella is an Australian/ Brazilian dancer, raised in the Illawarra. She is currently a second year company member with AUSTI, Dance and Physical Theatre, under the direction of Michelle Maxwell. A passion for classical dance led Bella to study ballet full time at Classical Ballet 121 (Sydney) with Gillian Revie (former Royal Ballet soloist). During her time at Classical Ballet B121, Bella competed in two choreographic competitions winning first place in both with a mark of 100 and completed a Diploma of Dance (Elite Performance). From 2021-2022 Bella trained internationally at The European School of Ballet and The National Ballet of Canada before returning home in search of contemporary pathways. Since performing with AUSTI, Bella has worked with notable choreographers including Timothy Farrar, Raul Pita and Bonnie Curtis, performed in 'Constant' and 'uNCOILED eXposed' seasons and toured to Canberra and Brisbane.



COURTNEY ALLERTON

Courtney is a Wollongong-based artist working with companies AUSTI, Dance and Physical Theatre, Legs On The Wall, and Bonnie Curtis Projects. Born and raised in Sydney's inner west, she started her formative training at Mary Geer Academy of Dance. She went on to train at the Academy of Performing Arts (AMPA) with renowned choreographers such as Kay Armstrong, Emma Saunders, and Lee-Anne Litton, and has attended workshops at Catapult Choreographic Hub under the direction of Omer Backley-Astrachan and Tra Mi Dinh. Courtney performed in the Florence Dance Festival with Francesca Gozdek and in the Sydney Fringe and Pact Festival in works by Lucky Lartey in 2022. Having completed a Bachelor of Dance at AMPA, Courtney is furthering her education, studying for a Masters of Secondary Teaching in Dance at Excelsia College.



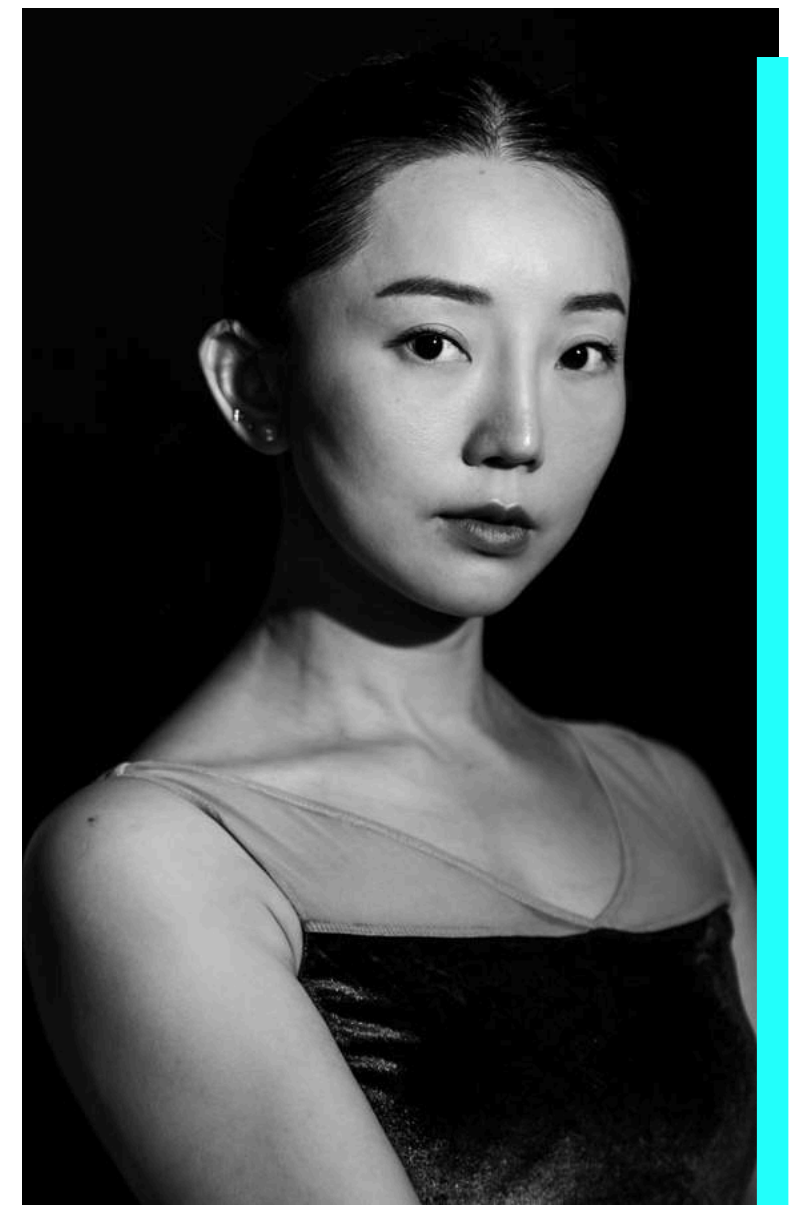


ELIZABETH APTER

Elizabeth was raised in the Illawarra where she completed her formative dance training at Evolve Performance Studios. She has trained prolifically in an array of styles. Elizabeth took advantage of every high school dance opportunity, leading her to become a featured dancer in Schools Spectacular, the Southern Stars Arena Spectacular and a member of the ISER Touring Ensemble and the NSW Public Schools State Dance Ensemble. She has worked with a range of acclaimed choreographers, including Angela Hamilton, Evie Morris and Hofesh Shechter Company. As a second year company member of AUSTI. Dance and Physical Theatre, she has discovered a passion for contemporary dance, cultivating her deep connection with the arts and a love for creating, expressing and moving others through dance.

LIA ZENG

Lia was born in Wuhan, China where she began her dance training at a young age in Chinese classical. In 2022, Lia moved to Sydney to study Contemporary Dance at the Academy of Music and Performing Arts, where she is in her final year of a bachelor's degree in dance. She has worked with a range of artists such as Raul Tamez, Omer Backley-Astrachan, Marina Tamayo, Victor Zarallo, Lee-Anne Litton and Anton Projects. Moreover, she had lead roles in works by Raul Tamez, Omer Backley-Astrachan and Michelle Maxwell. Lia is a passionate dance educator and professional dancer. In 2018, Lia trained at American Dance Festival at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, and worked with choreographer Blakele McGuire. In 2015, Lia founded her own dance school which mainly engages in pre-professional training of contemporary, ballet, and Chinese dance.



AUSTI. has some special thank you's for the incredible team that contributed to the 2024 May season, 'This Much is True'

To Sammy Read for lighting design and technical operation.

To Merrigong Theatre Co. for hosting us in their space.

To Simon Bergner and NSPC for their ongoing support and sponsorship.

To photographer Simone Coleman and videographer Nick Hollman for their continued support and for capturing AUSTI's shows so beautifully.

To Cloé Fournier for sharing her expertise and creativity with us.

To Chelsea Byrne for her hard work organising us all the way from Melbourne.

To our incredible board for their belief, support and commitment in all that AUSTI. does and stands for.

And to Michelle Maxwell, for leading AUSTI. Dance and Physical Theatre with her whole heart.

Thank you from the AUSTI. Company

ABOUT AUSTI.

Our mission for AUSTI. Dance & Physical Theatre is to act as a stepping stone for all dancers looking to enter the professional dance industry. We build strong, confident artists through passion and commitment, giving them the physical and inner strength required to achieve their dreams in an environment where training, technique, support and encouragement are the key to future success.

Our company aims to provide artists with professional experience on a local, national and international scale without the commitment of full-time training programs. We aim to be geographically and financially available to all artists who aspire to great things but are unable to reach the opportunities that are vital to their professional career. AUSTI. offers these artists performance opportunities and industry experience closer to home until they are able to venture further afield.

Through the endless support and passion for dance shown by our artistic director, Michelle Maxwell and our internationally renowned patron, Maurice Causey, AUSTI. has jumped from strength to strength since its establishment in 2011. An invigorated program was introduced in 2022 to include physical theatre, an essential practice in order to remain progressive and accessible and ensure artists are audition ready. As our company begins to grow, we look to extend our reach to regional and remote areas to provide that first step for many incredible artists around Australia and the Pacific region.

Keen to support the future of dance and physical theatre in the Illawarra and the next generation of Australian dance artists?

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)



Supporting AUSTI since 2020

NISPC

**NATIONAL STRENGTH
PERFORMANCE CENTRE**