



DANCE GIVEN BOOST IN FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

Cairns, 25th March, 2015 – An artist residency, workshop and performance program will today be launched by the Centre of Contemporary of Arts (CoCA), positioning it as the dynamic home of dance in Far North Queensland over the next two years.

The sister organisation to the Judith Wright Centre in Brisbane, CoCA is set to bring a number of world class dance performances to the region, while also fostering local talent under the new initiative – Dance 15-16.

Charles Wiles, manager of the Centre of Contemporary Arts, said he was excited to unveil the program, describing it as all encompassing, showcasing not only performances, but also giving local performers development and workshop opportunities with some of the country's leading choreographers.

Dance 15-16, which is being facilitated by the New Move Network, which is made up of a consortium of independent dance artists in partnership with key stakeholders – the Centre of Contemporary Arts Cairns, and Ausdance Queensland.

“It is this partnership that was awarded a grant of \$99,240 from the Australia Council, however with additional contributions from the partners, this project is now valued at \$300,000 over the two years.

“The result of this, is one of the most exciting dance programs to ever be developed in the region. Aiming to encourage local performers, including Indigenous dance companies such as Biddigal Performing Arts, to foster presentation and showcase their work to a broader audience,” Mr Wiles said.

The program is further supported by James Cook University and Nintiringanyi Cultural Training Centre.

“Together we will all work in mutual support of a creative and culturally ambitious program encompassing new works at varying phases of development in a bid to stimulate sustainability and market development opportunities for contemporary expression in Northern Australia,” he added.

Rebecca Youdell, who is the project coordinator, said she was delighted to see Dance 15-16 attract so much partner support from across all tiers of government, key industry stakeholders and the education sector.

“Combining key practitioners and partnerships, Dance 15-16 will support independent artists in their practice to present new works, residencies, masterclasses, and engage in industry dialogue and audience discussions,” she added.

Cont...p/2



NewMoveNetwork



centre of
contemporary arts
cairns



Cont...p/2

Touring shows under negotiation include Joseph Simon's First Things First, Sue Healey's installation and performance work On View, Queensland-based independent artist Claire Marshall's Flaunt and Gavin Webber's Cock Fight, among others.

Four choreographic residencies will be based at The Space at CoCA, and masterclasses will be held by Brisbane-based dance artist Lisa Wilson, Sydney-based artist Sue Healey and Australia Council 2012 Dance Fellow Gary Lang, among others.

"The creative, theatrical opportunity for dance artists of national repute residing in this region, and the potential for transformative pathways for young and emerging artists is a fertile mix," Ms Youdell said.

There will be plenty of opportunities with some of Australia's acclaimed dancers starting with First Things First – a one-man show by Joseph Simons.

He will offer a workshop (Monday, March 30), as well as two performances today, Tuesday, March 31, at 11am and 7.30pm as part of the Dance 15-16 program.

Expressions of interest will be available for choreography residencies in 2016, with each residency worth approximately \$8000 of development costs.

ENDS

NewMoveNetwork



Bonemap



KICK
CONTEMPORARY
ARTS



centre of contemporary arts | cairns



New Move Network 2015 is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Art, its arts funding and advisory body.

NewMoveNetwork



centre of
contemporary arts
cairns



MEDIA CALL

Tuesday, March 31
10am
Centre of Contemporary Arts
96 Abbott Street
Cairns

Interview Opportunities:

Charles Wiles
Manager of the Centre of Contemporary Arts

Marilyn Miller
Spokesperson for Australia Council. She was also the co-founder, dancer/choreographer of Australia's first Indigenous mainstream Company, Aboriginal Islander Dance Theatre - the Company.

Rebecca Youdell
Project Coordinator - New Move Network

Vision:

Biddigal Performing Arts. This incredible, local Indigenous dance company blew audiences away with Biddigal Dream at Cairns Festival in 2014, they are back to do it all again.

Nationally acclaimed performance First Things First by Joseph Simons will also commence at 11am in the foyer. Footage from this can also be obtained.

Photographic Opportunities:

Biddigal Performing Arts
Charles Wiles
Joseph Simon (candid shots of his performance in the foyer at 11am)

NewMoveNetwork



centre of contemporary arts | cairns



New Move Network 2015 is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Art, its arts funding and advisory body.