



Catapult Dance Choreographic Hub

2020 HERE WE COME



Newcastle's Professional Contemporary Dance Organisation

Catapult Company: Newcastle's Professional Dance Company

Propel: Professional Artist in Residence Programs

International/Regional Professional Choreographic Residencies

The Flipside Project: Catapult's Youth Dance & Choreographic Initiative

Awarded Australian Dance Award: Outstanding Achievement in Youth Dance

Catapult Community:

Professional Dance Classes

Pre-Professional Classes

Master-Classes & Workshops

Children, Youth & Adult Classes

Schools & Community Workshops

Teacher Professional Development

www.catapultdance.com.au

880 Hunter St, Newcastle West





MIXED-BILL: A night of exceptional contemporary dance

***Four Incredible Australian choreographers:
Adam Blanch, Kristina Chan, Craig Bary, Omer Backley-
Astrachan***

***Four new contemporary dance works on
Catapult's professional company***

NEWCASTLE Composers: Zackari Watt & James Hazel

***Catapult Dancers - Skip Willcox, Allie Graham, Georgia Van
Gils, Mikayla Nangle, Alexandra Ford, Nicholas Jachno, Eliza
Cooper, Ella Driene***

NEWCASTLE Civic Theatre: March 6th & 7th @ 7.30pm

Newcastle Tickets Available:

<https://civictheatrenewcastle.com.au/Season-2019/Season-Shows/Mixed-Bill-by-Catapult-Dance>

***SYDNEY ARC Darling Quarter Theatre: March 8th @ 7pm
Sydney Tickets Available Now:***

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/mixed-bill-sydney-season-catapult-dance-choreographic-hub-tickets-86294094961?aff=ebdssbeac



Photo Credit: Paul Dear - Towards Silence (rehearsals)

*Supported by Create NSW, City of Newcastle, Monkey Baa, Sidney Myer Foundation &
March Dance Festival*

MIXED -BILL
OPEN -STUDIO EVENT
with OMER BACKLEY-ASTRACHAN
HUMAN REMAINS

JANUARY 24th 2020



Photo Credit: Paul Dear - Human Remains (rehearsals)

5 minutes with...
Choreographer Omer Backley-Astrachan.
with Belle Beasley

The new decade has got off to a powerful, visceral and exploratory start with the presence of Omer Backley-Astrachan in the Catapult house.

The Israeli-born choreographer, who now calls Sydney home, brings his unique energy and vision to Catapult to create brand new work.

Working with five talented dancers of the Catapult company, the piece “Human Remains” touches on the fragmentation of a fragile humanity.

Through Omer’s distinctive choreographic lens, the dancers pull apart and piece back together elements of cultural identity. The work is simultaneously a breaking down, and a rebuilding.

Omer chats to us at Catapult about why this dystopian work is not beautiful- and therefore, is.

QUESTIONS:

B: So, Omer, tell us about the inspiration for this piece? What was your initial stimulus for the birth of this work?

O: Human Remains is a continuation of my work dealing with humanity in this era of turmoil. This refers to my own humanity, as well as that of my dance collaborators. This piece in particular focuses greatly around our shared concern for our planet's future. Coming from Israel, I also enjoy working from a point of tension between the Australian and Israeli cultures. There are many interesting meeting points and historical overlaps. But despite cultural differences, at a psychological and spiritual level we have similar desires and fears. In this work I wanted to see what happens if we divert our focus from the story of the individual which is sometimes our go-to as contemporary artists and concentrate on our shared selves. My inspiration has been to experiment in breaking down some human characteristics such as culture, identity and social structures and then try to glue it back together to see what humanity remained in the end. Well, in the case of this work, not such a pleasant outcome.

B: I see. Have there been elements of this creative process that were previously unexplored?

O: I tackled choreography in a way that was very new to me. We produced heaps of material in the first week without caring too much about what it means. We created an abundance of interesting images and movement phrases. Then the work was created through a process of distillation, refining and layering rather than a linear process of building and adding. This proved extremely enjoyable and also very beautiful.

B: How have you found working with the dancers of Catapult Choreographic Hub? How does the energy within the space and the dancers affect the creative process?

O: I had a profound journey with the five company dancers. This work depended so heavily on their creative input and there was not one day in the process where they didn't offer their entire world of imagination and playfulness. We laughed, cried, shouted, sang, stomped, spoke and so much more in a space of only three weeks. This was enriched and enabled by the creative input of Artistic Director Cadi McCarthy who joined in many of the rehearsals. The atmosphere in Catapult is cozy and friendly which allows my creative juices to flow. I can't wait to see this work on stage in only a few weeks' time.

B: Thanks so much for your time, we are all excited to see this piece come to fruition!

Catch 'Human Remains' in Catapult Dance Company's 'Mixed Bill.' Premieres at the Civic Theatre on the 6th of March.



photo credit: Paul Dear

***Something to Do,
Someone to Love,
Something to Look***

Forward too.

Catapult is heading to Sweden

*Artistic Director: Cadi McCarthy &
Catapult dancers: Skip Willcox and
Allie Graham will be heading to
Sweden in April to continue the
collaboration with Lee Brummer:
Associate Director of "ilDance"
(Sweden) that commenced at
Catapult in December 2018.*

*This will be the second stage of the
partnership that includes 2 residencies
in Sweden and the premiere of the
work: **Something to Do, Someone to
Love, Something To Look Forward
To**, in Stockholm before touring
Sweden*



Catapult Timetable 2020

**All Class Participants must become a
Catapult member: \$30 per annum**

Creative Kids and Active Kids Vouchers can be
used at Catapult

Monday's

Private lessons Available: 4pm & 5pm

Adult Beginner/Intermediate Contemporary:

6 -7.15 pm

Tuesday's

Private lesson Available: 4pm

Junior Contemporary: 4-5pm (8+ years)

Intermediate Contemporary: 5-6pm

Yoga for Everyone: 6-7.15pm (15+ years)

Wednesday's

Adult Beginner Ballet: 4.00pm – 5.15pm

Intermediate/Advanced Ballet: 5.30-6.45pm
(12+years)

Intermediate/Advanced Contemporary: 7.00.-
8.15pm (12+years)

Thursday's

Private lesson Available: 4pm

Advanced Ballet: 5.30-6.30pm

Advanced Contemporary: 6.30-7.45pm

Senior Flipside Project: 7.45 – 9pm

(by invitation only)

Friday's

Creative Movement and Contemporary Dance: 4-
4.45pm (5-8years)

Junior Intermediate Contemporary: 5 – 6pm (9+
years)

**Junior Flipside Project: 6-
7.15pm (by invitation only)**

CLASSES ARE PRICED AS FOLLOWS:

Casual Class: **\$15**

Class Card: **5 classes for \$60** (card can be used
any time in a 10 week term)

OR

Term Fees:

1 class per week: \$100 for 10 weeks

5 + classes per week: \$500 for 10 weeks

Private Lessons : \$65 per hour



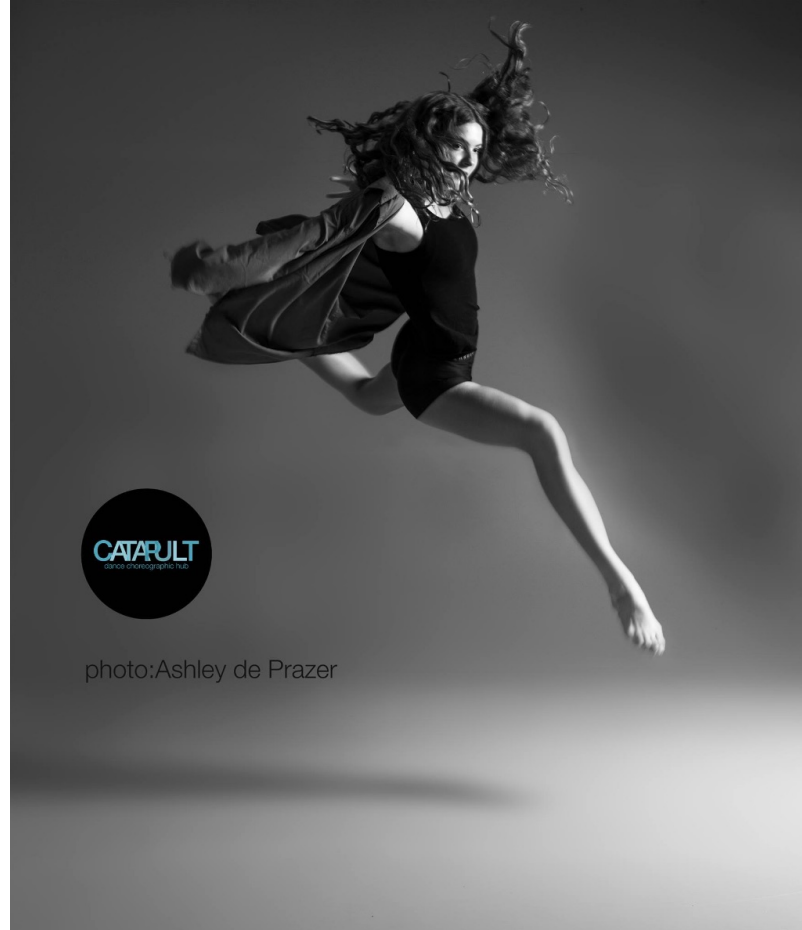
Contact: enquiries@catapultdance.com.au

As we are a not-for profit organisation, in 2020 it will be necessary to register for an Annual Membership to attend any of Catapult's classes and or programs.

Membership is \$30, lasts for the whole year

As we are a professional arts organisation, classes may be cancelled due to performances or events at Catapult studios.

Please keep an eye on the Catapult Facebook page.



PROPEL CHOREOGRAPHIC RESIDENCIES

**CRITICAL
PATH RESIDENCY PARTNERSHIP
MESS & RE/COLLECT -
Performances: March 21st & 22nd
- Critical Path: Sydney**

Catapult's professional dancers and



choreographers: Skip Willcox, Allie Graham, Mikayla Nangle & Alexandra Ford will have residencies and present their works: **Mess & Re/Collect** as a Double Bill program at Critical Path, Sydney as part of the March Dance Festival.

MESS

Mess captures the glamour, melodrama, and absurdity of a golden era. The work explores the dichotomous persona of the femme fatale and the ingenue. Mess is the sweetness and wild physical discomfort, all hidden beneath the laboured pursuit of beauty and heady mythologised love.

CHOREOGRAPHERS/PERFORMERS:

Allie Graham & Skip Willcox

Partners:

Critical Path, Create NSW, March Dance Festival

RE/COLLECT

Re/Collect unveils the notion of our inherent susceptibility to the distortion of memories throughout our lives. How our perceptions of events can change and through retrospect, we are able to alter and further create meaning to these memories, despite them being fixed in time.

CHOREOGRAPHERS/PERFORMERS

Mikayla Nangle & Alexandra Ford

Partners:

Critical Path, Newcastle Art Gallery, City of Newcastle, Create NSW, Sidney Myer Foundation, March Dance Festival



Photo Credits: Emalyn Knight



Photo Credits: Ashley de Prazer

THE FLIPSIDE PROJECT

WHOSE WORLD IS IT ANYWAY?

**LAC: Museum of Art and Culture
Lake Macquarie**

April 2nd, 3rd & 4th @ 6pm & 7.30pm

Senior Ensemble & Junior Ensembles

A site-specific work responding to the HSC exhibition First Class.

Flipside Ensembles will create a number of works that will traverse the gallery spaces in collaboration with professional choreographers.

Choreographers: **Alexandra Ford, Cadi McCarthy, Mikayla Nangle, Alexandra Ford & Kiara MacDonald**

Composers: Zackari Watt & James Hazel

Supported by: Create NSW, LAC



Photo Credits: Ashley de Prazer

Fragile Terrain: Newcastle Art Gallery 2019

CATAPULT IS SUPPORTED BY:



Photo Credit: Ashley de Prazer

Dancers: Alexandra Ford



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