

SENIOR CONTEMPORARY DANCE PROGRAM

COURSE OUTLINE

“Technical brilliance happens
only when creative
awareness is cultivated.
Through considered training,
the whole artist is developed.”

LINDA GAMBLIN
HEAD OF TRAINING
SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY

Claire Abajjah-Griffin
(Sydney Dance Company Pre-Professional Year 2017)

 Pedro Greig

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Senior Contemporary Dance Program in association with Sydney Dance Company and The McDonald College.

The Senior Contemporary Dance Program will enable students in Years 10 – 12 to engage in training in all aspects of Contemporary Dance whilst continuing academic studies through to the NSW Higher School Certificate.

All classes will be delivered at The McDonald College by industry specialists that are proficient at working in an inclusive and mixed-level, diverse environment.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Students will develop technical skills and artistry while working with a variety of choreographers and educators pioneering their art form. Skills learned in the three main focus areas will support students development in a holistic framework that allows growth in the individual.

1

FOCUS AREA: TECHNIQUE

Implementing ideas from biomechanics and applied anatomy will expand the mind and body to find efficiency of movement. Techniques such as Pilates, Classical Ballet, Yoga and other Contemporary practises are explored to embody a strong and authentic physicality.

2

FOCUS AREA: CREATIVITY

Through creative play the choreographic process will be demystified. By exploring various improvisation skills and methodologies students will enhance their performative presence. In this collaborative environment students will be active creators in their choreographic developments.

3

FOCUS AREA: PERFORMANCE

With a performance outcome in mind, students will flourish communicating their ideas and abilities worked on throughout the year. Being present in this environment will highlight maturity and creativity cultivated throughout the program.

Students are encouraged to further their training at a tertiary level with the aim of attaining a Bachelor of Arts (Dance) degree or an Advanced Diploma of Dance (Elite Performance). Students may aspire to become an ensemble member of a fulltime dance company, an independent dancer, choreographer, director, dance educator, or an integral collaborator in any creative environment.

Tertiary pathways may include:

- Sydney Dance Company's Pre-Professional Year
- Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA)
- Victorian College of the Arts (VCA)
- Queensland University of Technology (QUT)
- New Zealand School of Dance
- NAISDA Dance College
- and other national and international classical and Contemporary full-time institutions offering accreditations.

Pathways into other arts degrees include visual arts, dramatic arts, film and photography, directing, dance education & research.



Gez Xavier Mansfield



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PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES AND INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

- The McDonald College High Performance Season
- Sydney Dance Company's Pre-Professional Year workshops and masterclasses.
- Viewing Sydney Dance Company studio and stage rehearsals.
- Attending Sydney Dance Company performances.

REQUIREMENTS

Students from diverse dance backgrounds, including classical and contemporary, are encouraged to apply

HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants are required to submit an [Application for Enrolment Form](#), along with supporting

documentation, to The McDonald College Registrar.

Successful applicants will be contacted in writing by the College Registrar within two weeks after the audition process is completed. Please note that all students are required to undertake an academic test as part of the audition process.

MORE INFORMATION

The McDonald College
17 George Street
North Strathfield 2137
(02) 9752 0507
registrar@mcdonald.nsw.edu.au
mcdonald.nsw.edu.au

CRICOS: 02293K