



PRESS RELEASE

21/10/2016

**ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PLACES
SYDNEY AT THE FOREFRONT OF INNOVATION IN DANCE TEACHING
AND PRACTICE**

Dance Teaching for the 21st Century: Practice and Innovation

**10 & 11 December, 2016
Sydney, Australia**

Cementing their reputation as a leader in dance education and training for almost a century, the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) announces a thought-provoking international programme ahead of **Dance Teaching for the 21st Century: Practice and Innovation** a conference in Sydney, Australia.

Dance Teaching for the 21st Century: Practice and Innovation brings together dance teachers, educators, researchers, historians and scholars from around the globe to explore practices and innovations within the context of dance teaching today.

As dance and dance pedagogies evolve, the RAD remains at the forefront of the field of dance teacher education and training. The Conference will answer questions such as how in today's rapidly-evolving dance ecology, do past practices inform current trends? And how recent innovations shape the way we learn and teach dance and ensure safe dance practices?

The conference presents a diverse range of national and international perspectives on vocational training, higher education, dance pedagogy, approaches to learning and dance science; with papers as provocative as; *Pirouettes vs the law of physics* and *Preparing leaders for the 21st Century*. There is also a practical element with workshops focussing on ballet repertoire and inclusive dance practice.

Speakers include **Dr Luke Hopper**, Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, **Dr Susan Cooper**, Lecturer in Dance Studies, Faculty of Education UK, **Philip Channells**, Dance Integrated Australia and **Dr Molly Faulkner**, Professor of Dance, Palomar College, San Marcos, California.

Michelle Groves, RAD Director Faculty of Education and Training will be delivering the keynote address. Michelle, originally from Australia is now based in London at RAD's global headquarters commented on the significance of the conference:

'While the teaching of dance quite rightly draws on a range of historical legacies which are core to many dance genres, current expectations from both within and outside the profession necessitates dance teachers embracing new ways of thinking, new approaches to doing, and a willingness to rethink practices which have been characteristic of their professional practice.'

David McAllister, Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet and Royal Academy of Dance Vice President will open the conference as guest speaker on Friday 9 December with an evening cocktail reception sponsored by **International Dance Supplies (IDS)** at Royal Academy of Dance, Australia headquarters in Darlinghurst.

- ENDS -

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Notes to Editors

Royal Academy of Dance

With 14,000 members spread across 85 countries, the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) is one of the largest and most influential dance education and training organisations in the world. Established in the 1920s in London to improve standards and re-invigorate dance training initially within the UK but now globally, the Academy has been a leading light for almost a century. It inspires its teachers with Continuing Professional Development to increase their knowledge and enhance their teaching skills and then pass this on to their students. There are currently over 1,000 students in full-time or part-time education and teacher training programmes with the Academy and each year the examination syllabus is taught to thousands of young people worldwide, with around a quarter of a million pupils per year going on to take our exams.

Conference 2016

The conference aims to address:

- Current local and international dance trends and practices in pedagogies for dance, education and training
- The role of past models of dance teacher training and education in current day practice
- Impact of innovation and technologies on the learning and teaching of dance
- Understanding the influence of dance heritage in today's rapidly evolving dance ecology
- Approaches for embedding safe dance practice in dance teacher training and education
- The role of other forms of training to support dancer and dance teacher education

Dance for the 21st Century: Innovation and Practice is kindly supported by:

- **IDS, International Dance Supplies**, Opening Cocktail Reception
- **Harlequin Floors**, Dance floor supplier to the conference workshop programme

Presenter Biographies

Dr Luke Hopper, Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts

Luke's PhD examined the biomechanics of dance and injury prevention at the University of Western Australia. Dr Hopper's work in dance science has involved several collaborations with international ballet companies and with industry partners Harlequin Floors. Luke continues to work with the International Association of Dance Medicine & Science and the Australian Society for Performing Arts Healthcare in the development and dissemination of health evidence in preventing injury and illness in performing artists. Dr Hopper is currently developing a health education and research program for the performing arts at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

Dr Susan Cooper, Lecturer in Dance Studies, Faculty of Education

Susan trained Royal Ballet School and is former ballet and contemporary dancer with Ballet Rambert (now Rambert Dance Company) and Scottish Ballet. She is a choreographer, teacher, and writer. Between 1983 and 2006, she was a tutor for the Royal Academy of Dance, including setting up and managing GCSE, AS and A2 Dance courses, College Workshop Director, Chairman of the Higher Grades 6 and 7 Panel, as well as teaching ballet, choreography, teaching practice, repertoire and creative dance amongst her areas of teaching. She was Head of Degree for the BA (Hons) Professional Dance and Musical Theatre at Urdang Academy between 2007 and 2016

Philip Channells, Dance Integrated Australia

Philip works across art forms including dance/theatre, film, performance installation, community art projects, site-specific work & artist in residencies with collaborators who value, challenge, redefine & inform our different perspectives of contemporary life. Some of his choreographic credits include: *ilk* (2016) – for Salamanca Moves; *Off The Record* (2016) – a Force Majeure collaboration; *Hyperreal Tales* (2016) – a Bundanon Local Project; *Behind the Façade* (2015) – for The Beyond Technique Residency; *PERFECT (im)PERFECTIONS* (2014) – for DansiT (Norway); *Second Skin* (2012–2013) – for the Catalyst Dance Masterclass Series; *Lythophytes & Epiphytes* (2012) – for the Australian Youth Dance Festival; *Next of Kin* (2010) for Restless Dance Theatre.

Dr Molly Faulkner, Professor of Dance, Palomar College, San Marcos, California

Molly Faulkner, Ph.D. is a Professor of Dance and former Chair of Performing Arts at Palomar College in San Marcos, California. She is a master teacher for Burklyn Ballet in Vermont, and a board member Corps de Ballet International. She had danced professionally for Ballet Arizona, Arizona Dance Theatre, Sesame Street Live (Grover), Tokyo Disneyland, and on the ABC Television Series *Young Riders*. She and Julia Gleich recently presented on the liminality and nomenclature of contemporary ballet at the *Contemporary Ballet: Exchanges, Connections and Directions* conference in NYC. Other research interests include educational leadership, feminist pedagogy in ballet, and comedy in dance.