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**ausDANCE**  
NSW

**Ausdance NSW formed  
Advisory group on Creative Ageing**

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**Creative Ageing  
Forum Pack**

**29 October 2018**

**Forum** 2:00pm - 5:00pm  
**Networking** 5:00pm - 6:00pm  
The Bunker Rooms  
The Arts Exchange  
10 Hickson Rd  
The Rocks, 2000

**Dr Katrina Rank**

Director of Education and Lifelong Learning,  
Ausdance Victoria

**Jessica Conneely**

Independent Artist, Dance4wellbeing

**Sonia York-Pryce**

PhD Candidate, Ageism and the Mature Dancer

**Gail Hewton**

Founder and Director, RIPE Dance

**Catherine Goss**

Sydney Coordinator and Teacher, Dance for Parkinson's

**Shelley Yacopetti**

Education & Engagement Manager, Royal Academy of Dance

**Beatriz Occhiuzzi**

Creative Director & Founder, Salsa for Seniors

**Gwen Korebrits**

Co-founder and CEO, Dance Health Alliance

**Liz Lea**

Director, BOLD Festival

**Sue Healey**

Choreographer and Filmmaker,  
Honorary Fellow Faculty Fine Arts and Music, University. Melbourne

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# Introduction

On Monday 29 October Ausdance NSW held the 'Creative Ageing Forum.' We consulted with our sector and brought together a cross-section of academics, producers and program providers to discuss their current practice and the challenges working within this rapidly growing sector of the Australian population.

- How do we ensure that we are legislating for safe practice and safe teaching?
- How do we quantify what the tangible benefits of social inclusion really are and move towards a model of social prescribing?
- What are the sector funding needs for established artists wanting to involve Elders in meaningful artistic activities?
- And what is the social construct around who the professional dancer is and how do we create access and opportunity to lifelong learning?

The forum hosted keynote presentations from Sue Healey and Dr Katrina Rank in association with Ausdance Victoria. Sue Healey showed her recent film created with mature artists, including Eileen Kramer. Dr Katrina Rank's discussed findings from her three-month study titled Leading and Teaching Dance to Ageing Populations.

They were joined by industry leaders; independent artist Jessica Conneely discussing Dance4wellbeing, Sonia York-Pryce discussing her PhD research 'Ageism and the Mature Dancer,' Gail Hewton founder and director of RIPE Dance; Catherine Goss, Sydney coordinator & teacher for Dance for Parkinson's; Shelley

Yacopetti, Education & Engagement Manager at the Royal Academy of Dance speaking on the Silver Swans Program; Beatriz Occhiuzzi, Creative Director & Founder of Salsa for Seniors; Gwen Korebrits, Co-founder and CEO of Dance Health Alliance and Liz Lea, Director of the BOLD Festival.

Ausdance NSW would like to thank all the presenters and attendees for supporting this important area of the dance sector.

If you are interested in or working in this sector and would like to discuss creative ageing, please contact [admin@dance.net.au](mailto:admin@dance.net.au)

# Dr Katrina Rank

Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, Ausdance Victoria



On 24 August 2018, Ausdance Victoria released findings from a three-month study titled Leading and Teaching Dance to Ageing Populations. Led by Dr Katrina Rank, this report aims to contextualise Victorian programs within the national and global trend to provide dance experiences to older people and to prepare the industry for future demand.

To read Dr Katrina Rank's paper go to [www.ausdancevic.org.au/dance-for-aging-populations/](http://www.ausdancevic.org.au/dance-for-aging-populations/)

To view Dr Katrina Rank's presentation [click here](#)

# Jessica Conneely

Director of Dance 4wellbeing

Artist and facilitator in mature age movement & dance



As a recipient of the Independent Dance Practice Grant 2017, Jess visited the UK to look at the state of play there, across the creative ageing sector.

Jessica discussed her recent findings on Mature Age Dance and additionally the benchmarking across various programs and delivery in NSW by Dance4wellbeing.

[www.dancingforwellbeing.org](http://www.dancingforwellbeing.org)

To view Jessica Conneely's presentation [click here](#)



# Sonia York Pryce

PhD Candidate, Queensland College of Art, Griffith University Brisbane



## Valuing the Older, Experienced Dancer

Sonia York-Pryce's study 'Ageism and the Mature Dancer,' has been researching the position of the professional older, experienced dancer within the Australian sector and comparing this to the access and participation available to senior professional dancers in Europe.

[www.soniayork-pryce.com](http://www.soniayork-pryce.com)

To view Sonia York-Pryce's presentation [click here](#)

# Gail Hewton

Founder & Director, RIPE Dance based in Queensland



**“Dance is an Elixir! Transforming older people’s lives”**

Using real life examples from her practice, Gail discussed the transformative power of dance for older people in a range of contexts and settings. Gail also previewed “In A Different Space,” a dance film that emerged from the strong relationships she developed with her community participants.

[www.ripedance.com.au](http://www.ripedance.com.au)

To view Gail Hewton’s presentation [click here](#)

# Catherine Goss

Sydney Coordinator and Teacher of Dance for Parkinson's



The Dance for Parkinson's Disease program, which originated at the Mark Morris Dance Center in 2001, offers specialized dance classes accompanied by live music for people with Parkinson's, their caregivers, family members and friends.

[www.danceforparkinsonsaustralia.org](http://www.danceforparkinsonsaustralia.org)



# Shelley Yacopetti

Education and Engagement Manager – Faculty of Education  
Australia, Royal Academy of Dance



Shelley Yacopetti discussed the Silver Swans Program – a new program for seniors and elders recently developed by the Royal Academy of Dance.

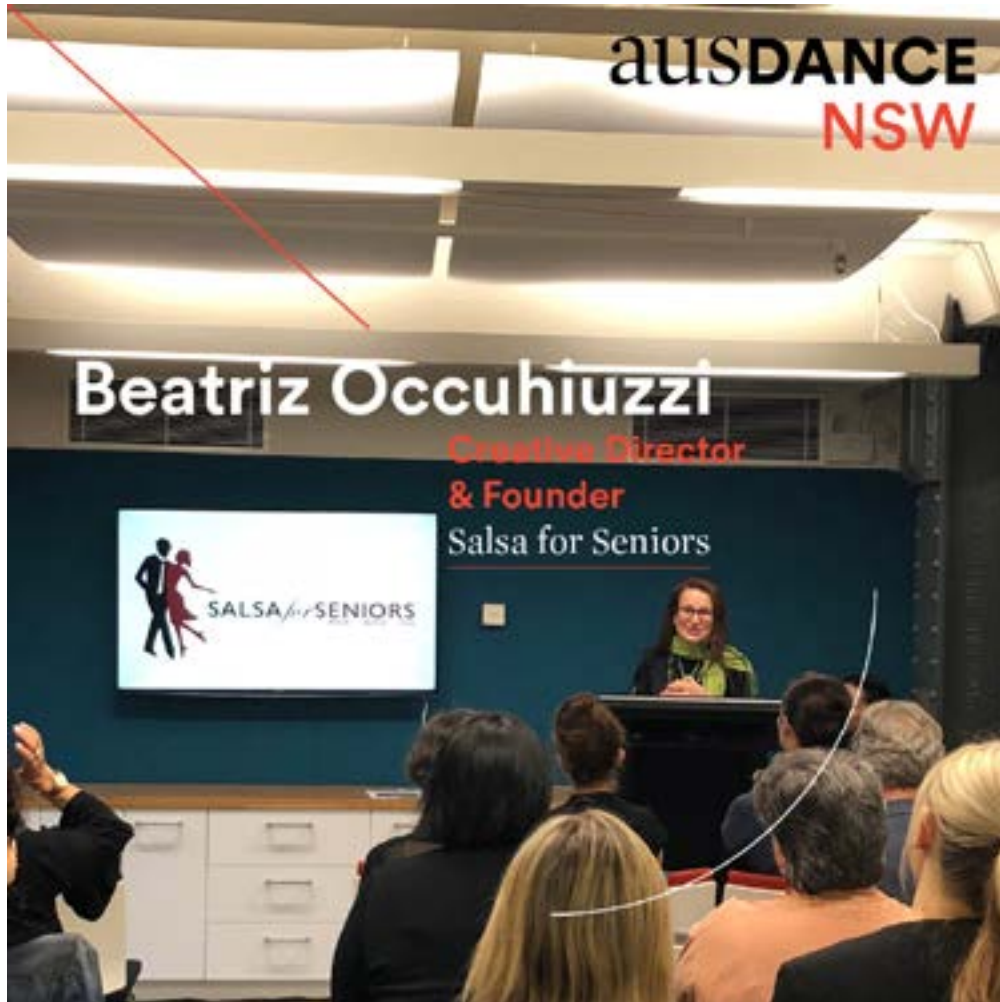
The presentation outlined findings from the Dance For Lifelong Wellbeing project in terms of physical, social and emotional benefits, the framework underpinning the Silver Swans initiative, and the experiences of ballet teachers and students who participated in the pilot phase.

[www.rad.org.au](http://www.rad.org.au)

To view Shelley Yacopetti's presentation [click here](#)

# Beatriz Occhiuzzi

Creative Director, Founder of Salsa for Seniors - Meet- Dance - Live program



**“How Salsa music and movement has positively influenced an ageing population”**

Beatriz shared her hands-on grass roots story and inspiration for creating the Salsa 4 Seniors ‘meet – dance – live’ program. Beatriz is a firm believer that the biggest contribution to the health of our ageing population, is to give them access to dance.

[www.salsa4seniors.com](http://www.salsa4seniors.com)

To view Beatriz Occhiuzzi’s presentation [click here](#)

# Gwen Korebrits

Co-founder and CEO of the Dance Health Alliance



**“Shall we dance? Finding freedom through movement!”**

Gwen discussed the history of the Dance Health Alliance and its origin and its impact so far in Australia. The benefits of similar programs and the impact of prevention rather than cure in an ageing population.

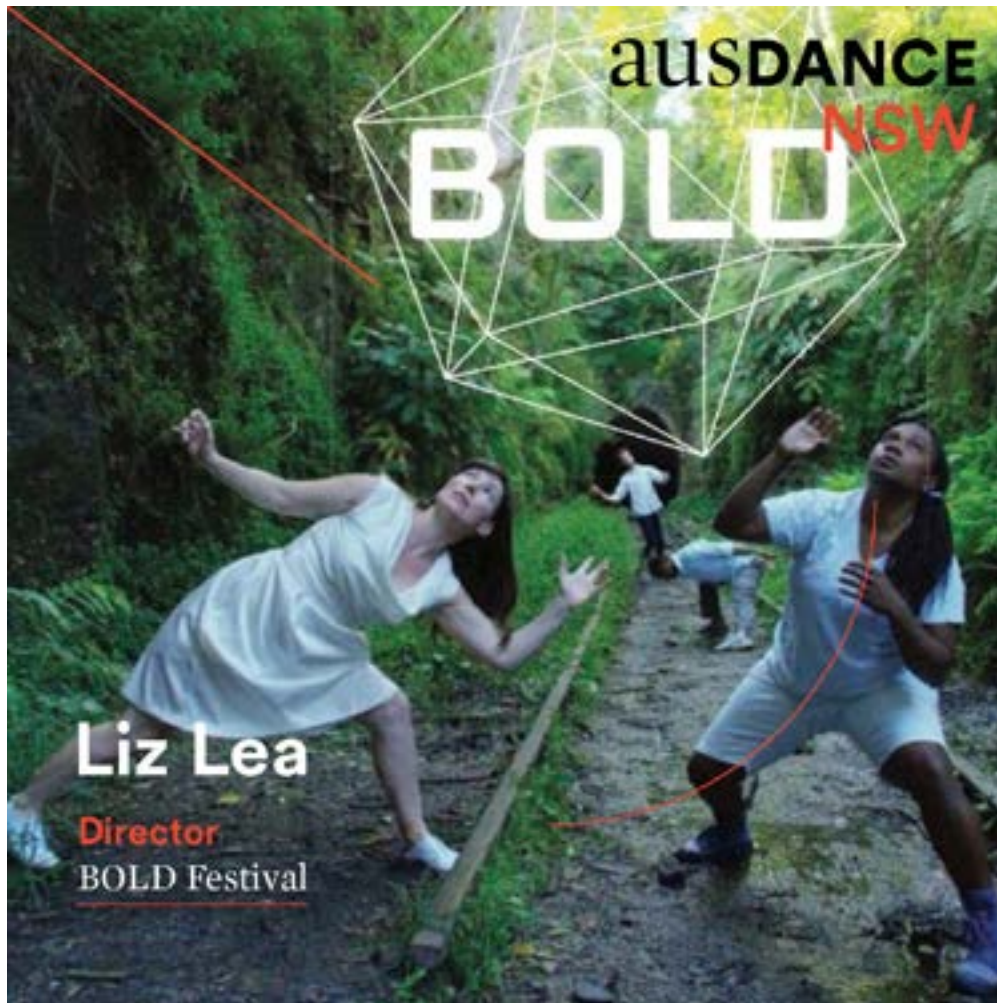
[www.dancehealthalliance.org.au](http://www.dancehealthalliance.org.au)

To view Gwen Korebrits presentation [click here](#)



# Liz Lea

Director, BOLD Festival



## Being BOLD

The BOLD festival celebrates the legacy of dance in all cultures. With a background in cross cultural dance Liz has developed a specialty in working with elders through her work in the UK and as Artistic Director of Canberra Dance Theatre from 2010-16. She established the Gold Company of elders and was awarded a 2017 Australian Dance Award for her direction of Great Sport! The BOLD Festival has arisen from her professional and community dance practice and will next be presented in March.

[www.theboldfestival.com](http://www.theboldfestival.com)

To view Liz Lea's presentation [click here](#)

# Sue Healey

Choreographer and Filmmaker and Honorary Fellow,  
University of Melbourne



Sydney-based choreographer, educator, filmmaker and installation artist, Sue is one of Australia's foremost independent dance-makers. Sue discussed her recent film with mature artists - Elizabeth Cameron Dalman, Eileen Kramer, Nanette Hassall, Lucette Aldous and dances relevance to a creative life, at all ages.

[www.suehealey.com](http://www.suehealey.com)





### Thank You

Ausdance NSW would like to thank all our attendees and speakers.

The Ausdance NSW team; Michelle Silby and Claire Gammon,  
Lauren Vassallo, Remi Harvey and Jamie Winbank.

Thank you to the Q&A chair Kathy Baykitch,  
Executive Director, Ausdance National.

If you are interested in talking with Ausdance regarding the  
Creative Ageing Forum  
please contact [admin@dance.net.au](mailto:admin@dance.net.au)  
02 9256 4800



Ausdance NSW is supported by the  
NSW Government through Create NSW.

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