

LGI/ WXYZ

Home to the world-renowned Lucy Guerin Inc dance company, WXYZ Studios presents a world of artistic possibilities, providing choreographers and dance practitioners with access to co-working spaces, residencies, workshops, hot desks, and other creative and career development resources.



Who We Are

Lucy Guerin Inc (LGI) is one of Australia’s most respected contemporary dance companies, enjoying national significance and international recognition. Founded by its artistic director Lucy Guerin in Melbourne in 2002, LGI creates new dance works, which premiere in Melbourne, and tour nationally and internationally.

Her choreography is always fearless, and this fascinating work is both beautiful and stark. *Split* showcases everything that’s exciting about dance as an art form. — Bryget Chrisfield on *Split*, The Music.

LGI is highly regarded in the performing arts industry, receiving multiple awards including the 2017 Helpmann Awards for Best Choreography and for Best Dance Production.

We believe that artists are integral to our society. Dance enables both performers and audiences to experience uncommon perceptions of themselves and the world around them.

LGI makes a substantial contribution to the worldwide reputation of Australian artistic practice and is a leader and enabler within the sector. It fosters the development of independent artists by providing an entire career pathway – from secondee to company dancer to commissioned choreographer to resident director.



Images front and above (right and left): Bryony Jackson

What We Do

LGI is a welcoming community of, and for, dancers and choreographers with a professional dance company at its heart. Lucy Guerin has been part of the local and international dance scene for almost three decades. Through the Company’s reputation LGI has the knowledge and skills to support local independent artists to create the next generation of dance makers.

The independent sector is the engine for the arts. They are the ones who are on the front edge of ideas and driving the arts forward, but they are receiving increasingly diminishing support.

What Challenges Us

- All that LGI offers is in great demand – we are bursting at the seams with studio residencies and artists needing support – we only have so much we can give, with limited resources to pay staff to achieve increased program activity and provide in-kind studio hire due to impacts on the Company’s budgeted running costs
- Our new home has the capacity to achieve great things, including functioning as a presenting venue for the community – but we don’t have all the necessary equipment
- As our population grows, so does the number of artists, yet industry funding has dwindled and the chance of success is small



What We Need

At a pinch, you could write a play or compose music in your bedroom or you could paint in a garage, but you can’t dance without space, support, money and community.

Dr Terry Wu has provided LGI with the opportunity to help artists, with the perfect building at low rent in Dryburgh Street, North Melbourne. Now fit for purpose with two studios, our new home at WXYZ Studios is a perfect place for dance.

LGI still needs help to realise the full potential of this rare opportunity which will assist talented artists who really struggle to keep their arts practice alive. Since opening our doors in November 2018, WXYZ Studios has become a thriving centre for movement, dance and choreography and the two new studio spaces have enabled LGI to offer more studio residencies and supportive programs to independent choreographers, while continuing our core activities.

LGI needs more funds to support our increased activity and provide even more subsidized studio spaces and programs to artists. WXYZ Studios also has the capacity to be an amazing presenting venue for our artists, but we still need equipment such as lights, a decent sound system and energy-efficient heating and cooling.

We believe that LGI’s new space will change our scope and reach and significantly shift the possibilities for dance in Australia. Any support given to LGI is an important investment in the development of the next wave of choreographers and artists working within our industry.

What Will Happen

At WXYZ Studios, the large studio is primarily used for company activities such as rehearsals, performances, workshops, classes and events. The second studio is a lab and residency space for independent artists and choreographers. Both spaces are being strategically leased as a source of income. However, with more funds LGI could schedule after-hours programs, activities and events run by local artists and in turn contribute to the financial sustainability of dance artists.

At WXYZ Studios LGI plans to continue:

- Creating challenging new dance works with open-studio visits by the general public
- Running workshops with local and international guest artists and choreographers
- Offering studio residencies and co-working spaces for independent artists
- Operating daily classes for professional dancers to maintain their technical skills
- Hosting talks, forums, lectures for the public to connect with the ideas of today’s artists
- Hosting informal performances and events
- Our advocacy for independent artists and developing sustainable artistic practices.

‘There are very few avenues to learn from the inside, about the practical aspects of the functioning of a dance company. The role of Resident Director with LGI gave me a base from which to embark on an incredibly exciting and busy year and set me up with the tools to establish Stephanie Lake Company in 2014’

**Stephanie Lake,
LGI Resident Director 2013**

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