

AUSDANCE UPDATE

By the time you receive this issue of DanceWest I will be in Darwin for the Australian Youth Dance Festival followed by the annual Ausdance Executive Officers Meeting which has been scheduled to take place in Darwin, piggybacking the Festival, in order to cut down on costs. This means I will be away from 28th September through to the 10th October, however, the office will be in Maureen's capable hands and I will be in regular communication for any urgent business.

Unfortunately, Kathy Vogiatzakis, one of the four young people Ausdance is sponsoring to attend the Festival, is now unable to go due to unforeseen circumstances. We are delighted, however, to be able to offer the opportunity to Sophie Yesberg, dancer with 2 Dance Plus, and have no doubt she will make an equally valuable contribution to the event.

Ruth Osborne will also be attending as a keynote speaker and Michael Leslie as a panellist. It's great to see representation from regional Western Australia with The Modern Dreamtime Dancers from Broome and Punima Jullarra Dance Group from Carnarvon also attending. I look forward very much to meeting them all in Darwin.

The AusDANCE Calendar 1998 has created a considerable buzz in the dance community. A big thank you to all those members who have supported this initiative. Thanks also to Barry Mather at Integrated Print Management who had sufficient faith in this project to sponsor half of the production costs for the promo/order form.

Special thank you also to the many organisations who are helping us promote the sale of the Calendar. They include to date West Australian Ballet, Fieldworks, Country Arts, Fremantle Arts Centre, The Artists Foundation, Film and Television Institute, Steps Youth Dance Company, RAD, Kulcha, The Blue Room, Photography Gallery of WA, Arts, Sport and Recreation Training WA, BOCS, LISWA, WA Academy

of Performing Arts, Theatre Arts, City of Perth and PICA.

For those who have yet to be convinced that the AusDANCE CALENDAR 1998 is a "must buy", or who would like more information to convince their friends and colleagues, please read on!

The Calendar will be a generous A3 size, ring bound on high quality paper. It will feature 13 stunning black and white dance images (one per month plus cover) from Ashley de Prazer's portfolio with additional images contained in the historical retrospective. Amongst the companies/artists who will feature in the Calendar are Margrete Helgeby, Stefan Karlsson, West Australian Ballet, 2 Dance Plus, Sue Peacock, Fieldworks, skadada, Chrissie Parrott Dance Company, Rakini and the Kalika Dance Company and Steps Youth Dance Company.

Many people have been asking when we will be moving to the King Street Arts Centre and I am now able to say fairly confidently that it will be sometime in November. As we will be moving into a smaller office space than we currently occupy and we don't have enough money for a completely new fit out, we have contracted the services of an interior designer to help us work out what furniture we can take with us and what we will need to buy. We have decided to "close up" for two weeks to make sure that we can deal with the move efficiently. A lot of sorting out of archive boxes, and filing cabinets will need to be done to ensure we don't take unnecessary junk with us. I will let you know in the November issue the exact dates that we will be closed for business. Further information about King Street is contained in this issue on p6

The deadline for applications for the Emerging Choreographers' Initiative has now passed and it is expected applicants will be notified of the outcome by October 20th. To my knowledge there were four

applications submitted from Western Australia.

Ausdance will be developing response to the recently released "draft Curriculum Framework for education in Western Australia from kindergarten through to Year 12. Written responses are due by October 28th. Any member interested in contributing to the development of the Ausdance's response is asked to contact the office urgently as a meeting of interested parties needs to be organised sometime during the week beginning the 13th October. Ausdance will also be contributing to a response by Arts Access, the affiliation of arts education associations as well as to the submission by the dance syllabus committee of the Secondary Education Authority.

Forums are currently taking place around the country with consultant Kim Newton for the Dance Teachers' Competency Project. This process is being undertaken to ensure individual dance teachers, syllabus organisations and other interested parties have input into how the Guidelines for Dance Teachers' might be further developed into "competency standards" for use by curriculum designers and training providers, how present systems of registration might be harmonised on national level and how "prior learning" "current competencies" might be formally recognised. The Western Australian forum will take place sometime between October 27 and 31. Hopefully the venue and exact date will be finalised in time to send details out on an insert with this magazine. Ausdance will also try to reach non-members through the various syllabus organisations and other arts and government agencies. It would be appreciated if Ausdance members could also contact their colleagues to ensure they are aware of the forum.

Jody Burton - Executive Officer

Australian Choreographer Awarded Prestigious Bessie

Australian choreographer Lucy Guerin has been awarded a Bessie in New York for her production *Two Lies*. The Bessies are an annual award given to outstanding dance and performances in New York.

Guerin has been working regularly in New York since 1989 as a dancer and choreographer. Her award winning productions, *Robbery Waitress on Bail* and *Two Lies* were presented earlier this

space, The Kitchen, which was followed by a European tour. These tours had been made possible by the Dance Fund of the Australia Council.

Lucy Guerin is currently working with The One Extra Company on a new dance work *Two*, an exciting double bill that will also feature a new work from Sydney based choreographer Garry Stewart. *Two* will premiere in Sydney for a limited season in October/November 1997.

Guerin and Stewart have put together an ensemble of contemporary dancers from around Australia including Fiona Cameron and Narelle Benjamin (Chunky Move company members), Jason Duff and Kate Levy, recently seen in Stewart's

MacDonald College, and Becky Hilton. Ros Warby who recently teamed with Guerin in the New York season of *Two*

The One Extra Company implemented a new structure designed to give a range of choreographers dancers the freedom to create new dance works. *Two* represents the Company's new direction by providing Lucy Guerin and Garry Stewart the opportunity and commitment to create new and challenging contemporary dance.

For further information contact:
Janet Robertson, Executive Producer
(02) 9364 9468