



DANCENORTH WELCOMES THREE NEW ENSEMBLE DANCERS

Internationally acclaimed Townsville-based contemporary dance company Dancenorth Australia expands to an ensemble of seven dancers.

Dancenorth Australia continues to transform, welcoming dancers **Sabine Crompton-Ward, Tiana Lung, and Damian Meredith** to the Dancenorth Ensemble.

Recognised as one of Australia's leading arts organisations, Dancenorth employed a total of 167 artists and arts workers in 2021.

Dancenorth Artistic Director and Co-CEO Kyle Page said the growth recognised Dancenorth's position as a leading regional arts ambassador within the national arts sector.

"We are thrilled to have grown the Dancenorth Ensemble from five members in 2021, to seven members in 2022. This not only expands the opportunities for us choreographically, but reinforces the strength of professional arts in regional Australia," said Mr Page.

"We are incredibly grateful for the growing support of our Dancenorth Donor Community, who have supported our vision to guarantee a living wage for seven dancers so that we can keep them employed here in regional Queensland," said Mr Page.

Sabine Crompton-Ward joins Dancenorth from Sydney Dance Company, where she performed in the premiere season of Rafael Bonachela's *Impermanence*, the company's Australian regional tour, and New Breed season. Sabine completed her training as part of Sydney Dance Company's Pre-Professional Year and has also appeared in Stephanie Lake's *Colossus* at Sydney Festival in 2020.

Tiana Lung trained with the New Zealand School of Dance and has worked as an independent artist across Australia and New Zealand, touring nationally and internationally. She has worked with New Zealand companies Taki Rua Productions and Okareka Dance Company on their international tours to the Netherlands, Tahiti, Hawaii, Australia and Canada; as well as with Discotheque Dance Company, Muscle Mouth, Footnote NZ, and Movement of the Human. In Australia, Tiana has worked with Kristina Chan and appeared in Chunky Move's highly acclaimed work *Token Armies*.

Damian Meredith is a contemporary performance artist, teacher, and creative entrepreneur from Naarm/Melbourne. Trained in ballet, circus arts, and contemporary dance; he has toured both nationally and internationally, working with a variety of companies and choreographers including Chunky Move, Stephanie Lake Company, Melanie Lane, Tas Dance, Shaun Parker & Company, Matthew Bourne, and Transit Dance Company.

Joining Marlo Benjamin, Felix Sampson, Nelson Earl, and Michael Smith, the 2022 Dancenorth Ensemble will make their first appearance together in **Wayfinder**.

Wayfinder is a new major work by Dancenorth, and will be presented at the Townsville Civic Theatre from 24 - 25 June as part of NAFA. With a national reputation for consistently producing works of the highest quality, *Wayfinder* has been commissioned by Brisbane Festival and NAFA.