

TOMORROW MAKERS 4 TO SHOWCASE THE GAMECHANGING NEW VOICES OF CONTEMPORARY DANCE



Townsville's diverse and exciting arts scene is set to shine as four local performing artists present innovative new works at Dancenorth's fourth annual Tomorrow Makers event.

Image credit: Amber Haines

From 7 – 9 October, local audiences will be given an exclusive chance to experience four short new works by some of Australia's most exciting and innovative dance artists.

Tomorrow Makers 4 showcases new contemporary dance works by Nelson Earl, Felix Sampson, Niharika Senapati and Michael Smith, curated by Associate Artistic Director Amber Haines.

Supporting the next generation of dance artists, the annual Tomorrow Makers series provides the Dancenorth Ensemble with the opportunity to cultivate their independent creative practice and create new dance performances with full production values, in a nurturing and supportive environment.

FOR ALL MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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The calibre of artists involved in *Tomorrow Makers 4* illustrates Dancenorth position as local company with national and international significance.

The season is curated by Dancenorth Associate Artistic Director Amber Haines, who said:

"It's an absolute privilege to witness these new works come to life celebrate the unique and individual artistic voices of our extraordinary ensemble. *Tomorrow Makers* is a rare opportunity for the ensemble to pursue their own creative ideas. The resulting works showcase the talent and fresh ideas of these versatile and inspiring young creatives. We are all very excited to celebrate their achievements with Townsville audiences."

2021 has been a highly successful year for Dancenorth, who recently presented a critically acclaimed season of *RED* at Brisbane Festival, with reviewers heralding it as "the show that set Brisbane Festival alight" and describing the company as "the best thing to come out of Townsville since the North Queensland Cowboys".

A regional arts ambassador, Dancenorth was recognised earlier this year as a major player within the Australian arts sector after securing a place in the new National Performing Arts Partnership Framework.

Set to be an intimate evening, audiences are invited to meet the artists and enjoy an exceptional season of new contemporary works.

Tomorrow Makers 4 runs from 7 - 9 October at Dancenorth Theatre. For ticket bookings, please visit: dancenorth.com.au/tomorrow-makers-4

MEET THE MAKERS

MICHAEL SMITH



Michael Smith is an artist working within contemporary dance, dance-theatre, film and installation. Michael's choreographic work has been performed at Ars Electronica (Austria), TanzZiet (Berlin), AGITART Figueres Festival MOU (Spain), Japan Media Arts Festival, Brisbane Festival (Brisbane, Australia), Dance Massive (Melbourne, Australia), STRUT Dance (Perth, Australia), and Metro Arts (Brisbane, Australia).

Michael Smith's new work *It's Called Achilles* is a relentless, highly theatrical performance that interrogates the notion of 'camp' beyond something that purely aesthetic. If you like Donna Summer's "I Feel Love", and dramatic physicality, then you will love this new work.

NIHARIKA SENAPATI



Niharika Senapati trained as a contemporary dancer, and her practice is suspended across work as a performer, collaborator, senior Countertechnique teacher, maker, sound designer, and rehearsal assistant. After touring with Chunky Move from 2012 to 2018, Niharika continued to work closely with Anouk van Dijk as a rehearsal and choreographic assistant for *Distant Matter* (Staadtsballet Berlin, 2019) and *Surge* (University of Utah, 2019). She was most recently collaborating choreographer on *Daddy* by Joel Bray (Yirrimboi Festival, 2019) and *Mosquitoes* directed by Jessica Arthur (Sydney Theatre Company, 2019).

Niharika Senapati's new work *Angel* is inspired by Kali, the goddess of destruction, and Lara Croft.

NELSON EARL



Prior to joining Dancenorth, two-time Helpmann Award nominee Nelson Earl was touring *Enter Achilles*, a work by legendary dance iconoclast Lloyd Newson, who leads internationally acclaimed physical theatre company DV8. Prior to this, Nelson was a company dancer with Sydney Dance Company from 2015 to 2018 where he performed in the company's major works and also co-created *Bell-Jar* for the New Breed season.

Nelson Earl's new work *Good Boys* explores his relationship to traditional male archetypes, beer, and brute culture.

FELIX SAMPSON



Currently Dancenorth's longest serving ensemble member, Felix Sampson has been with the company since 2017 and toured internationally with all the company's major touring works including *Attractor*, *Rainbow Vomit*, *Tectonic*, *Dust*, *Noise*, *Communal Table*, *Surge* and *One Infinity*. Felix trained at the New Zealand School of Dance and was previously a company dancer at Australian Dance Theatre (Adelaide, Australia).

Things you can do with a microphone is the second work Felix Sampson has presented as part of the annual Tomorrow Makers series, in which he subverts and finds humour in normal and mundane scenarios.

ABOUT DANCENORTH AUSTRALIA

As a major champion of the arts in regional North Queensland, Dancenorth Australia balances a dynamic regional presence with a commitment to creating compelling contemporary dance that tours the globe.

Dancenorth is one of Australia's leading contemporary dance companies having presented work in over 35 International Arts Festivals and venues around Australia and the world and is an integral part of the Australian dance ecology making a significant contribution to the dance sector and building literacy around contemporary dance nationally.

Dancenorth empowers and supports artists by providing a creative hub for many artistic voices including a diverse range of choreographers, guest collaborators, artists in residence and dancers.

Alongside the professional ensemble and touring productions sits an equally vital pillar of focus: Community Experience. Driven by a dedicated team, Dancenorth works with diverse and minority communities across Queensland using dance to support, enhance, inspire and heal - bringing communities together.

Website www.dancenorth.com.au
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