

LION HEART DANCE COMPANY

# CLASH

A DYNAMIC COLLISION OF JAZZ AND  
CONTEMPORARY DANCE

SEP

5-8

2019

CHAPEL OFF CHAPEL

# THE WORKS

## CLASH

### CHOREOGARPHER

Benjamin Curé

### CAST

Darcy Goodall, Debbie Keenan,  
Gabby Camerlengo, Jemma Craig,  
Meg Clohessy, Nadia Vickery, Olivia  
Lucas, Rachel Whelan, Rachel  
Owens and Stefanie Grogan

## GUEST

FRI  
6TH

### THEATRE DE LA DANSE

Choreographed by Olivia Lucas

SAT  
7TH

### DANCE REVOLUTION

Choreographed by Benjamin Curé

## ALIGHT

### CHOREOGRAPHER

Benjamin Curé

### CAST

Benjamin Curé, Darcy Goodall,  
Debbie Keenan, Gabby  
Camerlengo, Jemma Craig, Jodie  
Toogood, Meg Clohessy, Nadia  
Vickery, Olivia Lucas, Rachel  
Whelan, Rachel Owens and  
Stefanie Grogan

# THE TEAM

## DIRECTOR



### BENJAMIN CURÉ

Benjamin Curé was born and raised in Melbourne where he trained on scholarships at both The Edge Performers School and The Space Dance and Arts Centre. In 2015, he founded Lion Heart Dance Company and has produced multiple seasons of work over the ensuing years.

Curé has also performed within a number of different contexts in both the contemporary and commercial worlds of dance while also venturing into cross-disciplinary art forms. His performance career has seen him work with companies like Vertical Shadows Dance Company, Opera Australia, Rain and Lucky as well as So You Think You Can Dance Australia.

In 2013 Curé created and performed in his first full-length work, *The Scarlet Trace*. Following its success, the show was then remounted by Candlelight Productions for a return season in 2014. In 2016, Curé tenaciously created and produced the two works for Lion Heart Dance Company in its first year of operation - *Table of Eight* and *Fabricated*.

In 2017, he was commissioned by City of Booroondara to co-present a remount of *The Scarlet Trace*. In 2018 he was the artistic director of *Inhabit Dance Festival* which saw innovative dance performances placed along venues on Chapel St. Later in 2018 he directed Lion Heart's season of *ENVISION* which was presented at The Space Dance and Arts Centre. In March, 2019, he choreographed and directed *Still Frame* at Chapel off Chapel and is thrilled to be returning to the stage in this new work, *Alight*.

# THE TEAM

## COMPOSER 'ALIGHT'



### TIMOTHY COGHILL

Timothy Coghill is a Melbourne based composer, producer and drummer. Born in Melbourne, Australia, and raised in a family of accomplished musicians, Timothy was encouraged to pursue music from a young age. While learning the clarinet and drum kit as a child, Timothy developed a fascination with the creation of music, spending hours making music on the family computer.

Having completed an Advanced Diploma on the drum kit at Melbourne Polytechnic, Coghill's early professional life was spent as a session drummer, performing and recording with artists such as Matt Corby, Tina Arena, Samsaruh, Dylan Joel, Harry Angus and many more. However, with that same childhood urge to get out the music that was inside him, Timothy went back to study, gaining a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interactive Composition at The VCA.

Applying early experience in film and commercial scoring, Timothy began recording his original works, with early releases 'Beforwards' (2012) and 'Inside a Moment' (2013) being followed up by his debut album 'Nowhere' (2016).

Timothy's live performances of his original work have gathered somewhat of a cult following in the Melbourne independent scene. Set everywhere from clubs, to backyards, to churches, the 'Cinematic' series - featuring orchestral and contemporary musicians performing his compositions - has inspired and enchanted over the past nine years. His productions are often thematic meditations on the human condition in relation to its surroundings, and are immersive, atmospheric partnerships between light and sound.

Timothy has been commissioned for chamber ensembles such as Opus House and the Hobart Chamber Orchestra, by film directors such as Alexei Mizin and Max Walter, and for contemporary bands such as The Paper Kites, Samsaruh, Dylan Joel and many more



# THE TEAM

## DARCY GOODALL



### DANCER

Originally from Christchurch New Zealand, Darcy trained extensively in gymnastics and various styles of dance from the age of 13. In 2017, Darcy moved to Melbourne where he trained at Jason Coleman's Ministry of Dance in 2018 and was awarded a 2nd year scholarship. His performance credits include; White Night Melbourne, Channel 10s 'Dancing with the Stars', Victoria Racing Club, Deakin & RMIT University, AFL Footy Show & many more. Recently, Darcy was fortunate enough to take on a lead role in a children's stunt show in Perth and was also cast in Donnie Dimase's recent commercial production 'Cheap Luxuries and Expired Dreams'. Darcy is very excited to be performing with the Lion Heart Dance Company members in 'CLASH'.

## DEBBIE KEENAN



### DANCER

Debbie Keenan is originally from New Zealand and moved to Melbourne in 2011. Here, she completed 2 years of full-time training at The Space Dance and Arts Centre. Since then, Debbie has flourished in the Melbourne dance industry both as a performer and a teacher. Debbie has worked across a multitude of platforms with artists and organisations locally and internationally. Debbie performed in Lion Heart Dance Company's inaugural work, 'Table of Eight'. Since then, she has maintained a deep connection with the company through training, performing and choreographing. Earlier this year, Debbie choreographed her first full-length show as part of the company's season 'Still Frame'.

# THE TEAM

## GABBY CAMERLENGO



### DANCER

Gabby has trained in jazz, tap, contemporary, hip-hop and many other styles to become the versatile dancer she is today. After completing two degrees in psychology, Gabby decided to transition into the dance industry, completing a year at The Space Dance and Arts Centre, during which she was accepted into Lion Heart Dance Company and the Ascendant Development Program. She has performed at Playing Field, Inhabit Dance Festival and Raw Melbourne and also co-choreographed and performed in the 2018 Melbourne Fringe Festival and was the lead female in Fictitious Me's 'Down Inside' music video. 'CLASH' is Gabby's professional debut with the company.

## JEMMA CRAIG



### DANCER

Jemma began dancing at 6 years old and spent most of her time training with Dance Revolution. After deciding she wanted to pursue a career in the arts, Jemma trained for two years at Kelly Aykers Full Time Dance. Since graduating, Jemma has performed internationally with the hip-hop crew DE.3 under the guidance of Phill Haddad. Jemma took on the role of assistant choreographer and lead dancer for the samba establishment Soul Brazil and performed with the hip-hop company Superhoodz. Earlier this year, she choreographed for the Melbourne Rebels dance and cheer team as well as touring to Canberra with Boss Dance Company. 'CLASH' is Jemma's debut show with Lion Heart Dance Company. She is incredibly grateful to be part of this professional production.

# THE TEAM

## JODIE TOOGOOD



### DANCER/REHEARSAL DIRECTOR

Jodie was a founding member of Lion Heart Dance Company, Austinmer Dance Theatre and Twisted Element Dance Company.

In 2013, Jodie was invited to New York to participate in 'Story' Choreographed by Merce Cunningham as part of the Merce Cunningham Trust's Fellowship program and returned in 2014 for 'Assemblage' and 'Canfield'. Jodie has danced with choreographers Benjamin Cure', Michelle Forte, Angela Hill, Paul Selwyn Norton, Maurice Causey and Robert Wood. Her choreography has been shown in the Czech Republic, Belgium and Australia. In 2017, Jodie took on her first rehearsal director role for The Space Dance and Arts Centre as well as for Lion Heart Dance Company. In 2019 Jodie co-produced, choreographed and danced in the multi-disciplinary work - 'SET A|PART' in Melbourne.

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## MEG CLOHESSY



### DANCER

Meg began dancing at the youthful age of 6 at Judy O'Malley's School of Dance, Corowa. Moving from her hometown to Melbourne she studied performing arts full-time at Spectrum Dance in 2015. Clohessy now works as part of the Playing Field Series team and was also in the original cast of Lion Heart Dance Company's 'Still Frame' earlier this year. She is grateful for another incredible opportunity with the company.



# THE TEAM

## MICHAELA PACE



### DANCER

Michaela's passion for performing began at the age of 3 at MJ Dance Studio in Mount Gambier, South Australia. Since then, she has taken vocal lessons from Pamela Walker OAM, Gary Nardella and Sharon Turley. Michaela relocated to Ballarat in 2016 to study a Bachelor of Music Theatre, graduating in 2018. Some of her highlights at the Arts Academy include Miss University: A Pageant Cabaret and Chicago (Velma/Assistant choreographer) directed by Alister Smith. Michaela was cast in 'Moments' the show by Maddy Pratt in 2019. Pace is thrilled to announce that after the season of 'CLASH', she will be heading off on her first cruise contract with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. This is Michaela's first show with Lion Heart Dance Company and she is beyond excited.

## NADIA VICKERY



### DANCE CAPTAIN

Nadia's dancing journey began at 15 with casual after school classes at her local studio (Studio 1 Academy of Dance) in Crafton, NSW. At 18 Years of age she relocated to Melbourne and completed 2 years of full-time training at Dance World Studios in 2009 and The Space Full Time in 2010. After graduating, Nadia had the pleasure of kicking off her professional career with contracts in a variety of countries including India, Singapore, Dubai and Turkey. From working in the famous Bollywood, to providing 5-star entertainment in resorts and holding the responsibility of dance captain, Vickery has completed three previous seasons with Lion Heart Dance Company and is excited to be seeing out her fourth with this season of 'CLASH'.

# THE TEAM

## OLIVIA LUCAS



### DANCE CAPTAIN

Olivia began dancing at the age of 3 with David Wynen in Wonthaggi. In 2015 Olivia graduated with a degree in Journalism at Monash University, but decided to follow her passion and transition into the performing industry. Olivia trained at both Dance Factory and Kelly Aykers. In recent years Olivia has worked with Lion Heart Dance Company performing in ENVISION (2018). Olivia has made several television appearances and performed in various music videos, including Brendan Maclean's 'Free to Love'. In 2019 Olivia performed in 'Moments' and 'Bon Bon' the cabaret. Olivia has begun to create her own work as she continues to develop her skills and passion as a choreographer.

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## RACHEL WHELAN



### DANCER

Rachel has performed in Every Inch of Me with the Transit Dance Company including original works by Daniel Jaber, Amy Hollingsworth and Paul Malek. She also performed in Yours Truly by Transit Dance Company in 2016/17. Additionally she has seconded with the Melbourne Ballet Company as part of their production of Arche.

Rachel was a part of Lion Heart Dance Company's first production, Table of Eight and Still Frame and is excited to be back performing with the company.



# THE TEAM

## RACHEL OWENS



### DANCER

Rachel began her studies at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School and went on to earn her Certificate III in circus arts at NICA. Rachel has danced for various choreographers including several Master of Choreography seasons. Performing in original works by Tara Jayde Samaya, Adam Wheeler and Daniel Jaber and being selected as a Young Leader for Chunky Moves's mass dance project 'Simulcast'. After completing full-time training at The Space Dance and Arts Centre, Transit Dance and a year with Yellow Wheel Dance Company in 2018, Rachel was offered a position with Lion Heart Dance Company in 2019 and is excited to be performing her first show with them.

## STEFANIE GROGAN



### DANCER

Stefanie Grogan started dancing at 3 years old at the Dianne McLellan Dancing Academy in Bundaberg, Queensland. She studied a Diploma of Dance at Brent Street in 2013 and Ev&Bow in 2014. During full-time, Stefanie performed as a lead dancer in LOcREaDO Dance Company's '12 Lives', in Expressions Dance Company's 'R&J', Sydney Dance Company's '13 rooms' and seconded with Australian Dance Theatre. In 2015, Grogan moved to Melbourne to be a founding member of Transit Dance Company, performing and touring 'Every Inch of Me'. At Transit, Stefanie completed her Certificate 4 in Dance Teaching and Management. In 2018, she danced in Seavera's music video 'Make Me Uncomfortable'. Stefanie is a current member of SCIMM Dance Company, performing in their season of 'Senseless State' as well as Lion Heart Dance Company, where she debuted in 'Envision'.

# CLASH

## ABOUT

**RUN TIME:** 24 mins

### **SYNOPSIS:**

As the two groups of dancers work towards a collective performance, can they surmount their differences to create something cohesive and wonderful? Or, will they choose to build walls to divide themselves?

Placing sharp, stylised jazz lines against loose and free contemporary movement, this fun and lighthearted piece is a commentary on the ever increasing polarisation of society.





# CLASH



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This work stemmed from two questions I wanted to explore: "What if Bob Fosse choreographed with contemporary movement?" and "Why do people keep trying to tell me my work must be either jazz or contemporary?"

I began by rewatching famous works by the great jazz choreographers like Bob Fosse and Jerome Robbins and trying to capture the essence of their styles. Then I layered the jazz and contemporary movements over each other while trying to create a harmonious balance of clashing and complimenting movements. The whole piece has a bit of a West Side Story flavour and it's been such a fun process to see this vibrant and quirky vision I had spring to life on such a talented cast.

It's been an enjoyable challenge to set both styles on stage at the same time. For a 25min show, there is essentially an hour's worth of choreography as each group has a completely different track that needed to be choreographed.

# A LIGHT

## ABOUT

**RUN TIME:** 24 mins

**COMPOSER:** Timothy Coghill

### SYNOPSIS:

This work explores the crippling nature of loneliness.

"I felt as though I was floating in a sea of lights - looking out as everyone else lived their perfect lives and I hid away in the background. I felt like I was nowhere. I felt invisible in my pain and loneliness. So I pushed everyone away.

It wasn't until I started sharing about my pain and letting people in that I realised I wasn't alone. I began to realise that others were suffering too and so we made an effort to be together. What we found was that meaningful connection was the remedy for our loneliness.

Everyone is just searching for connection and meaning."



# ALIGHT



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This is an incredibly personal piece for me to be sharing in such a public context, as it comes from my own struggles with loneliness. On top of that, this is the first time in Lion Heart's 5 year history that I am taking to the stage in one of our shows; to say I'm nervous would be an understatement! I hardly ever put myself out there as a performer any more, but I felt it was important to be vulnerable and address this subject matter head on.

Chronic loneliness is one of the greatest public health crises we are facing. 1 in 4 Australians reported feeling lonely each week, 1 in 2 sometimes or always feel alone and 30% of Australians said they don't belong to a social group. The most at risk people are the elderly and those aged 16-25.

Chronic loneliness increases your mortality rate by 26%. It's the equivalent of smoking 15 cigarettes a day! It's associated with higher levels of stress, social anxiety and depression and can contribute to heart disease and other chronic health conditions.

I believe we each have a responsibility to address loneliness in the world around us and I hope this work encourages you to reach out to someone in your world.

We are hard-wired for connection.

# SPONSORS



## THE CITY OF STONNINGTON

We are so grateful for the continued support we have received from the City of Stonnington through their Arts and Cultural grants! This show would not be possible without their faith in our vision!

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## CHAPEL OFF CHAPEL

This venue is such a joy to work with. The vibrant team are always so happy to help in any way they can and it's a true honour to be able to present our work at this wonderful establishment.

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## THE SPACE

The Space have been a longtime supporter of Lion Heart Dance Company and it's a real pleasure to call their studios home for our training and rehearsals. We receive so much support from the whole team at The Space which enables us to continue "creating art that moves the heart".

# SPONSORS



## **ENERGETIKS**

Energetiks have generously dressed out dancers for Alight in their stunning CODA and MESH range of leotards, crops and shorts. We are so happy to be connected with such a great company!

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## **HARLEQUINN FLOORS**

Our dancers this season have loved being able to perform on a custom vinyl floor provided by the dance floor specialists at Harlequinn. We're so appreciative of the willingness of their team to jump behind our company in this way!

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## **DANCELIFE MAGAZINE**

The Space have been a longtime supporter of Lion Heart Dance Company and it's a real pleasure to call their studios home for our training and rehearsals. We receive so much support from the whole team at The Space which enables us to continue "creating art that moves the heart".

# GIVING

## CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

We are only able to continue *creating art that moves the heart* thanks to the the generous support of our patrons.

Your giving allows us to create and produce new live dance work each year, develop educational programs and leave a lasting impact on the local artistic landscape.

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## PATREON

Through Patreon supporters of the company, like yourself, are able to make small donations on a regular basis. For the price of a cup of coffee each month, you can help to catalyse the growth and sustainability of our company and artists!

To become a patron, head to [patreon.com/LHDC](https://patreon.com/LHDC)

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## ONE-OFF GIVING

Prefer a one-off donation? Speak to one of our ushers in the foyer and they will gladly help you with this!

For larger gifts, please email [info@lionheartdancecompany.com](mailto:info@lionheartdancecompany.com) and our team can arrange a time to speak with you.





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## **PATRONS:**

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to these incredible supporters who enable us to continue our work by financially supporting us through Patreon.

Andrew Beyer, Camilo Paz, Cassandra Hertan, Chris Wood, Clare, Fiona Hore-Lacy, Greer Borg, Julia Lamke, Maria Hukowskyj, Meg Clohessy, Megan Sarah, Mia Brown, Olivia Lucas, Rhonda Keene, Sally Elliot, The Pericho Alliance.

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## **CREATIVE TEAM:**

The director would like to acknowledge the incredible contributions of the dancers to the choreographic work. Our thanks are also extended to the wider company dancers training with the company who engaged in the workshopping and development phases of the shows conception.

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## **VOLUNTEERS**

We wouldn't be able to operate without the help of our countless volunteers. Our thanks go out to those who helped us paint props, pick up costumes, brought us food, ushered at the shows and took care of our dancers.

We love our volunteers





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# INFO

## DIGITAL PROGRAM

In an effort to improve our ethical and sustainable business practices, we have opted to use digital programs this season. This dramatically reduces our environmental impact and prevents waste. We hope you have enjoyed your experience using this digital program!

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## DANCE WITH US

We will be running auditions to find new company dancers to welcome into our training program and work towards shows in 2020 very soon. Interested dancers should email an expression of interest to [inf@lionheartdancecompany.com](mailto:inf@lionheartdancecompany.com) to make sure they hear about our audition dates as soon as they are released.

## FEEDBACK

Got feedback for us?

We love hearing about how we can improve. Whether it's a compliment or something to work on, please feel free to reach out to us by emailing [info@lionheartdancecompany.com](mailto:info@lionheartdancecompany.com) as we'd love to hear from you!

