

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 1 May 2024
FOR IMMEDIATE USE

Community co-creators dive Deeper than Dancing

A group of community co-creators drawn from all walks of life will celebrate the transformative power of dance, music, story-telling and creative expression in a three-day event at Dancenorth Australia this weekend (3-5 May 2024).

The Deeper than Dancing weekend is the grand finale of a three-year project that curates the art-making experiences of local co-creators who have been inspired by their personal relationships with music and movement.

Deeper than Dancing's Creative Producer, Alice Lee Holland, said the program was created to bridge the gap between Dancenorth's professional creative development and its community dance classes.

"The project has really been about exchange with people," said Alice.

"Rather than Dancenorth coming in as the experts on dance and approaching choreography the way we would with our professional ensemble, we've come in and facilitated conversations about what dance means to each of the people involved in order to draw inspiration from their unique experiences.

"We've focused on deepening our relationships with the communities that we have a pre-existing relationship with through our regular community programs, so the people involved with Deeper than Dancing are older people, people affected by Parkinson's and people with disability.

"We've also been working with some young First Nations people through a partnership with Big Eye Theatre."

Included in the group of co-creators is the cast of RECORD, ten women aged 60 to 82 who have produced an original contemporary dance production drawn from their own treasured memories of music.

Peggy Roberston, 82, recalled her teenage years in the 1950s, listening to Johnny O'Keefe on cutting-edge radiograms, while Judy Taylor, 77, has set her memory to Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*, which she'd listen to while studying music at college.

"I remember the feeling of listening to that music in a quiet dark space. We used to gather in the common room at midnight and listen to this music and it was very velvety and smooth and intense. It caused a kind of shiver," said Judy.

“It’s been wonderful to have the opportunity to revisit and re-express that feeling here. The process has been amazing – like nothing I could have ever imagined.

“In the early days of the project, Alice asked us to think about a piece of music that we had a memory of. So that was the first step and I thought *Well, this is all very well, what will happen now?*,” said Judy.

“I suppose you could say that it was a kind of ‘co-creative experience’, but that would be the technical term. Really, I think it’s a *feeling*. It’s a feeling of trust in something bigger than ourselves.

“It’s a very intense experience, and I’m doing it for myself, but if other people feel that, then that’s for them to feel. I think what happens in this experience is that because we express a feeling, other people also have an opportunity to express feelings that come to them. It’s a bit like a wave of fairly intense emotions that happen. It’s very powerful.”

Deeper than Dancing will also feature short films by Ivor who is living with Parkinson’s; Josh, who is hearing impaired and living with disability and a group of young people through Big Eye Theatre; as well as two inclusive dance experiences and a Sunday evening dance party, headlined by local band Late November, to close out the weekend.

Alice said Deeper than Dancing is about celebrating dancers of all abilities and was designed to ensure as many people as possible could enjoy the weekend.

“I think that people will feel joy, I think people will see themselves reflected in the people that they’re observing and listening to, and hopefully they’ll feel really inspired to dance.”

Deeper than Dancing will be held at Dancenorth Australia, Gurambilbarra (Townsville) on 3-5 May 2024. For session times, and to book, go to <https://dancenorth.com.au/calendar>

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HIGH RES IMAGES, VIDEO and RADIO GRABS:

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/zrcv2ikyv796jvyoehv4o/AGTyDts3o3TY_o-TXSkmUTk?rlkey=r9njhyl6wqeeqsjm1o5fegll5&st=wprrtd27w&dl=0

VNR TIMECODES[Download here:](#)

TIMECODE	ITEM	DESCRIPTION
00:00	Interview	Alice Lee Holland Deeper than Dancing Creative Producer
05:23	Interview	Peggy Robertson Deeper than Dancing Co-Creator (RECORD)
07:53	Interview	Judy Taylor Deeper than Dancing Co-Creator (RECORD)
11:11	B-Roll	Deeper than Dancing rehearsals for RECORD performance
15:31	B-Roll	Big Eye Theatre dancers Deeper than Dancing Co-Creator (short film)
15:45	B-Roll	Ivor Preston Deeper than Dancing Co-Creator (short film)
16:10	B-roll	Josh Cutler Deeper than Dancing Co-Creator (short film)