

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 27 March 2026
FOR IMMEDIATE USE

Kyle Page and Amber Haines resign as Dancenorth's Artistic Directors

Gurambilbarra (Townsville)-based contemporary dance company Dancenorth Australia will farewell its co-Artistic Directors, Kyle Page and Amber Haines, in 2027.

After 11 years as Dancenorth's driving artistic forces, Page and Haines have announced that current work-in-development – due to premiere in 2027 – will be their last with the Company.

Dancenorth Australia Chair, Dr Judith McLean said Haines and Page had led the Company through a decade of incredible artistic achievement.

"As a company, as a community, and as a globally-connected collective of dance-lovers, we have been so very fortunate for the boundless creativity, care and commitment that Kyle and Amber have poured into Dancenorth," said Dr McLean.

"Their exceptional artistic output – 21 mainstage works, reaching a live audience of almost 200,000 – has been matched by passionate dedication to fortifying the future of dance by creating opportunities for independent and emerging artists; and connecting regional communities with the joy of art and movement. On behalf of the Board and staff at Dancenorth, I extend deepest gratitude to Amber and Kyle for the love and energy transmitted in everything they do."

Haines and Page said: "Over the past 11 years we have had the extraordinary privilege of sharing studios, stages and creative journeys with the most remarkable humans. We have been shaped, challenged and inspired in ways that will stay with us for the rest of our lives. Our time with Dancenorth has fundamentally transformed us both.

"We remain deeply devoted to this place and this community. Regional Australia is truly where our hearts are, and we are not leaving Gurambilbarra (Townsville). We look forward to supporting the next chapter of Dancenorth as devoted fans and audience members.

"We have given this place every fibre of our being and, in return, it has given us a life richer and more meaningful than we could ever have imagined."

Dancenorth's co-CEO Hillary Coyne said: "Working alongside Kyle and Amber over the last eight years has been, without question, the highlight of my working life and I am immensely proud, inspired and humbled by what we have been able to create together.

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“Their artistry and depth of care for the Company, its people and the community it serves is a rare and precious thing I will be forever grateful for being a part of. The lasting impact of their powerful creative leadership will reverberate through this building and in the hearts and bodies of all with whom they have connected for many years to come.”

The early announcement of Page and Haines’ departure, coupled with the Company’s pipeline of confirmed projects, provides ample time and space for a thoughtful transition of leadership.

Dancenorth’s 2026 season includes a National Tour of [Lighting the Dark](#); a European Tour of [Wayfinder](#); a remount of [RED](#) for Rising Festival’s inaugural Australian Dance Biennale; and seasons of Alisdair Macindoe’s *Plagiarist* and new work by Michelle Heaven, commissioned by Dancenorth, presented at home in Gurambilbarra (Townsville).

Recruitment for the new creative leadership will commence in the second half of 2026.

Acknowledgement of Funding:

Dancenorth Australia is assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body, and the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, and by Townsville City Council. Dancenorth is supported by the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation and receives funding from Creative Australia through the Australian Cultural Fund.

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FACTS AND FIGURES:

Under Kyle Page and Amber Haines’ Artistic Direction, Dancenorth Australia has:

- Developed 21 mainstage works
- Performed to live audiences of almost 200,000 people.
- Presented at more than 55 International Arts Festivals and Venues, including 17 international destinations.
- Joined the National Performing Arts Partnership Framework, which recognises Dancenorth’s standing as a major player in the national arts sector with joint funding from State and Federal Government over a period of eight years.
- Received 5 x Major Festivals Initiative commissions – more than any other company.

- Received 2 x IMPACT Awards, 2 x Helpmann Awards, 2 x Greenroom Awards, 2 x Australian Dance Awards and a Sidney Myer Performing Arts Group Award.
- Conducted the most comprehensive national tour of a contemporary dance work in Australian history. *Wayfinder* has now been performed in 42 festivals and venues, with further dates to be announced.
- Commissioned Australia's first-ever mainstage dance work directed by an Artist living with Down syndrome. *Lighting the Dark* will tour to seven destinations in 2026.
- Developed shows as intimate as *STILL*, created for audiences of just 21 people; and as large as *HOME*, which reached a global televised audience of 1.5 billion when it was performed as part of the Opening Ceremony for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.
- Set the standard for collaboration with First Nations Dancers in co-created works such as *Dungarri Nya Nya Ngarri Bi Nya* (2021), *Bambarra Ma Dariburu* (2023) and *A Live Moment* (2025).
- Employed 568 Artists and Arts workers
- Hosted 82 resident artists and 274 secondment dancers.
- Delivered 4,714 community classes and workshops to 72,699 participants.