

**Dancehouse
2012**

**Housemate
Performance
Program**



WHAT IS DANCEHOUSE?

Dancehouse exists to advance independent contemporary dance in Australia through its program of research, training and performance. Dancehouse creates an environment where creative risk, independent career paths, collaborative relationships and diverse practice and presentation can flourish. Dancehouse is also a crucial link to a network of movement practices, artists and organisations in Australia and internationally.

As one of the key centres for choreographic and contemporary dance development in Australia, Dancehouse plays a significant role in the development of innovative dance practice and ongoing artistic enquiry. Dancehouse actively supports individual artists, working in diverse modes of physical practice and across different stages of career development. It is a dynamic venue for professional moving arts, which facilitates the development of artists, choreographers and audiences alike.

Dance is an intrinsic part of artistic and social culture. It provides a means to connect our histories and experiences of the world with others, to share our stories and aspirations and to imagine new possibilities for living. Dance reconnects us with our bodies and the way they function, interactively and productively generating that which is new, surprising and enlivening.

WHAT IS THE HOUSEMATE PROGRAM?

In 2008, Dancehouse created a fully funded creative development and presentation residency for dance practitioners across Australia - the Housemate Residency.

The residency gives an independent artist up to 14 weeks of free, full-time studio space, financial support, mentoring, workshop and outreach opportunities, office facilities and producing support.

Two residencies are offered each year:

The HOUSEMATE PERFORMANCE PROGRAM and the HOUSEMATE RESEARCH PROGRAM.

The **HOUSEMATE PERFORMANCE PROGRAM**, in the first half of each year, focuses solely on creative development leading to a new work and formal performance season, which Dancehouse presents in one of our two theatres.

The **HOUSEMATE RESEARCH PROGRAM**, offered in the second half of each year, concentrates on research and experimentation, with no expectation of a presentation outcome.

With both programs, Dancehouse wishes to instigate and nurture rigorous discourse and wide-ranging experimentation in all movement-based forms and to encourage new choreographic work.

Both 'Performance' and 'Research' Housemate programs provide the artist with extensive time, generous financial support and a thoroughly mentored environment. Even though these two programs are project oriented, Dancehouse is interested in an artist's more global pathway, thus trying to act as a career fertilizer and an available tool with which to invent new connections between artistic work, professional networks and wider audiences.



THE HOUSEMATE PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

Who is this for?

This residency is for dance artists who are engaging in a rigorous choreographic practice and who wish to create and present a new performance work in partnership with Dancehouse in the first half of 2012.

Artists who consider themselves to be established, mid career or emerging are all welcome to apply, however sustained professional contemporary dance activity and/or demonstrated potential in choreography will need to be evident.

Interstate artists are also welcome to apply however Dancehouse is unable to fund travel, accommodation or living allowance.

To be eligible you must be a Dancehouse Member (or become one) and you must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident (for tax purposes).

How it works:

The Housemate receives:

- Up to 14 weeks of fully subsidised studio space for rehearsal and performance
- A \$10,500 salary throughout the residency (+ superannuation)
- A work-in-progress showing and feedback session
- A 6-show performance season and post-show forum presented by Dancehouse
- Constant mentoring and support through the Artistic Director and artist network
- Office space, resources and supplies
- Written, video and photographic documentation and promotion pack

Residency Timing

The 14 weeks of the residency can be consecutive or non-consecutive. The entire Housemate Performance Program Residency in 2012 must be held between February and July and must take place at Dancehouse.

New Work

The Housemate Performance Program Residency must include the creation of a new, live dance performance work that has not yet been publicly presented. Works that have already undergone one or more stages of creative development, but have not yet been presented in a public performance season, are eligible to apply. Works that have been seen in an informal work-in-progress studio showing are also eligible to apply.

Financial Support

As well as providing the Housemate resident with studio space, technical and production support in-kind, the Housemate also receives a \$10,500 grant. The grant is allocated and expended by Dancehouse and the expense areas to which this grant is allocated must be negotiated with Dancehouse at the outset of the residency.



Selection Criteria

The Housemate Performance Program Residency is open to projects that are outstanding both in their vision and in their capacity to investigate new choreographic territories and to connect to our society.

The proposal should clearly outline:

- The idea you will be investigating
- The method with which you will tackle this investigation
- The importance of this idea at this time

The proposals will be assessed on the following selection criteria:

1. A creative rationale and innovative approach to choreographic thinking and practice that has the potential to:

- Challenge conventions of popular thinking (physical, social, political, philosophical etc.)
- Provoke critical dialogue
- Be manifestly audacious

2. A clear articulation of how this proposal will relate to your ongoing choreographic and/or performance practice.

3. A well-planned creative and production process.

4. Consideration of how this project will engage with the audience.

5. Significance of the impact that the Dancehouse Housemate Residency will have on your career development.

If, in addition to the above selection criteria, you wish to give some consideration to possible ways to link your project to the existing Dancehouse program or to share it with our wider community (eg. mentoring, workshops, exchanges with local dance groups and educational institutions), we would be interested to hear about this.

Assessment Process

Applications will first be shortlisted by Dancehouse's Artistic Director Angela Conquet and Program Producer Natalie Cursio.

A residency advisory group, made up of representatives from around Australia and also one international advisor, will then review shortlisted applicants.

This process will take up to 7 weeks and it is anticipated that the successful Housemate Performance Residency applicant will be notified by mid January 2012.

Applicants are advised to discuss proposals with either Dancehouse's Artistic Director or Program Producer prior to submitting.

Please prepare your application as stipulated on the Housemate Cover Sheet / Application form and submit by email only.

Applications are due Thursday 1 December 2011 at 5pm.

For more information on Dancehouse and our past Housemates, please visit our website, www.dancehouse.com.au.

For any enquiries, please contact us on 03 9347 2860

