

**Dancehouse**

**Housemate  
Performance  
Program  
2016**



## WHAT IS DANCEHOUSE ?

**A solid, resilient and unique organisation, with a long-standing reputation for excellence and rigour in delivering its diversity of programs and services, Dancehouse exists to advance independent contemporary dance in Australia. Established by a working group of independent dance practitioners, Dancehouse is the only presenter in Australia dedicated solely to contemporary dance. From its base in Melbourne, its reputation and influence has crossed state boundaries to shape the art form nationally and internationally.**

Through its programs of research, performance and artist development, Dancehouse creates an environment where creative risk, independent career paths, collaborative relationships and diverse practice and presentation can flourish and proliferate. At the vanguard of contemporary dance, Dancehouse presents rigorous, cutting-edge research and performance, thus playing a significant role in the development of innovative dance practices, new audiences and ongoing artistic enquiry. Dancehouse is also a crucial link to a network of movement practices, artists and organisations, in Australia and internationally. Dancehouse thus nurtures and connects the independent dance community with audiences and networks, locally and globally, contributing solidly to outstanding and sustainable career paths and engendering a broader and more informed appreciation of the art form.

With a 20-year history Dancehouse has, in recent years, emerged as a confident, competently governed and resilient key industry leader in nurturing new thinking, supporting engaged dance practices and cultivating audience access and appreciation. Recent programs - Dance Territories (with Melbourne Festival) and the highly profiled Keir Choreographic Award- have brought unprecedented recognition and momentum. Dancehouse is undoubtedly an art innovator, a hub of knowledge, resources and opportunities for dance makers, and a catalyst of inspiring approaches to engage with new audiences.

The only organisation of its kind in Australia and an unique incubator for developing challenging, invigorating and socially engaged art, Dancehouse stands strongly and truly for independence, experimentation and for the belief that art is a necessary and powerful force in contemporary society. Dancehouse connects our minds with our bodies and the way we exist in the world, generating that which is new, surprising and enlivening.

## WHAT IS THE HOUSEMATE PROGRAM ?

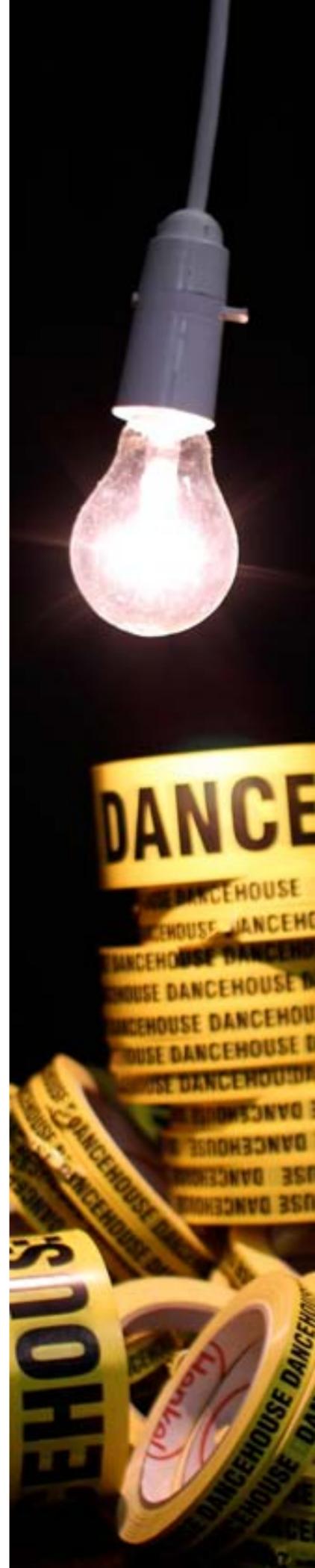
**Housemate is Dancehouse's artist-in-residence program.**

It supports rigorous discourse, research and wide-ranging experimentation in all movement-based forms, so as to nurture new choreographic expression for new forms and contexts.

The Housemate Performance Program focuses primarily on creative development leading to the presentation of a new work and formal performance season produced and presented by Dancehouse. The Housemate Residency accompanies choreographers through the entire creative process, from vision to realisation. The program offers extensive time to explore, space to examine possibility, the financial support and a thoroughly supportive and nurturing environment to bring the Resident's project to fruition.

Even though this program is 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.

**Housemate is Dancehouse's commitment to the future of dance in Australia and to those who re-shape and re-invent choreographic thought for bodies in movement.**



## THE HOUSEMATE PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

### WHO IS IT FOR?

This residency is for Australian professional choreographers living and working in Australia who are engaging in a rigorous choreographic practice and who wish to CREATE and PRESENT a NEW work in partnership with Dancehouse in the first half of 2016.

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 exceptional 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 residency includes:

Up to 300 hours of fully subsidised studio space for experimentation and rehearsal, and

- A salary package covering artists' fees
- Work-in-progress showings, feedback sessions and outside eye/dramaturge input
- A 5-night performance season fully produced and presented by Dancehouse, a production budget and technical support
- Constant mentoring and support through the Dancehouse team, resources and networks
- Free access to other Dancehouse training, development, touring programs and other paid opportunities (such as teaching, curating, publishing)
- Office space, resources and supplies
- Written, video and photographic documentation and promotion pack

PERFORMANCE



## THE HOUSEMATE PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

### RESIDENCY TIMING

The 300 hours/approx. 10 weeks FT of the residency can be consecutive or non-consecutive. The entire Housemate Performance Residency in 2016 must be held between January and August 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.

Dancehouse warmly welcomes applications from artists with an experimental or hybrid-art approach to dance making and/or performance, including projects conceived for non-conventional theatrical spaces.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

As well as providing the Housemate resident with in-kind studio space, technical and production support, the Housemate also receives a \$10,000 grant. The grant is allocated and managed by Dancehouse and must be expended exclusively in fees for the Resident or collaborators. We encourage the successful applicant to seek funding from other sources.

PERFORMANCE



## THE HOUSEMATE PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

### 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. This program gives generous space to experimental, cutting-edge and even insular research, with the aim to support the discovery of new ground in choreographic exploration.

### WHY THIS? WHY NOW? WHY HERE?

The proposal should clearly outline:

### WHAT & WHY & HOW?

- The idea you will be investigating and why?
- The method with which you will tackle this investigation

### WHY NOW?

- The importance of this idea at this point in time for you, for the art form, for the audiences

### WHY HERE?

- Why do you think Dancehouse is the right context for materialising your idea?

PERFORMANCE



## THE HOUSEMATE PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

The proposals will be assessed on the following selection criteria:

1. A creative rationale and rigorous approach to choreographic thinking and practice
2. A thorough description of the idea investigated, clearly contextualised in current choreographic thinking/practice or related art forms
3. A clear articulation of how this proposal will relate to your ongoing choreographic and/or performance practice
4. A well planned and articulated investigative process
5. Consideration of how this project will engage with the audience
6. Significance of the impact that the Dancehouse Housemate Residency will have on your career development
7. A clear production budget

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), please include this information.

PERFORMANCE



## THE HOUSEMATE PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

### ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Applications will first be shortlisted by Dancehouse.

Shortlisted applications will then be assessed by an advisory peer panel, made up of six Australian and international dance experts and of Dancehouse's Artistic Director, Angela Conquet.

This process can take up to 7 weeks and it is anticipated that the successful Housemate Performance Residency applicant will be notified by 15 August, 2015.

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**You are encouraged to attend the INFO SESSION on June 9th at 6pm, or discuss your application with Veronica Bolzon, Program Producer, before submission.**

**Proposals should be no more than three pages in length.**

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

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For more information on Dancehouse and our past Housemates, please visit our website, [www.dancehouse.com.au](http://www.dancehouse.com.au).

For any enquiries, please contact us on 03 9347 2860.

