

MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Phone 61 2 8248 6500 Fax 61 2 8248 6599
sydneyfestival.org.au



CHAMPIONS

WORLD PREMIERE

FORM Dance Projects, Australia



"Dancers are the cleverest with their feet, next are footballers"

Johan Cruyff – soccer legend

Photo: Heidrun Löhr

In an epic, adrenaline-fuelled choreographic match, a dream team of 11 female dancers make the moves of the football field their own, from the training drills to the victory dances, as contemporary dance and soccer collide.

Under the direction of **Martin del Amo**, one of Australia's most exciting and innovative independent choreographers, *CHAMPIONS* harnesses the energy and enthusiasm of sports fans and celebrates the talents of elite performers.

Drawing from a highly physical set of soccer drills, tactics studies, pre-game warm up rituals, on-field victory dances and the performative experience of triumph and defeat, choreographic inspiration for *CHAMPIONS* was developed in consultation with coaches and athletes (from Western Sydney Wanderers W-League).

The powerful all-women cast of *CHAMPIONS* challenges long-held expectations of who qualifies as dance/sports 'champions' in a culture that underpays, and generally underappreciates, the achievements of female performers both in sports and in the arts.

Playful pre-game analysis and commentary integrated into the performance will feature Channel Seven sports presenter **Mel McLaughlin**. Del Amo and the dancers are joined in the creation of this new large-scale dance work by an impressive team of artistic collaborators, all of whom are acclaimed in their respective fields.

CHAMPIONS is testament to the adventurous, risk-taking and open-minded approach to collaboration that characterises the independent dance sector making work in Australia today. It promises audiences an exciting, and ultimately unforgettable viewing experience.

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Director	Martin del Amo
Associate Artist	Miranda Wheen
Dancers	Sara Black, Kristina Chan, Cloé Fournier, Carlee Mellow, Sophia Ndaba, Rhiannon Newton, Katina Olsen, Marnie Palomares, Melanie Palomares, Kathryn Puie, Miranda Wheen
Commentator	Mel McLaughlin
Dramaturg	Julie-Anne Long
Composer	Gail Priest
Video Design	Samuel James
Lighting Design	Karen Norris
Set & Costume Design	Clare Britton
Training Consultant	Ahilan Ratnamohan
Production Manager	Mark Haslam
Executive Producer	Annette McLernon

About Form Dance Projects:

FORM Dance Projects is a dynamic hub for Australian contemporary dance, based in Parramatta, Western Sydney. In recent years FORM's program has encompassed producing genre-defying large scale productions including *Puncture*, a multi-disciplinary creation straddling contemporary dance, physical theatre and choral music that premiered at Sydney Festival in 2015. Initiated by FORM and co-produced with Legs On The Wall and VOX, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, the piece explored the evolution of social dancing.

Where	Carriageworks Bay 17
When	17-20 January at 8pm 21 January at 2pm and 8pm 22 January at 2pm
Duration	60mins
Tickets	\$41/\$37 + booking fee
Bookings	Sydney Festival on 1300 856 876 sydneyfestival.org.au/champions

CHAMPIONS is supported by the NSW Government's tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW. Sydney Festival and Destination NSW have a strategic partnership that will see three world premieres and four Australian exclusive events presented at Sydney Festival 2017.

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For interviews and further information contact:

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