

SYD FEST 2020

A group of performers in yellow jumpsuits and a clear protective visor walking on a city street at night. The performers are in motion, and the background shows city lights and a traffic light.

ENCOUNTER

**FORM DANCE PROJECTS/SYDNEY YOUTH ORCHESTRAS/
FLING PHYSICAL THEATRE | AUSTRALIA
WORLD PREMIERE**

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PRINCE ALFRED SQUARE, PARRAMATTA
10–12 JANUARY
135 MINS

PARK OPENS: 5PM
PRELUDE: 6PM–7PM
ENCOUNTER: 7.10PM–8.10PM



Director Emma Saunders

Choreography In collaboration with dancers

Associate Artist Rob McCredie

Composers Amanda Brown & Jodi Phillis

Orchestrator Jessica Wells

Conductor James Pensini

Writer Felicity Castagna

Visual Artist David Capra

Western Sydney Dancers Sarah Kalule,
Lawrencea Mateariki, Sabrina Muszynski,
Joshua O'Connor, Naomi Reichardt, Feras Shaheen,
Caylan Spendlove, Xara Zaineddine

The Fling Company Esme Barker, Ebony Constable,
Gabriela Green Olea, Ebony Ryan-Miners, Lara Scrivens,
Bodhi Turner, Rory Warne, Luca Yi

Orchestra Western Sydney Youth Orchestra

Spoken Word Pola Fanous

Photography Heidrun Lohr

Video & Trailer Dominic O'Donnell

Production Manager Bec Poulter

Form Executive Producer Annette McLernon

SYO General Manager Mia Patoulios

SYO Artistic Program Manager Katie Garman

ABOUT THE SHOW

You are here in this place where the eels lay down and the cars light up and the McDonald's M is the biggest moon in the sky. Parramatta. Summertime. Early in the evening. ENCOUNTER is your invitation to the neighbourhood.

In this en masse, site-specific work of joy, directed by the "formidable" Emma Saunders, *ENCOUNTER* explores the indomitable spirit of youth and the world they find themselves in. *ENCOUNTER* was created in collaboration with award-winning artists and 67 young performers including a 50-piece live orchestra, 16 dancers and a slam poet.

Bring a picnic blanket to the park and warm up with *PRELUDE*, a rotating showcase of short performances by local dance revolutionaries and community dance leaders. Artists include flamenco diva Pepa Molina; Bharatanatyam dancer Aruna Gandhi; Polynesian Cook Islanders Pacific Dreams; Feras Shaheen and his Dabke dancing mother, Diane Busuttil's Feisty Femmes; Forge Tap Quartet; the rocking contemporary Dance Makers Collective; and international Sharp Short Dance alumnus Billy Keohavong.

CREATOR'S NOTE

ENCOUNTER explores the simplicity of dance and the complexity of choreography. It's trying to reflect who's in it, rather than just my own vision. I have steered our creative process to be respectful to the breadth of each of our lives, ages, backgrounds and dancing experiences. We have responded, merged and created new ways of moving that reflect, at times, a communal body, and at other times the individual nuances we bring to our dancing. Dance is an abstract art form and *ENCOUNTER* positions itself front and centre on the spectrum of densely choreographed movement sequences through to open-ended, installation-based passages that open our senses to the site we find ourselves in. This outdoor business is something to behold – it's yours, it's mine, it's free and it's ours to revel in. Enjoy!

Emma Saunders, Director

COMPANIES

FORM Dance Projects is a dynamic presenter and producer of dance, based in Parramatta, Western Sydney, rigorously supporting independent dance artists and developing audiences for Australian contemporary dance. *ENCOUNTER* is commissioned and produced by FORM Dance Projects and supported by Sydney Youth Orchestras, offering orchestral training excellence to young musicians living locally, and FLING Physical Theatre, a youth dance organisation based in Bega, NSW, empowering young regional artists.

FORM
DANCE PROJECTS



FOUR WINDS



RIVER
SIDE



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