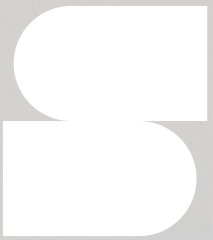


# NEIGHBOURS



Sydney  
Festival  
2023

# NEIGHBOURS

Brigel Gjoka, Rauf “RubberLegz” Yasit & Ruşan Filiztek | UK  
AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE

Drama Theatre, Sydney Opera House  
12-15 January 2023  
60 minutes (no interval)

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A Sadler’s Wells Production with the support of Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels

Co-produced with PACT Zollverein Essen, Pôle européen de création - Ministère de la Culture/Maison de la Danse Lyon, Biennale de la danse de Lyon 2021, Cndc Angers, TAP - Théâtre Auditorium de Poitiers, Sydney Festival, Festival d’Automne à Paris; Chaillot - Théâtre national de la Danse, La Filature, Scène nationale de Mulhouse, Julidans Amsterdam, Théâtre de Liège, MC2: Maison de la Culture de Grenoble, Teatro municipal do Porto, KDF / Kalamata Dance Festival, Torinodanza Festival / Teatro Stabile di Torino - Teatro Nazionale and centre chorégraphique national de Caen en Normandie.

## CAST AND CREDITS

**Choreographers and performers** Brigel Gjoka & Rauf “RubberLegz” Yasit

**Created in collaboration with** William Forsythe

**Composer & Musician** Ruşan Filiztek, Accords Croisés

**Lighting Designer** Zeynep Kepekli

**Costume Designer** Ryan Dawson Laight

**Part I World Premiere** 29 & 30 November 2019 at PACT Zollverein, Essen, Germany.

**Full piece World Premiere** 3 & 4 March 2022 at CNDC Angers, France.

## Technical Team

**Touring Technical Manager** Dan ‘DJ’ Johnson

**Sound Engineer** Patrick Dell

**For Sadler’s Wells**

**Artistic Director & Chief Executive** Alistair Spalding CBE

**Executive Producer** Suzanne Walker

**Head of Producing & Touring** Bia Oliveira

**Producer** Florent Trioux

**Assistant Producer** Molly Jones

**Head of Production** Adam Carrée

**Technical Production Manager** Pete Maxey

**Marketing Manager** Jordan Archer

**Press Officer** Laura Neil

**Marketing & Communications Coordinator** Zoe Innes

**Producing & Touring Trainee** Sahara Huang

## ABOUT THE SHOW

For a piece that opens in silence, *Neighbours* is – unexpectedly, ebulliently – chatty. Elbows exchange fireside stories, joust and frolic. Arms intertwine, rebutting, remembering, rejoicing. Knees and hips angle and unfold into intricate, unspoken patter. Generations of memory surface in the graze of fingers on a shoulder.

Inspired by a suggestion from William Forsythe during the making of *A Quiet Evening of Dance*, Brigel Gjoka & Rauf Yasit began improvising kinetic patterns together. They delve into the overlap of movement languages inherited through folk dances and communal celebrations, Albanian for one, Kurdish for the other. They explore how these histories pivot through the distinct experiences of each – specifically, ballet and contemporary dance for Brigel; b-breaking, improvisation, design and animation for Rauf – only to intersect, to transform when they meet. For dance, they remind us, is not a product: it is part of the human process. Statutory warning: When it is, there will be joy. One that is blessedly infectious.

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## ABOUT THE CREATORS

*Neighbours* is a raw, powerful collaboration by three extraordinary artists each from a distinct movement and cultural heritage.

Pioneering abstract b-boy Rauf “RubberLegz” Yasit is a Los Angeles based dancer, choreographer, director and visual artist with Kurdish roots who was born and raised in Celle, Germany. He has a style that defies categorisation and has created his own unique movement language, developed over a number of years.

Brigel Gjoka is a choreographer, teacher and established contemporary dancer. Brigel was born in Albania and trained in Tirana Ballet School 1997-2004. His artistic engagements have taken him around the world to more than 31 countries, performing with companies such as Nederlands Dans Theater and The Forsythe Company.

Ruşan Filiztek is a contemporary and traditional composer, musician and singer. Ruşan moved to Paris in 2015 to complete a masters degree in musicology at the University of Sorbonne, where he now teaches Balkan and Oriental music whilst completing his PHD. He is a specialist in songs and melodies from Anatolia and Mesopotamia, and spent several years travelling to deepen his knowledge of music from a broad range of backgrounds.

## SADLER’S WELLS

Sadler’s Wells is a world-leading creative organisation based in London committed to the making of dance, with over three centuries of theatrical heritage. Since 2005, Sadler’s Wells has created award-winning dance productions, co-productions and touring projects in collaboration with its portfolio of Associate Artists, as well as international dance companies and partners.

Sadler’s Wells plays a significant role in the development of dance, bringing innovative and inspiring works to worldwide audiences. In the last 15 years, it has created 56 productions that have been enjoyed by over 2.2 million people in 48 countries.

In 2020, Sadler’s Wells premiered *Message In A Bottle*, a Sadler’s Wells and Universal Music UK production by Kate Prince, based on the songs of Sting. In 2021 *The Rite of Spring / common ground[s]* received its world premiere, in partnership with the Pina Bausch Foundation and Ecole des Sables.



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