



SmokeFree Youth Dance Festival "Changes: 25 Years"

April Update

The theme is "Changes: 25 years", and yes - SmokeFree Youth Dance Festival is 25 this year, so you have a wide-open theme to play with for 2009. And what changes have we seen in dance and SmokeFree Youth Dance Festival over the past 25 years?

Dear Teacher,

Welcome to another update for 2009 SmokeFree Youth Dance Festival. We've just finished a great two weeks of professional development for high school and college dance teachers.

- Register for the free Choreographic Workshops for teachers and students on Wednesday 20 May 1-4pm, Thursday 28 May 1-4pm, and Friday 5 June 1-4pm. Book early, and for the early days - too many schools leave it to the last minute to book for the last day, and we have limited spaces and may not be able to fit you in!
- We have some new schools participating this year, so if your school is one of them and you have any queries please call us.
- The Production Manual is now available to download from the Ausdance web site [now](#). This should answer most of your queries.
- One of the Ausdance ACT Board, and an experienced High School dance teacher involved in SmokeFree Youth Dance Festival, has offered to act as a mentor for teachers new to the event. Please contact us and we can help!

Thank you!



Neil Roach
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Jenny Norris
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We know that some school email systems are set to block images and teachers can only receive text, so we now have a web link to a browser-based version of this email - the email system will store this version for 30 days.

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Choreographer and Dance Educator Alison Halit - the 2009 Artistic Producer



Alison has over 18 years of experience as a choreographer and arts educator. Career highlights include, Creation/Direction of the acclaimed *Bricks Water Sand*



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Ausdance ACT Events are SmokeFree Smokefree

Ausdance ACT promotes SmokeFree workplaces and runs SmokeFree events. We recognise how damaging smoking can be to a dancer's health and well-being. For more information click [here](#).

Ausdance National

Now you can go straight to the [news](#) from Ausdance National. We also have a range of professional publications for dance research and teaching. Go to the [Ausdance National](#) web site and see!

Boys in Dance

Some Ideas?

The Ausdance website has some reference articles to help, from [here](#).



[The Canberra Theatre](#) has matinee performances of many shows, which are designed for school attendances. Call the box office at the Canberra Theatre on 02 6275 2700 and select option three for group bookings.



All photos by Art Atelier

Dance Theatre Trilogy; Choreography/ Direction of *100 Bricks* - a dance film for SBS Broadcasting; Artistic Direction of Dance Storm 98 & 99 for Ausdance Victoria; Dance Designer, *Spirit of the World* for the Geelong Ethnic Communities Council; Co-Writer/ Choreographer/ Director *Sensitive to Noise*, metropolitan and regional tours.

Alison has created dance in education projects and professional development workshops in choreography for The Victorian Arts Centre, Arts Victoria - Artist in School Program, The Royal Children's Hospital - Festival for Healthy Living, The Song Room, Ausdance Victoria, Deakin University and The Gordon Institute of TAFE where she taught movement for three years. Alison has been nominated for many awards, including Victorian Green Room Awards for Performance, Direction and Innovation and has been the recipient of a Queens Trust Achiever Award.

Student Booklet



The most important change is that this year there will be an individual **Student Booklet** of eight pages. This booklet will contain a condensed version of information previously in the production folder that you needed to photocopy and distribute. It has an excellent short guide from Alison about creating a dance piece for SmokeFree Youth Dance Festival. It will also contain a sign-on section at the back if you wish to use it - some

teachers have requested this for registering students in the creation process, but it is not mandatory.

Sufficient copies of the booklet will be posted out when we receive your entry form listing your participant numbers. As a bonus, we have been able to include some **special ticket prices** for students in SmokeFree Youth Dance Festival for the dance shows at the Canberra Theatre. These are advertised in the centre of the booklet - keep a watch out for these fantastic shows. The booklet can be used as proof of participation for this offer.

The Poster will follow the ideas we used in 2008, using images sampled from photos from the previous year's Youth Dance Festival. Andrew from Art Atelier has taken some fantastic shots (samples are again in this email) and Elissa from Quantum Ideas Bureau, who created last year's poster, is hard at work with those photos.

The production folder is available *now* for download from our web [site](#).

Key Dates for 2009



Professional Development for Teachers: 16 March Belconnen North and Gungahlin, 17 March Belconnen South, 18 March Inner North, 23 March Inner South, 24 March Woden/Weston Creek, 25 March Tuggeranong.

Friday 10 April Entry forms are due with payment. But as it's Easter, and we won't be here - send them when when you can!

Wednesday 20 May, Thursday 28 May, and Friday 5 June Free

Choreographic workshops for teachers and students conducted by QL2 Centre for Youth Dance at QL2's The Studio at Gorman House Arts Centre, Braddon. This is a three-hour workshop with room for the teacher and three students.

Friday 31 July Due date for all permission and recording forms and the forms with Dance Title, Dance Description, and Student Names. This is vital for setting the run order early for excursion times to be organised, and to avoid using up Alison's time collecting forms that should already have been lodged.

Monday 10 August Alison returns to Canberra and commences school visits, to continue the PD and assist with choreography.

Wednesday 19 August Alison sets the Performance run order.

Thursday 20 August Technical/Dress and Performance schedule with the run order is emailed by the Ausdance ACT office.

Wednesday 2 September Press Launch.

Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 September Principal technical rehearsals. Thursday and Friday mornings are held open for any schools that can't squeeze in to Monday and Tuesday.

Wednesday 9, Thursday 10 and Friday 11 September Dress rehearsals, and performances at 7.30pm.

Why be in SmokeFree Youth Dance Festival?

Previous Themes

- 2008 Time to...
- 2007 Reflection
- 2006 Australians All...
- 2005 Connections
- 2004 Newsflash
- 2003 Adventure
- 2002 Once Upon a Time
- 2001 Poetry In Motion
- 2000 Substance
- 1999 Lights, Camera, Action!
- 1998 Freedom...to Moove
- 1997 Live It, Love It, Moove It
- 1996 In Motion
- 1995 Beyond Imagination
- 1994 Unity
- 1993 Futures
- 1992 Rituals
- 1991 Fantasy
- 1990 Communication
- 1989 Changes
- 1988 Celebration
- 1987 Discovery
- 1986 Peace
- (International Year of)
- 1985 Youth
- (International Year of)



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It's the largest youth dance event in the region, organised by Ausdance ACT and driven by the youth dancers as choreographers, dancers, and comperes. It has more entries than any other event, is lower cost, is non-competitive. It is a celebration of dance, with an emphasis on dance as a creative *artform*. It really starts at the beginning of each year with the announcement of the theme and Ausdance ACT works with the dancers and the teachers to deliver the highest quality we can achieve on the main stage of the Canberra Theatre over three nights in September. Tens of thousands of young dancers have created and performed with the festival, including some who have gone on to star in the professional dance world, and the Artistic Producer works closely with all the dance works to inspire and encourage. Ausdance ACT also manages the staging, copyright and recording and will support you and your dancers on the biggest stage in the region. And in case you hadn't noticed, interest in dance has hgone through the roof since a certain TV show started!

[Ausdance ACT](#) is the peak body for dance in the ACT, with many services including SmokeFree Youth Dance Festival, a Dance Directory of local dance schools and classes, and other major events and projects. Members are part of the national network and the World Dance Alliance. You can reply to this e-news using act@ausdance.org.au for Jenny Norris or act.eo@ausdance.org.au for Neil Roach.

Please feel free to forward this email to any other teacher involved with SmokeFree Youth Dance Festival.

For those schools not participating in SmokeFree Youth Dance Festival - feel free to unsubscribe from this e-news.

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