

STELLAR

PRESENTS



COUNT
HER
IN

The Stellar Company acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land where we meet and work, the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people, and the many other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from across Australia who have now made Canberra their home. We celebrate and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of the ACT and region.

International Women's Day 2025 - celebrating women of all ages and abilities.

We join for a Weaving Workshop, mini pitch session and a performance exploring stories of female empowerment and achievement for International Women's Day 2025.

With the support of an ACT Senior's Grant and many arts and business leaders we bring a stunning and warm collection of Canberra performers and creators together to engage, connect and champion female empowerment.

The show will be Auslan Interpreted by Brett Olzen



Pitch sessions

60 seconds to pitch your passion!

Liz Lea - The Stellar Company

Susan Innis - Fun4Fitness

Kate Ford - Kate Ford Fitness

Simone Whitehead - @madebymissmilly

Milly Whitehead - @madebymissmilly

Dr Zsuzsi Soboslay - The Story Chapel

Tamzin Nugent – This Beautiful Mess Podcast

Emma Batchelor - QL2 Dance

**Dr Elizabeth Cameron Dalman – Mirramu Creative
Arts Centre**

Emma Lavery - Project Dust

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Women's Circle

Project Dust

Together we dance the earth as we grow through each phase of womanhood.

Directed by: Emma Lavery

Choreography: Emma Lavery and Senior Dancers

Music: Calm It by Isaac Lavery

Performers: Emma, Tawhia, Charlotte, Lakeya, Piper, Shaunda, and Mylie.

Project Dust is a First Nations community dance group based in the ACT, Ngunnawal Country. Members come from many Tribes and are invited to celebrate culture together with the aim of bringing the next generation up with a strong sense of self and belonging.

This project was developed as part of a Residency at Canberra Theatre Centre as part of their New Works programs, supported by artsACT.



Connections

GOLD Dancers

- #Women come together to support each other.
- #They share stories and memories; joys and sorrows.
- # And remind each other of their worths and strength.

This work was initially titled Precarious Connections and created for Canberra Dance Theatre's production Fluctuations, performed in the Drill Hall Gallery in October 2024 in the presence of artist Euan Macleod's exhibition Flux. Works in Fluctuations were inspired by Macleod's art works.

Choreography: Sue Andrews, Vilaisan Campbell and Liz Lea and company

Performers: Sue Andrews, Vilaisan Campbell, David Turbayne, Charmaine Hallam, Jean Bennett, Diana Sandeman, Greg Barrett.

Music Grief and Mixed Emotions by Namyeon Lee

Canberra Dance Theatre's GOLD Company challenges community stereotypes of who older people are and what they offer to society. Established in 2011 for people over 55, GOLD first performed publicly at Belconnen Arts Centre. Over 100 performances later, GOLD have worked with renowned choreographers and performed locally, nationally and internationally.



GOLD Dancers

Charmaine Hallam: As a founding member of Canberra Dance Theatre's GOLD Company it is wonderful to be performing with GOLD and Liz Lea after dancing from age 3 and having a fulfilling career teaching dance in secondary colleges

David Turbayne discovered contemporary dance when he retired at 60, joining Canberra Dance Theatre's newly formed GOLD group for seniors. In the 14 years since then, David has performed with the GOLDS on their UK and European tour and in a number of works including 'GreatSport' (2015) and 'A Stellar Lineup' (2023) and in films, 'The GOLD' and 'Lakesong' (2024).

Greg Barrett: I started dancing in 2013 when I retired from teaching at the University of Canberra. For me it was a leap into the unknown and a leap that has enriched my life ever since. I am a member of the Canberra Dance Theatre's GOLD group and regularly attend their classes and occasionally perform. Being in my 70th year and still able to dance is such a joy. I hope our performance brings joy to you too.

Jean Bennett: In Sydney 50s/60s, she studied ballet with Valrene Tweedie (Cecchetti) and then BBO. On moving to Canberra, she was completely occupied for many years with family and Science teaching, dancing had to wait. Since then, she has participated in folk dance, Australian bush dance, Welsh and Cornish dancing and tap. She is an original member of Canberra Dance Theatre's Gold Company and enjoys all their dance offerings and volunteering for Dance for Parkinsons.

Vilaisan Campbell came to dance late in life at the age of 61 after a successful career in international development. She joined the Canberra Dance Theatre's GOLD (Growing Old Disgracefully) at its inception in 2011 and is now a passionate dancer. Vilaisan was born in Thailand and is an active learner of various cultural and dance styles within the setting of contemporary dance. She has been a part of various projects including "Life is a Work of Art", "The Gold" (film), "Great Sport", "A Stellar Line-Up" and "Kiku" (2023)

Sue Andrews has been dancing and performing with Canberra Dance Theatre's GOLD company since 2013. She is also part of the Canberra women's dance ensemble Somebody's Aunt. Her (paid) working and professional life was mainly in the health sector in service delivery and policy development and more recently, academic research. She has served on a number of community non government organisation boards in health and women's services in the ACT. Sue has a Bachelor of Science and a PhD in Women's Studies from the ANU and is passionate about the arts, dance and theatre in all its diversity.

Diana Sandeman: I was born and brought up in South Africa, lived in Scotland and the USA, and settled in Canberra in 1969, where I later joined an adult beginners ballet class. I added contemporary classes and in 2011 became a member of the Canberra Dance Theatre's GOLD Company. I have two daughters and six grandchildren so apart from family events my life now revolves around dance classes, rehearsals and performances, around which I fit in gardening, photography and travelling



Chamaeleon Collective

Choreography: the Company

Music: Let's Get Loud by J Lo

Performers: Brydie Bulley, Katie Senior, Milly Whitehead, Lateasha Marsden, Patricia Hayes Kavanagh, Sarah Long, Karin Adriansdatter and Liz Lea

The Chameleon Collective are a boutique offering of artistic excellence in the inclusive and accessible arts field. The collective epitomizes the vision of a forward looking, Canberra. The next generation of artists being invested in by the current generation of artists living with and without disability. The Chamaeleon Collective was founded in 2020, named after the constellation and reptile, both constant and adaptable. They are part of The Stellar Company.

Chamaeleon arises from the need for community dancers living with disability to channel their energies and talents into a professional arts development program that is supportive, accessible and at the leading edge of contemporary performance. We want to see equal access and employment opportunities for artists living with disability - Professional, Capable and Fabulous



Chamaeleon Collective

Karin Rønng-Meagher, (Karin Adriansdatter) Chamaeleon Co Director, is a diversely skilled visual and performing artist who trained in the US and was danced professionally in New York. Since 2013, Karin has been a performer & participant at the annual Canberra 'Precipice Festival', held at Gorman Arts Centre each September. She studies Action Theatre with Danielle Cresp in Melbourne. Karin is a member of the Ausdance ACT team as Assistant Stage Manager for the Youth Dance Festival. Most recently, she was production assistant for Australian Dance Party's 'Move to Zero' film series. In 2018, she performed and toured in Liz Lea's solo work, Red. In addition, Karin is a certified Montessori Model United Nations teacher coordinator and recently led a group of students through a 6 month preparation to attend the annual MMUN conference in NYC in March 2019. Karin currently works as a disability support worker and is a certified Montessori Model United Nations (MMUN) teacher coordinator. She is Co Director of the Chamaeleon Collective and facilitates a movement classes on the NDIS for mental health.

Patricia Hayes Kavanagh is an alumni of QL2 Dance who went on to further her training at the Sydney Dance Company Pre-Professional Year in their two year course. Since graduating she joined ADP as joint ADP/QL2 Dance Intern in 2021 before joining the company as a Junior Party Artist in 2022. Patricia has recently joined the ADP Team designing company merchandise and enhancing her creative talents. Patricia began properly training in contemporary at 15. At QL2, Patricia was able to expand her knowledge and understanding of dance, herself, and the world that she lives in. Graduating Year 12 in 2018, she went on to complete her Advanced Diploma in Elite Performance at Sydney Dance Company's Pre-Professional Year in 2020. Since returning to Canberra, she began an internship with QL2 and Australian Dance Party to further develop her artistry and practice. She has since been promoted to Party Artist and continues to develop herself in dance and in visual arts. Pat has been dancing with Stellar and Chamaeleon for 3 years.

Sarah Long has been dancing since she was four years old, first taking ballet classes and later progressing into contemporary dance. She has performed in five Quantum Leap shows from 2018 to 2022, and has choreographed four times in QL2's Hot to Trot. She now teaches young dancers, and is studying a Bachelor of Science, majoring in environmental science, at the ANU. Sarah is very interested in the intertwining of the arts and technology in the modern world, particularly looking at the ways we can use art to better communicate about the climate crisis. She has been working with the Stellar Company since 2023, and has performed in Stars in 3D (2023) and A Stellar Lineup (2024) as well as at the National Folk Festival. Working with the Chameleon Collective has been a powerful reminder that dance is for everyone, and by everyone.

Anna Connolly has been dancing for 6 years CDTribe at Canberra Dance Theatre and does many sports. She also represents Australia in the Basketball at the Special Olympics. Anna is a dancer who embraces the fun of movement. She loves the opportunities as part of the Chameleon Collective in the Stellar Company & also dances with Canberra Dance Theatre. She plays basketball and won a junior athlete award with Special Olympics before playing in National competition. She has worked in retail and is currently undertaking a traineeship with Hotel Etico to expand her skills for work in hospitality and independent living. Anna loves family, friends, animals, music & movies. She also enjoys applause.



Chamaeleon Collective

Brydie Bulley has been dancing for 13 years and for four years with the CDTribe at Canberra Dance Theatre. She works and volunteers across Canberra.

Milly Whitehead graduated from College in the ACT at the end of 2023 and is now exploring new opportunities working towards her vision of a 'Good Life'. This includes valued employment, further study, community connections, and strong and freely-given relationships. And one day, perhaps, a home of her own. Milly recently joined the Chameleon Collective. She enjoys learning new dance routines, making friends, and performing in fabulous, colourful costumes. Milly also dances with the CD Tribe at the Canberra Dance Theatre. Her love of all music and movement are her motivators. 'Just Dance' on the Xbox is one of her favourite pastimes at home. In addition to dancing, Milly works as an office assistant and runs her own microenterprise, Made By Miss Milly (Instagram: @madebymissmilly). She is a skilled sewist, a dog lover and walker, a zookeeper, an artist, a student and an active member of the GGs community. Milly is also a kind friend, a loving and cheeky daughter and sister, and enjoys 1000-piece puzzles, TV comedies, and the not-too-scary 'whodunnits.'

Neave Darmody has been dancing for 15 years and dances with the CDTribe at CDT. The hardware aisle, a verandah, in the shower. Neave willingly dances, anywhere, She enjoys dancing with peers in the Chamaeleon Collective, ballet and with Canberra Dance Theatre. After dance, Neave's next love is work, in hardware and hospitality. At present she has a traineeship with Hotel Etico to extend her skills and develop independence. In her spare time she likes to do zumba, basketball, read, play music, enjoy friends and family.

Lateasha Marsden is a positive young woman who loves dancing, singing, playing netball, her boyfriend Archie, Taylor Swift, Disneyland Anaheim, Waikiki, Minecraft, Special Olympic Bowling, swinging at the park, lactose free hot chocolates and her loving extended family and amazing friends all over the world! Lateasha represents the ACT in Netball and works for GG's flowers and loves her life!

Katie Senior is a Canberran artist and athlete with Down Syndrome. She has been dancing and performing since age five and represents Australia as a paralympic swimmer. She has choreographed and performed two solos since 2010: All For One was performed at Belconnen Arts Centre to celebrate International Day of People with Disability in 2011 and In The Corner Where The Shadows Meet was for 'Short and Sweet Dance.' It was Katie's first choreographic and dance mentorship project with Liz Lea was funded through the Australia Council's Jump! program. Katie is also an actress. She is a member of Rebus Mixed Ability Theatre Company and was lead actress in Beautiful, a movie directed by Genevieve Clay and produced in Canberra. Beautiful featured in the Other Film Festival in 2012. Katie and Liz spent all of 2017 working together on a mentoring program which led to the duet 'that extra 'some''. This took place under the auspice of Belconnen Arts Centre's IGNITE program. The work premiered in Ausdance ACT's Escalate II. Katie was awarded the honour of being the 2017 ACT Dance Artist of the Year and nominated as Young Person of the Year at the 2018 Inclusion Awards. Katie runs dance classes across Canberra and was a founding member of the Dream Team. She went on to establish the Xtreme Stars Dance Group for adults who live with disability and is a founding member of the Chamaeleon Collective. Katie participated in Stellar's Virtual View project in Penang and recently performed and spoke at the World Down Syndrome Congress, Brisbane.

CHAMAELEON
CO.

Optimism

Dr Zsuzsi Soboslay

Jane Avril, dancer at the Moulin Rouge, was incarcerated in Saltpetriere asylum as a teenager because of a movement disorder which she claims was ‘cured by dancing’. She became an astute business woman and one of the favoured dancers at the Moulin Rouge, and a good friend, supporter and muse to Toulouse-Lautrec. Her physical oddness was celebrated by poets and artists of the period. Toulouse-Lautrec’s depictions were of a woman whose dance was irregular and a little uncontrolled. This presentation touches on the way art can help shed light on the hidden stories in people’s lives.

Choreography: Zsuzsi Soboslay

Music: A Batignolles, Aristide Bruant

The Story Chapel—an arts-centred social enterprise focuss providing workshops, trainings, podcasts, performance collaborations and processes to help share and transform the stories we live by.



Daphne

RH Dance

A tribute to my mother, Daphne Hilton (nee Ceeney) Australia's first female Paralympian.

Choreography: Rachael Hilton

Music: Discipline - Adrian Berenguer

Rachael Hilton is one of Australia's leading Hilal Dance practitioners, beginning her studies with dance founder Suraya Hilal in 1997. Rachael assisted in establishing Hilal Dance in Australia through her own teaching and by organising workshops for European based master artist Suraya Hilal in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne.



RH
dance

Bills

GOLD Dancers

An insight to the costs of the Olympics and inequity between pay for Olympians of different genders

Choreography & performers: Liz Lea and company

Performers: Sue Andrews, Vilaisan Campbell, David Turbayne, Charmaine Hallam, Jean Bennett, Diana Sandeman, Greg Barrett.

Music Bills, Bills, Bills, by Beyonce

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Dopamine

Liz Lea

In search for the holy grail to find a semblance of normality

Choreography & performance: Liz Lea

Music: Hard to Concentrate, Red Hot Chilli Peppers

Liz Lea, is a nationally and internationally recognised dance artist, choreographer and producer. Over three decades she has toured her work internationally and been commissioned in India, UK, Australia, South Africa, Singapore, USA and Kuwait. Liz's work spans many genres, abilities and backgrounds. Her practice is founded in classical Indian and contemporary dance. She created and toured her work based from the UK for 20 years. Since relocating to Sydney and Canberra she has expanded to actively engage a broad range of community dance projects and companies working across all abilities. Liz was the 2017 ACT Artist of the Year and received a 2017 Australian Dance Award. She directs two Festivals - DANscienCE where dance and science meet and BOLD, which celebrates the legacy of dance across all identities. Liz was Artistic Director of Canberra Dance Theatre from 2010-16 where she founded the GOLD Company, and a 2019 Asialink Resident with Maya Dance Theatre, Singapore. She has toured her one woman show RED internationally, most recently in India and UK. She directs The Stellar Company, a non for profit arts organisation activating professionally produced, quality arts practice through a lens of cultural equity, embedded accessibility, and sustainability. They recently launched the Chamaeleon Collective, Canberra's first inclusive dance company. Her critically acclaimed one woman show RED has toured internationally for 5 years and was created with collaborators Vicki van Hout, Martin del Amo, Virginia Ferris, Brian Lucas and Karen Norris. As an Audio Describer Liz has worked with Dan Daw Creatives, Rebus Theatre and Sydney Dance Company. She is currently developing a new one woman show Diamond and building ShowGO, an app supporting access and inclusion services in theatres and festivals.

**Liz
Lea**
Creates

Nothing's gonna stop Us

Fun4Fitness

A high-energy, lighthearted dance piece following Susan and Kate as they race through the whirlwind of motherhood, business, fitness, and dance. With unstoppable energy, a smile, and sheer determination, they prove that no challenge is too big when passion leads the way.

Choreography and performance; Susan Innis and Kate Page

Music: Legs - Vanessa Williams

The 4ME Dance Ensemble, led by Susan Innis, unites dancers aged 4 to 80+ in a celebration of joy through dance. Each member brings their unique life experiences to the same choreography, fostering a sense of community that embraces inclusion and invites everyone to share in the transformative power of movement.



Glamour

GOLD Dancers

Ageing gracefully personified

Choreography & performers: Liz Lea and company

Performers: Sue Andrews, Vilaisan Campbell, David Turbayne, Charmaine Hallam, Jean Bennett, Diana Sandeman, Greg Barrett.

Music: Dance me to the end of love, Leonard Cohen

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She did it HER WAY

Somebody's Aunt

A series of performance interventions for public spaces, bringing the incongruity of private women's work into the public domain, provoking and challenging ideas on the visibility and invisibility of women's work.

Choreography: Julie-Anne Long and Somebody's Aunt

Performers: Jane Ingall, Julie Rickwood, Sue Andrews, Prue Gleeson, Claudia Cresswell, Vilaisan Campbell

Somebody's Aunt is a Canberra-based dance ensemble of women who have been creating work in unconventional spaces, integrating contemporary and improvised dance, theatre, voice, music, and humour. Each dancer brings an array of life experience, telling stories from different perspectives, often with a political edge. They are celebrating their 20th Anniversary this year.



Watch These Legs

Count Her In Ensemble

A joyful and empowering dance piece performed by a group of mostly senior women. Set to a song that celebrates their resilience and spirit, it's a tribute to their love of movement, sense of fun, and refusal to stop dancing—at any age.

Choreography: Susan Innis

Peformers: Susan, Jan, Diane, Sally, Donna, Pam

Music: Legs - Vanessa Williams

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RESPECT

Chamaeleon and collaborators

Choreography: the Company

Music: Let's Get Loud by J Lo

Performers: Brydie Bulley, Katie Senior, Milly Whitehead, Lateasha Marsden, Patricia Hayes Kavanagh, Sarah Long, Karin Adriansdatter, Liz Lea, Sue Andrews, Vilaisan Campbell, David Turbayne, Charmaine Hallam, Jean Bennett, Diana Sandeman, Greg Barrett.

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Live Your Story

4ME Dance Ensemble

The story of women across generations—child, adult, and grandmother—moving together in strength and unity. A celebration of resilience, courage, and living boldly on their own terms.

Choreography: Susan Innis

Music: Auli'i Cravalho

Susan, Kate, Donna, Diane, Pam, Sally, Jan, Olivia, Mackenzie, Maddie, Zea, Mathilda, Eve, Beatrix, Sienna, Ava, Isabelle

The 4ME Dance Ensemble, led by Susan Innis, unites dancers aged 4 to 80+ in a celebration of joy through dance. Each member brings their unique life experiences to the same choreography, fostering a sense of community that embraces inclusion and invites everyone to share in the transformative power of movement.



The Stellar Team

Director, Producer & Film editing: Liz Lea

Stage Manager: Rhiley Winnett

Technical Consultant: Roni Wilkinson

Social Media: Olivia Wikner

Auslan Interpreter: Andrea Lorens

Audio Description: Liz Lea

Audio Description sponsored by



Accessibility supported by the ACT Government through an I Day Grant

Supported by



Director, Liz Lea is an award winning artist with an international practice spanning 30 years, having toured internationally with commissions in India, UK, Australia, South Africa, Singapore, Kuwait and USA. She directs the BOLD and DANscienCE Festivals and The Stellar Company. She has been the ACT Artist of the Year toured her one woman show RED internationally for 5 years. She is an Access Advisor for Accessible Arts, has provided Audio Description for Dan Daw, Rebus and Sydney Dance Company and is developing ShowGO, an app to support access services.

The Stellar Company is a non for profit arts organisation based in the ACT with a 16 year history. We activate professionally produced, quality arts practice through a lens of cultural equity, embedded accessibility, social inclusion and sustainability.

Directed by Liz Lea we have a vision to work in a full inclusive, intercultural and intergenerational capacity to bring the social, physical and mental benefits of arts practice to all members of our community. Our programs reflect the face of Canberra. We run projects that speak to and serve people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds across the ACT, Australia and Asia.

The Stellar Company is supported by the ACT Government and is a registered Charity.

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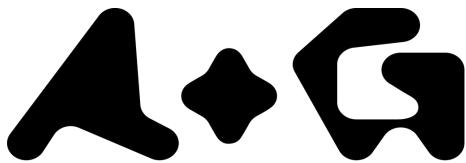


STELLAR



QL2 CENTRE FOR YOUTH DANCE
HOME OF QUANTUM LEAP

CHAMAELEON CO.



Ainslie and Gorman
Arts Centres



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