

SHADOW CUT

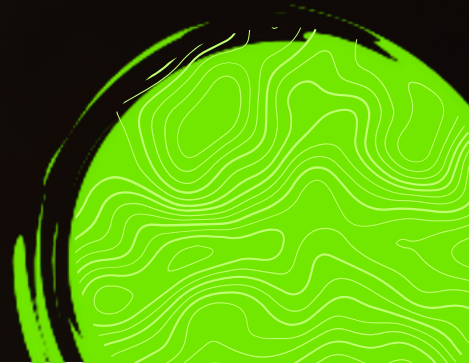
YOUTH DANCE COMPANY



PRESENTS

SPHERICA

SEPTEMBER 3, 6:00PM
SEPTEMBER 5, 7:30PM
HAWTHORN ARTS CENTRE



SPHERICA

Shadow Cut Youth Dance Company presents 'Spherica'; an abstract contemporary dance work exploring identity, purpose, acceptance and the threads of one's existence...

With great enthusiasm, choreographer Katherine Weatherhead unites 14 young talented dancers in an innovative and distinctive contemporary work, showcasing the extraordinary talent within our youth community. Through incredible choreography and contemplative concepts, this unique work aims to ignite inspiration and excitement, while encouraging one's own introspection.

"These performers are our future. Through creative outlets, they find the means to express themselves, establish connections, and foster a profound sense of belonging. These components of life are vital in the exploration of what it means to find one's place in the world," says Katherine Weatherhead, the creative mind behind 'Spherica'.



2023

THIS VERSION OF YOU

ODESZA, Julianna Barwick

WOMAN

Lane 8

PARTIAL

Ólafur Arnalds

OCEANS

RY X, Ólafur Arnolds

SEARCHING

TWO LANES

THEY SINK

Ólafur Arnolds

YOU NEED TO BE THERE FOR THEM

Leaving Laurel

LIGHT OF DAY

ODESZA, Ólafur Arnolds



SHADOW CUT COMPANY 2023



ELLA

18, Bachelor of Science - Global Challenges

Ella began dancing at Kiki Dance Collective at the age of 3, and has fostered so many meaningful friendships through dance. Ella cherishes connections with others and enjoys bringing people together to share experiences. Ella believes purpose changes throughout life, but she always approaches life with a smile.

"I value places, often for sentimental reasons but I just adore reconnecting with memories and finding new connections in my life."

AMELIA

19, Bachelor of Science

Amelia finds dance to be a way of letting go, staying active, and connecting with friends. Amelia enjoys dance as an art form that enables self expression and creativity with others. Dance provides a sense of community and fosters connections that help Amelia to feel grounded in the 'rollercoaster of life'.

"I believe understanding yourself is key in life, I also believe that this is a continuous process throughout life that provides stability."

JO

22, Bachelor of Education - Primary & Secondary

Jo loves dance because of the creativity and the support network dance provides that allows him to feel comfortable and free. Practicing dance provides physical and mental challenges that are enjoyable to undertake and inspire resilience and emotional connection. Jo finds that a sense of belonging is crucial to wellbeing, and sees life as a tree with seemingly infinite branches and crossroads from which your choices and actions can lead you onto a completely unique path.

"You don't need to fit in everywhere you go, it's impossible. But you can, like I do, pick and choose the places you feel happy, loved or connected and spend your days in those places."

STEPH

17, Biology/Health Sciences

Dance creates a safe space for Steph that allows her to be herself and be expressive. Steph values the connections and friendships she has built through dance, and dance has become a strong part of her personal identity. Steph thinks that to 'find your place in the world' you have to understand your own values, passions, strengths and weaknesses, which is a constant learning experience. Steph sees the threads of existence as all individuals connecting to one another in intricate ways, and it is the quality and depth of these relationships that impact how vibrant and meaningful your life feels.

"Just as threads can be strong or delicate, relationships can vary in strength and significance."



MATILDA

16, Visual Communications Design

Matilda finds dance to be an incredible escape from reality and chaos of life. Matilda believes everyone has their own thread of existence and it interlinks with other threads, through family, friendships and things that they love. Life is what you make it.

"Acceptance is an important idea. It means not to compare, but to love yourself because you are special and unique in your own way."

LANI

18, Bachelor of Primary Education / Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)

Lani treasures dance because it is a beautiful form of self expression that brings people together, brightens spirits and fuels the rewarding feeling of hard work. Lani finds it important that people feel a part of something, as it provides a space to share thoughts, connect with others, and feel secure and confident. Lani enjoys taking on life with a positive, 'glass half full' attitude and making the most of everyday.

"I prefer the term 'finding your place in the world' rather than 'fitting in'. It is a lifelong journey; finding your identity. And it is a personal one."

CARA

18, Bachelor of Science

For Cara, dance has become an integral part of her life that allows her to express herself in new ways and fosters a strong sense of community. Cara finds community to be very important in the creation of art, a reason why belonging is a strong focus of this contemporary work. She believes feeling accepted in your social circles and in yourself is very important to build identity, and find how one another relate and connect.

"I believe we were able to capture elements of what it's like to be accepted and conversely what isolation feels like, through this performance."

CATERINA

21, Bachelor of Education - Primary & Secondary

Caterina loves dance because it allows her to just be herself. She feels at home with people who also love to move and it has provided her with a beautiful sense of community. Caterina feels finding purpose comes with maturity and life experiences, and it continually changes with time. Life, to Caterina, is about taking that risk and pushing it to its beyond.

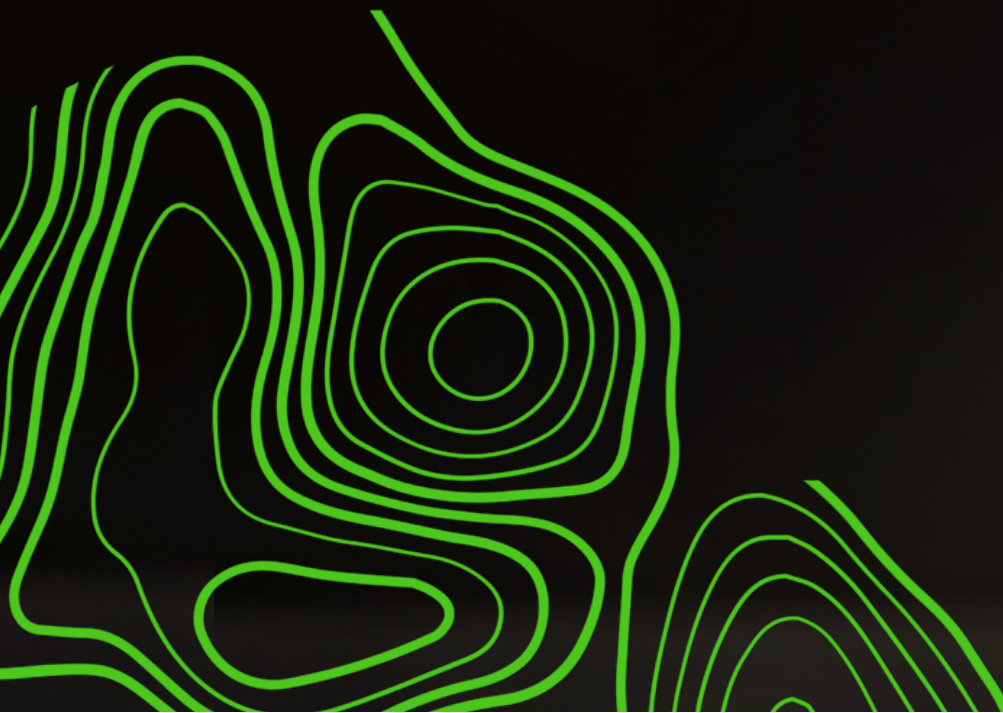
"We shouldn't need to follow everyone else or be a certain way to be accepted in this world. This world wouldn't be the way it is, if people didn't push boundaries or try something new."

NATALIE

16, Art & Dance

Natalie loves to dance because it embodies music's emotions, rhythm and freedom, allowing individuals to express and connect with their feelings in a unique way. To Natalie, 'finding yourself in the world' involves discovering the purposes, values and communities you align with as well as exploring passions and connections that you resonate with. It's like a puzzle of interests, strengths and dreams. Life is dynamic journey, filled with highs and lows. We move in circles, experiencing growth and challenges.

"I feel as though the journey to finding one's place involves embracing uniqueness, striving for fulfilment, and contributing positively to the world around you."





TESS

19, Bachelor of Science - Biochemistry

Tess loves dance for the community and connections it fosters, and the loving and inclusive environment. Belonging to a larger community that is kind and caring creates a safe space that anchors the process of growing up. To Tess, fitting in is about being able to find the confidence to express herself and explore her unique identity, and also creating space for others to do the same, allowing processes of internal growth.

"I have been focusing on the small things that give me purpose. Finding joy and comfort in the beautiful things that happen everyday."

KIRA

19, Allied Health Assistance

Dancing allows Kira to take herself out of everyday life and focus on different ways to explore choreography, shaping it to be something she is proud for. Kira thinks of her existence as a spiderweb made up of lots of threads, overlapping and crossing. Every thread can be drawn back to the centre, with new connections to people, places and things. The different parts of her life, coloured for different emotions, grow more complex as she grows older.


"'Fitting in' means confining yourself to an oddly shaped box that someone else has created, and it may or may not be comfortable but its not authentic. Authenticity comes from finding or making your own place in the world.."

ALANNAH

22, Bachelor of Applied Science - Psychology (Honours)

Alannah loves the social aspect of dance and the sense of community it brings. Having the opportunity to work with so many talented dancers on a creative project is such a rewarding experience for her. Alannah finds it empowering to embrace the fact you won't always fit in, and it is about finding the confidence and acceptance in being seen.

"I'm excited about the future, I think there's still so much to learn and more opportunities to discover. There's plenty of time."





MACY

15, Exercise Physiology

Macy enjoys dance because it allows her to forget everything that's going on in life, and focus purely on dancing. Dance provides Macy with a community and she finds a sense of community to be important as you can share experiences and values. Macy thinks finding your 'place in the world' is difficult, but when you do, you feel like yourself.

"We are always living and even if we make mistakes we still have another day to move on or to fix anything we want."

MADDY

20, Bachelor of Commerce - Marketing & Management

Maddy loves dance as it is an incredible art form that allows expression of thoughts, feelings, concepts and ideas, all through movement - which is so special. Maddy believes connection can be crucial in enhancing your existence and intertwining it with others to share in experience and emotions. There are often threads that overlay and intersect and fall and move and change, just like the movement of dancing. These links and circles make ones existence something unique and something to be appreciated by self and others.

"Life is ever-changing. And it is the acceptance of that which allows us to create, destroy, live, feel and experience, both in coexistence and connection with those around us."



CHOREOGRAPHER

KATHERINE WEATHERHEAD

Katherine is a Graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School and the Victoria College of the Arts, where she was extensively trained in classical ballet and contemporary dance. Katherine then went on to study education, where she later applied these skills while working at Brunswick Secondary College (2004 to 2012). She taught mathematics and dance to students from 48 different cultural backgrounds. It was here that a passion for choreography developed, producing a total of eight Rock Eisteddfod performances for the school. This resulted in placing first five times and gaining the title of best global choreography for Submerged in 2011.

Katherine is extremely passionate about the development and training of contemporary dance for young dancers.

In 2013 Katherine established **Shadow Cut Youth Dance Company** to extend young contemporary dancers through unique dancing opportunities. Having spent twenty years working with the youth of today, Katherine believes dance is a wonderful platform for a child's overall development. Dance teaches so many skills for life in a fun, creative and innovative way, and Shadow Cut provides a beautiful community, in which to explore dance further.



"I believe dance is a wonderful outlet to connect and share a beautiful passion with others who also love dance. I love teaching as it develops so many life skills for the next generation. It brings lots of joy to students of all ages and I can't imagine a more rewarding profession."

"Life is fast paced and as the generations go by, the speed seems to accelerate. It's always important to think about those closest to you, and the communities you are a part of. I have spent a life trying to fit in and be accepted, but in reality I like to hope that I have made a positive impact on the lives of others. Teaching dance is one of my purposes and it provides an incredibly proud sense of belonging. May those I teach take something powerful into their future jobs and lives."

"I encourage everyone to be the best version of themselves. Be empowered by your differences, and strive for self acceptance, which gets easier with time. It's not always going to be easy, but above all 'be kind', it's so important."

Katherine Weatherhead

CHOREOGRAPHER

Katherine Weatherhead

PHOTO

Chris Dowd &
VEWD Media

VIDEO

VEWD Media

COSTUME

Katherine & Pam
Weatherhead

VENUE

Hawthorn Arts Centre

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Katherine Weatherhead &
Madeleine Brown



SHADOW CUT

YOUTH DANCE COMPANY

Shadow Cut was first established in 2013 as an extension program for students who were still part of Kiki Dance Collective but had finished school and were looking to further expand their Contemporary Dance practices and performances opportunities.

We have so many students who have completed school and are still very much a strong part of the Kiki Dance Collective community. Their talents in Contemporary Dance have been so evident in our past few shows and I felt this year was the perfect opportunity to bring back Shadow Cut.

Shadow Cut is a community based project that relies on volunteers, fundraising and grant to operate. We plan to expand our program into 2024 and beyond. Shadow Cut is something for all our younger dancers to work towards as they specialise in Contemporary Dance at Kiki Dance Collective and Hawthorn Community and Youth Club. We have been successful in receiving 'Boroondara Community Strengthening Grants' in the past and are hopeful this can happen again in the future. 2023 is a small scale production and we appreciate your support in attending this evening's show as it allows us to build and offer this opportunity to more students into 2024 and beyond.

SHADOW CUT

YOUTH DANCE COMPANY

Sometimes the more challenging and complex times in our lives inspire the greatest creativity. Personally, I am very proud of 'Spherica', as it is an incredibly creative moment in my life.

This ones for you dad.

I would especially like to thank the beautiful dancers and young adults that I have had the pleasure of working with to create this piece. It has been a true honour. They have all been part of Kiki Dance Collective and Hawthorn Community and Youth Club from a very young age, in fact many were 3 and don't remember life without dance. Now they are going out into the world in a variety of incredibly rewarding and influential professions.

This work was put together in 6 weeks but actually has 20 years of work behind it. This extends from training the dancers in various choreographic techniques all the way to refining a contemporary dance style that is inclusive and supportive of all types of learners.

Thank you to all the performers this evening. I have thoroughly enjoyed watching you all grow up and mature into the incredible dancers you are. Thank you for commitment and dedication to dance.

SHADOW CUT

YOUTH DANCE COMPANY

An incredible thank you to the following past and present Kiki DC teachers whom have also shaped tonight's wonderful dancers.

Tash Ascui

Lizzie Barca

Patrick Denison

Ezlimar Dortolina

Phoebe Mansfield

Kady Mansour

Alarni Morgan

Thank you to Pam Weatherhead for your costume expertise. Thanks to Gal Tidhar for help in rehearsals and behind the scenes in the theatre. Thank you to Matt, Ruby and Maddy for their ongoing support.

A very special thank you to Maddy Brown for being an incredible drive around the return of Shadow Cut. Thank you also for your wonderful creative contribution in many areas that has made this show so special. The design work has been particularly fun. I am thrilled so many students you are inspiring get to see you dance tonight.

Thank you audience for your support and attendance tonight.

Katherine Weatherhead

BOROONDARA
ARTS

