

Berlin and the Venice Biennale

28 May – 06 June 2010 (10 days)



FOR SUPPORTERS OF

SYDANCEY COMPANY

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Gendarmenmarkt Square, Konzerthaus Concert Hall and German Cathedral

In a major coup for the company, Sydney Dance Company has been invited to open the Australian dance section of the 2010 Venice Biennale with Rafael Bonachela's *we unfold*. The Venice Biennale Dance is the world's meeting place for contemporary dance and opens the city's six month long festival of art, architecture, cinema, dance, music and theatre. You are invited to join a group of Sydney Dance Company supporters at this prestigious event – and also visit Berlin, one of Europe's year-round dance capitals.

In the 20 years since the fall of the Wall, Berlin has re-emerged as the political, economic and cultural capital of a reunited Germany. As well as discovering the extraordinary contemporary architecture and art, you will see two performances by the Berlin Staatsballet – *A Brief History of Time* by Tomaz Pandur and *Shut up and dance! Reloaded* with works by young choreographers of the Staatsballett Berlin.

Following *we unfold* at the Venice Biennale Dance, you will have an opportunity to see more dance from around the world (programme announced early 2010). Amongst the exclusive activities we have arranged are a private visit to La Fenice, backstage visits at the Biennale and the chance to meet Rafael Bonachela, Artistic Director, and his team of dancers in one of the most enchanting cities in the world.

The tour will be led by **Clementine Johnson**, Philanthropy Manager, and **Brendan Day**, Development Manager, of Sydney Dance Company.



Reichstag at night

ITINERARY

FRIDAY 28 MAY

ARRIVE BERLIN

Arrive Berlin and check-in to your hotel in the heart of the Mitte District, Berlin's historic and cultural centre. This evening, join fellow supporters of the Sydney Dance Company for a welcome cocktail reception. (Meals included – Reception)

SATURDAY 29 MAY

BERLIN

Begin your exploration of Berlin with a morning tour of 'historic Berlin'. From the Brandenburg Gate, drive along the Unter den Linden lined with grand 18th and 19th century monuments and architecture such as the State Opera, Berlin Cathedral and Humboldt University. Stop at the Gendarmenmarkt, the Nikolai Quarter and 'Museum Island'. Finish with a visit to Charlottenburg Palace. Afternoon at leisure.

This evening, attend a performance of the Berlin Staatsballett at the Berlin State Opera, *A Brief History of Time* by Tomaz Pandur with choreography by Ronald Savkovic, dramaturgy by Ljivja Pandur, setting by NUMEN and music by vom Tonträger. (B)

SUNDAY 30 MAY

BERLIN

This morning's tour will focus on 'modern and contemporary Berlin'. First a drive along the Kurfurstendamm will show you the heart of the former West Berlin during the post-war era. Continue to the Spreebogen area to the north of the Reichstag building which was chosen as the central location for the new federal government

buildings, before a visit to the Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin's home of 20th century art. Finish with lunch in the Potsdamer Platz area, the new business heart of the city. Afternoon at leisure to further explore Berlin's plethora of extraordinary museums.

Evening performance at the Komische Oper of *Shut Up and Dance! Reloaded!* featuring works by young choreographers of the Staatsballett Berlin. (BL)

MONDAY 31 MAY

BERLIN

Enjoy a full free day to further discover Berlin on your own.

Evening concert at the Berlin Philharmonie by the Deutsches Symphonie Orchester conducted by Ingo Metzmacher with Daniel Hope (violin) and Nobuko Imai (viola). The fascinating programme features two works by Mozart (including the Symphony No. 41 'Jupiter') contrasted with two works by the 20th century French Canadian composer Vivier. (B)

TUESDAY 1 JUNE

BERLIN

Journey out of Berlin to the nearby garden city of Potsdam. Here you will visit two quite different palaces: Friedrich the Great's 18th century rococo masterpiece Sanssouci Palace, and the English-inspired, early twentieth-century Cecilienhof, where the Potsdam Treaty was signed in 1945. Visit the Dutch Quarter and see the Russian Colony.

Evening at leisure to discover the extraordinary

nightlife of Berlin which ranges from classical to cabaret to the latest contemporary music. (B)

WEDNESDAY 2 JUNE

TRANSFER BERLIN / VENICE

Transfer to the airport for a morning flight to Venice. On arrival, transfer by private boat to the Centurion Palace Hotel located on the Grand Canal overlooking San Marco. This brand new hotel artfully blends an historic façade with contemporary Italian style.

This evening at sunset, partake in a Venetian tradition, a gondola 'promenade' through the small canals. Finish at San Mark's Square where you have an after-hours viewing of the magnificent mosaics of San Mark's Basilica, followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant. (BD)

THURSDAY 3 JUNE

VENICE

This morning enjoy a walking tour of the Rialto district of Venice, famous for its bridge and market. The market is still the most popular shopping area for the residents of Venice. Then, continue to San Giovanni e Paolo, the burial palace of 25 doges, built in 1430 with masterpieces by Bellini, Piazzetta and sculptures of Lombardo. Pass by the Church of the 'Miracoli', a masterpiece of Renaissance architecture by Pietro Lombardo and Marco Polo's house.

Evening transfer by private motor launch to the Malibran Theatre for the Opening of the Venice Biennale Dance, featuring the Sydney Dance



Rafael Bonachela, Artistic Director

Rafael Bonachela's stellar career began as a dancer. He travelled from Spain to England, joining London's legendary Rambert Dance Company in 1992 where he remained as a lead dancer and Associate Choreographer until 2005. It was Rafael's commitment to concentrate on the creation of his own dance works that saw him move away from Rambert to form Bonachela Dance Company (London) in 2006.

Rafael's appointment as Artistic Director of Sydney Dance Company made headlines in the dance world and began a new era in Australian contemporary dance. His first work *we unfold* launched Rafael's role as Artistic Director; it was created in collaboration with Australian designers and artists, in the spirit of Rafael's vision.

Rafael Bonachela describes himself as a 'movement junkie' and in addition to his own movement vocabulary, he finds inspiration in the visual arts and popular culture. A choreographer committed to innovation, he has often been described as one of the most intriguing and inventive choreographers working in the world today, moving seamlessly between the mainstream and avant garde dance works.



Staatsballet Berlin



St Marks from Cipriani

Company with Rafael Bonachela's *we unfold*. Following the performance, join the dancers, the artistic team and other VIPs for a post-performance reception. (BR)

FRIDAY 4 JUNE VENICE

Enjoy a guided tour of La Fenice, one of the most famous theatres in Europe, the site of many famous operatic premieres. Since its opening in 1792 'The Phoenix' has twice burnt to the ground only to be quickly rebuilt.

Later, attend lunch with the artistic team and dancers of the Sydney Dance Company.

This evening, enjoy a second performance from the Venice Biennale Dance (programme announced early 2010). (BL)

SATURDAY 5 JUNE VENICE

Full day at leisure to further explore Venice on your own.

This evening, enjoy a second performance by Sydney Dance Company, a Mixed Bill (programme to be confirmed), followed by a special farewell dinner. (BD)

SUNDAY 6 JUNE DEPART VENICE

Tour arrangements concludes after breakfast. (B)

YOUR HOTELS

For your five-night stays in each Berlin and Venice, we have chosen two brand-new superior four-star hotels – the **Hotel Gendarm nouveau** on Berlin's prestigious **Gendarmenmarkt** (opened March 2009) and the **Centurion Palace Venice** on the Grand Canal overlooking St Mark's Basin (opened October 2009).

For further information about these hotels, please visit www.hotel-gendarm-berlin.de and www.centurionpalacevenezia.com.

TOUR CODE: SDC100531

DEPOSIT: \$500 per person

FINAL PAYMENT: Friday 26 Mar 2010

TOUR PRICES:

Per person, twin-share \$6,450
 Single supplement* \$800
 * Single travellers may request to share.
 Please advise at time of booking.

TOUR PRICES INCLUDE:

- ▶ Accommodation in centrally located superior 4-star hotels with daily breakfast (B)
- ▶ Meals as per itinerary (L=Lunch, D=Dinner, R=Reception)
- ▶ A-reserve tickets for five (5) performances
- ▶ Economy class flight Berlin - Venice (20 kg luggage allowance) incl. taxes
- ▶ Comprehensive sightseeing including entrance fees as per itinerary
- ▶ Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- ▶ Hotel portorage (1 piece per person)

DO NOT INCLUDE:

- ▶ International flights
- ▶ Drinks with meals, except Welcome Reception and Farewell Dinner
- ▶ Items of a personal nature, including telephone, laundry, mini-bar etc.
- ▶ Transfers on arrival in Berlin and on departure from Venice
- ▶ Airport portorage
- ▶ Travel insurance

SUGGESTED AIRLINES:
Singapore / Lufthansa or Thai / Austrian

Please contact Renaissance Tours for latest fares and assistance.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

How to Book

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form, available from Renaissance Tours, with your deposit of \$500 per person. Upon receipt of your Booking Form and deposit, you will receive confirmation of your place from Renaissance Tours.

Deposit / Final Payments

Deposit (at time of booking) \$500 per person, per tour

Your deposit is used to purchase your performance tickets and for hotel deposits and is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation. Your final payment is due 60 days before departure. Failure to make your final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit.

Payment by cash, cheque, American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa is accepted. A 3% service charge applies for payment by American Express and Diners Club.

We reserve the right to charge a late payment fee in the event of late booking and/or payment to cover additional communication and other expenses.

Cancellation & Refunds

a) **Cancellation by You** – Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to cancellation fees for tours operated by Renaissance Tours as shown below, airlines, hotels and other third parties may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

INTERNATIONAL TOURS

60 days or more	Forfeit of deposit
59 – 45 days	25% of tour cost
44 – 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 – 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above cancellation charges, the full insurance premium together with any existing administration fees is also payable in the event of a cancellation by the Client. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

b) **Cancellation by Us** – We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for force majeure or the Client's failure to pay the final balance, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure (45 days before departure for domestic tours). Unless the Client fails to pay the final balance, we will return all monies paid, excluding payment for travel insurance and administration fees.

No further compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability. Airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

Travel Insurance

It is a **condition of travel** that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. You can make your own arrangements or your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours. In either case all participants must provide the following information no later than 60 days prior to commencement of travel:

- ▶ a copy of your travel insurance policy (or details of master policy)
- ▶ the emergency telephone number of your insurance company
- ▶ next of kin emergency contact.

Fitness and Participation

While our tours do not require a special level of fitness, for the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- ▶ negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- ▶ use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- ▶ undertake walking tour of 2-3 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- ▶ stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- ▶ embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- ▶ handle your own luggage.

If you (or we) have any doubts about your ability to participate in your chosen tour, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require a doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour and provide you with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

Terms & Conditions

You can find the full terms & conditions on the Renaissance Tours booking form. They can also be found at www.renaissancetours.com.au or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.

Cover photo: Sydney Dance Company *we unfold*
 Photo Jeff Busby



Grand Canal, Venice

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Sydney Dance Company *we unfold* | Photo Jeff Busby