



Natalie Weir, Artistic Director **Full Biography**

Natalie Weir was born in Australia and has been choreographing professionally for more than 20 years. In that time she has created over 150 works. She was trained at the Ann Roberts School of Dance in Townsville and completed an Associate Diploma in Performing Arts at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane. She was a founding member of Expressions Dance Company and was offered her first choreographic commission by Expressions Founding Artistic Director Maggi Sietsma at the age of 18. She has since created at least 8 works for the company.

Natalie has worked extensively throughout Australia, creating many works for most of the country's major classical and contemporary dance companies including the Australian Ballet, West Australian Ballet, Queensland Ballet, Expressions Dance Company, Australian Dance Theatre, Dance North and Tasdance.

Natalie was appointed Choreographer in Residence for the Queensland Ballet in 1994 and the Australian Ballet in 2000. During that time she created 7 works for the Queensland Ballet and 3 works for the Australian Ballet.

Internationally Natalie has created many works for various companies, including the American Ballet Theatre, ABT Studio Company, Houston Ballet, Hong Kong Ballet, Singapore Dance Theatre and Tanzcompagnie Giessen in Germany. She has also choreographed for many tertiary institutions, including Royal Ballet School, the Australian Ballet School, New Zealand School of Dance, QUT, VCA and CPA.

Whilst working with American Ballet Theatre, she was one of four choreographers involved in the Harrison Project, *Within You, Without You*, a tribute to George Harrison (The Beatles), which was a major success for the Company. Natalie created a solo for the American Ballet Theatre star, Ethan Steiffel. He later performed the work at the International Ballet Festival Marijinsky at the Kirov in St Petersburg (Russia)

Natalie received the Choo San Goh Award for *Steppenwolfe*, created for the Houston Ballet in America, and the won best new work at the Hong Kong Dance Awards for *Turandot*, created for the Hong Kong Ballet.

Natalie has also been the recipient of an Australia Council Fellowship towards her development as an Artistic Director, enabling her time out from choreography to focus on this aspect of her development. This fellowship is only awarded once in a person's lifetime, acknowledging the commitment Natalie has to dance and her future potential to take on the role of Artistic Director of an Australian Dance Company. She also received the Brisbane Lord Mayor's Fellowship that enabled her to travel overseas and study with Rambert Dance Company, Nederlands Dance Company, and Siobhan Davies Dance Company, as well as making international connections and viewing dance in Europe.

In January 2008 Natalie attended the Dance East Retreat for Future Leaders and Directors, held at Brockett Hall in Hertfordshire in the UK. She was one of 27 artists chosen to attend worldwide. The Australia Council funded Natalie to attend this with a Professional Development Grant. It was an intensive think tank, about the future of dance and what our roles as leaders is.

Natalie was appointed Artistic Director of Expressions in 2009. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to lead this precious company through its transitional phase and into a new era, and feels she has come full circle- back to the company that gave Natalie her first opportunity when she was only 18.