

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





Presents



Welcome - Liz Lea

Pitch Sessions:

Susan Innis - Fun4Fitness, Kate Ford - Kate Ford Fitness, Milly & Simone Whitehead - @madebymissmilly, Zsuzsi Soboslay- The Story Chapel, Tamzin Nugent - This Beautiful Mess Podcast, Alice Lee Holland - QL2 Dance, Elizabeth or Viv - Mirramu Creative Arts Centre, Emma Laverty - Project Dust

Women's Circle.. Project Dust

... - Vilaisan Campbell and Sue Andrews

GOLD Dancers, Karin Adriansdatter, Liz Lea

...Diana, Jean, Greg, David

222 - Chamaeleon Collective

L'Optimisme - Dr Zsuzsi Soboslay

Daphne - Rachael Hilton

Bills - GOLD Dancers

Dopamine - Liz Lea

Nothings gonna stop us - Fun4Fitness

Glamour - GOLD Company members

Watch These Legs - 4ME Dance Ensemble

... Somebody's Aunt

RESPECT - Chamaeleon and Collaborators

Water - Chamaeleon and Collaborators

Man's World - Chamaeleon and Collaborators

Live Your Story - 4ME Dance Ensemble

Sisters - Full Company

Pitch sessions

60 seconds to pitch your passion!

Liz Lea - The Stellar Company

Susan Innis - Fun4Fitness

Kate Ford - Kate Ford Fitness

Milly Whitehead - @madebymissmilly

Simone Whitehead - @madebymissmilly

Zsuzsi Soboslay- The Story Chapel

Tamzin Nugent – This Beautiful Mess Podcast

Alice Lee Holland - QL2 Dance

Elizabeth or Viv – 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 Laverty

Choreography: Emma Laverty and Senior Dancers

Music: Calm It by Isaac Laverty

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.



Precarious Connections

Mindfulness

GOLD Dancers

Precarious Connections was 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 & performers: Sue Andrews and Vilaisan Campbell

Music Grief 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.



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



Meditations

Mindfulness

GOLD Dancers

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

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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

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Dopamine

Liz Lea

oh

well

I can do that. Or learn it for fake it. Maybe. Or ask someone to show me and hope I remember. and then do the cleaning and the costumes.

Choreography: no-one

Music: Hard to Concentrate, Red Hot Chilli Peppers

Liz is a multi award-winning dance artist, choreographer and producer. Over three decades she has toured her own work and been commissioned internationally. Based in Canberra since 2010 she was the 2017 ACT Artist of the year. She directs the BOLD and DANscienCE Festivals, The Stellar Company and offers Audio Description. She creates her own work on a project basis.

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

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Somebody's Aunt

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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

Music: Legs - Vanessa Williams

Performers : Susan,

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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 and Liz Lea

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Live Your Story

4ME Dance Ensemble

Saturday 23rd only

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  **Sidestage**
PRODUCTION SERVICES

Accessibility supported by the ACT Government through an I Day Grant

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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.

Supported by

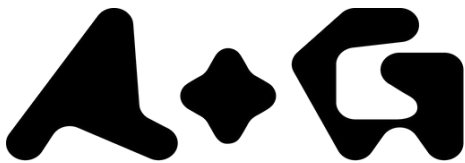


STELLAR



QL2 CENTRE FOR YOUTH DANCE
HOME OF QUANTUM LEAP

CHAMAELEON CO.



Ainslie and Gorman
Arts Centres



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