

Sally BLACKWOOD — DIRECTOR

“Something wicked this way comes, and it is sure to thrill audiences”

Macbeth Peter McCallum, Sydney Morning Herald, Monday 12 September 2011.

Sally Blackwood is an exceptional director based in Sydney Australia and producing work internationally. Sally has developed an innovative integrated method for collaborative cross-artform performance practice in the creation of hybrid forms of contemporary opera, including opera/ballet work. A regular guest director at Opera Australia and Sydney Conservatorium of Music, and lecturer at the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), Sally is currently creating *Project Faust*, a new opera/dance co-production for Kentucky Opera & Louisville Ballet USA.

Sally is a Directing graduate of the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from the University of New South Wales, and is a current Doctor of Musical Arts candidate at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, for which she is the 2017 recipient of the George Henderson Scholarship of Merit.

Sally's doctoral research examines the role and curation of opera in contemporary Australia, and its resonances with Australian culture and national identity. This exploration will look at the Australian relationship to place, storytelling, music and performance, and the cultural integration of opera into the urban landscape.

Sally has worked with: Le ballet de l'Opéra national de Paris; Sydney Opera House; Sasha Waltz & Guests; Vocalconsort Berlin; Freiburger Barockorchester; Dutch National Opera; Pinchgut Opera; Opera Australia; Australian Institute of Music; Patch Theatre Company; Queensland Performing Arts Centre; Capitol Theatre; CIRCA Contemporary Circus; National Institute of Dramatic Arts; Aotea Centre, Auckland; Sydney Conservatorium of Music; Gran Teatre del Liceu; Sydney & Melbourne Festivals; Version 1.0; Polyfolia Festival; Belvoir St Theatre; Parramatta Riverside; Glen Street Theatre; Jigsaw Theatre Company; The Concourse Theatres; This Is Not Art; Parramasala; DanceXchange; Festival Pisteurs d'Étoiles; International Dance Festival Birmingham.

Career Highlights:

2014-2015 Artistic Director *Emerge Festival* AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MUSIC (AIM)

2014 Director in Residence SASHA WALTZ & GUESTS, Berlin, Freiburg, Amsterdam

2014 Associate Artistic Director PATCH THEATRE COMPANY, Adelaide SA

2012 Resident Director & International Tour Manager, CIRCA Contemporary Circus

2002-2007 Performing Arts Producer SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE

Sally's current work *Project Faust* (2016–2018) is a large-scale hybrid dance/opera reinterpretation of Gounod's opera *Faust* for Kentucky Opera and Louisville Ballet, Kentucky, USA. This ground-breaking co-production transforms Gounod's opera into a 70-minute dance-driven provocation about self-entitlement and the cost of the soul in contemporary America and Australia. This unique partnership between opera and ballet companies has been forged over a three-year creative development period in which a distinct collaborative dance/music opera/ballet language, choreographic aesthetic and innovative form of storytelling has been developed. *Project Faust* premieres in March 2018 at the Kentucky Center for the Arts, Louisville, Kentucky.

<http://sallyblackwood.com>