

Newsletter

Messages to you

We welcome new Chair Susan Koff, thank past chair Maria Speth and look to the future with Chair Elect Jeff Meiners...

Panpapanalya 2018

Reflections on our 2018 international joint dance congress held in Adelaide Australia in July 2018.


Were you there?
Share your memories of the week.

One Billion Rising

Be a part of a global action for change. One Billion Rising is the biggest mass action to end violence against women in human history. Show your love this valentine's day and move in solidarity!

Membership is due

A reminder that international membership fees were due on 1 January. Contact your national representative to renew today.



2019
ISSUE 1

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR - DR SUSAN KOFF

Dear daCi friends,

As I write my first Chair's message I begin by welcoming Jeff Meiners our new Chair Elect and editor of the daCi newsletters. I know that Jeff will really enjoy this and will also take these newsletters into a different format so that we can reach more of you.

I would like to honor our past Chair Maria Speth, for her leadership these past three years and all her incredible contributions to make daCi the organization that we treasure so much. Her love and devotion are evident in all that we do and I am just happy to know that this does not end arbitrarily with the end of her term as Chair.

I am still feeling the glow of the incredible conference that many of us experienced last July in Adelaide, Panpapanpalya. There were many exciting events, all exemplifying what we do and believe about the power of dance. The Twinning events that Maria Speth introduced to daCi became a full-fledged part of our conference and through their moving presentations, showed us all about the reach and strength of these new initiatives. This is just one example of many incredible events through an exciting week. In the following pages, Jeff will try to recount as much about this amazing week for those who would like to relive it, as well as those who were unable to attend.

Jeff assembled an amazing team and I cannot name them all, but if you were there and interacted with any of the local team, please reach out to them again and express your thanks and appreciation. We were all so warmly welcomed

to Adelaide and were carefully guided by all the local organizers and volunteers. I am extremely grateful to Jeff (with support from the University of South Australia), Julie Orchard (an amazing organizer extraordinaire!!) and Nichola Hall, who kept the media presence of the conference alive, as well as all the team members.

Another important initiative created by Maria Speth was the SpringBoard. Though this has been an aspect of daCi since before 2015, the strength of the contributions of the Spring Boarders was incredible at this conference, and I want to personally thank them all for the reach that they have contributed to this organization. I extend personal gratitude to Hamish McIntosh, Naoki Liddicut, Allie Marie LaForet and Mary Di Lorenzo as well as the continued contributions of Cassandra Giannone Emma Warmington and Nikki Caputo. They exemplify the best of the SpringBoard program.

Following the Adelaide gathering, we added a new Executive Committee position for marketing and communications. Nichola Hall, who was elected to that position in November is already busy moving us forward and continuing the excellent work that she did on Panpapanpalya. Congratulations and welcome!

Through Panpapanpalya we have moved forward in our agenda to make dance available to children and young people throughout the world. We are already hard at work to move forward on the Toronto 2021 gathering. So, please mark your calendars and plan to attend!



Sending you all dancing joy,
Susan

A MESSAGE FROM PAST CHAIR - MARIA SPETH

Dear daCi friends,

Although we are already well on our way into 2019, I still have warm memories of the 2018 daCi Congress in Adelaide,

It was a fascinating gathering with a rich program, well cared for by our Australian hosts who did a marvelous job.

Once again I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the entire Congress team!

This congress also was a special one as we celebrated the 40th anniversary of daCi!

A true milestone!

What began in 1978 in Edmonton has now grown out to be an impressive network that expands across the entire globe. Quite an achievement, that wouldn't have been possible without the support of you, daCi members. Some of you were present in Adelaide, some could not make it there.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all daCi members who are out there.

Because your support makes it possible that we can share and exchange our ideas about dance in accordance with the daCi mission.

Your support makes it possible that many young people worldwide can dance and learn through dance.

You make it possible that we can make the difference.

Thank you!

I have ended my term as Chair of daCi now and, looking back on the years I could serve on the Board, I feel deeply grateful for all the opportunities that were given to me in working with other dedicated dancers, dance teachers, researchers and dance lovers.

I met many daCi members and these encounters are lifelong treasures that I will continue to cherish.

As Past Chair I will continue to support initiatives that daCi could create in order to let members profit from these possibilities. The Twinning philosophy that is dear to me, encourages people to cooperate together in learning and sharing. I hope this will continue to inspire the daCi community.

In closing I would like to wish both Susan and Jeff all the best in their roles as Chair and Chair Elect. I am confident that they will colour their terms in their own individual way.

Maria Speth

Past Chair.



A MESSAGE FROM CHAIR ELECT - DR JEFF MEINERS

Dear daCi friends,

I'm writing as Chair Elect and excited to be working closely with Susan Koff as new Chair as we follow Maria's important legacy as past Chair.

Like Maria and Susan, I believe in the power of dance to transform people's lives. This theme was evident in the special time together we had at Panpapanalya 2018 thinking about lifelong learning through dance with our congress friends from the World Dance Alliance. I support daCi's potential as a professional organization that fosters a spirit of international understanding and peace through dance activism. Inspired by initiatives such as 'Twinning' that promote connection and intercultural understanding, I aim to build strategies for realising the Copenhagen (2015) and Adelaide (2018) Declarations as daCi supports diverse young people to experience dance as creators, performers, and spectators.

I am working closely on producing the daCi newsletter with our new Executive Committee member for Marketing and Communications, Nichola Hall, as we plan to develop new formats for daCi news. Future newsletters will take on a new format and we invite you to send us your photos, videos and written accounts about the 2018 congress for the next newsletter. Later this year we will focus on Twinning Projects, the Copenhagen and Adelaide Declarations and reports from the Springboard.

This newsletter brings you all my report on the congress. For those who were in Australia, I know you all had different journeys through the week so I hope you enjoy this overview. And for those

who were not able to be with us, I hope you gain a sense of the scope of the event and that you are planning for participating in the next 2021 congress in Toronto, Canada.

You can also get a real sense of the action by watching our [Facebook Live videos](#) from across the week.

We encourage those of you who were able to attend Panpapanalya to send us your photos, videos and written accounts of your experience in 2018 so we might share these in our next newsletter.

You can email these to admin@daci.international

So, a warm welcome to the first daCi Newsletter since our 2018 congress from Summer in Australia! I hope wherever you are, you are safe and warm and look forward to communicating with you in the year ahead.

With you, for dance,

Jeff Meiners



Gathering in Adelaide, Australia from 8-13 July 2018, over 900 participants across generations from 26 countries met to dance and learn at Panpapanpalya 2018.

Following the success of the previous Taiwan 2012 joint congress, the two organisations dance and the Child international (daCi) and the World Dance Alliance (WDA-AP) came together again. The aims of the 2018 congress were to maximize connections for dance educators from both organisations and to strengthen networks. This time, WDA's Education and Training Network worked with daCi to create a week-long congress with a focus on dance learning across the lifespan.

As a dance educator, I do not work in a dance department, nevertheless, the event was hosted by the University of South Australia with generous support from the School of Education within the Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences. Delegates came from afar as Barbados, Jamaica, South Africa, Uganda, Portugal, Norway, Finland, Denmark and Germany along with Asia-Pacific members from New Zealand, China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Honouring Australia's rich Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance practices, the Kurna language Aboriginal word – Panpapanpalya, was the name given to the congress by the elders of the native peoples on whose land the congress was held.

Jeff Meiners

Congress Convenor



Panpapanalya
2018 Adelaide Australia

dance

gathering generations learning

900 participants

26 countries





OPENING EVENT

At Victoria Square/Tarntanyangga and Adelaide Town Hall

The Opening event was curated by Kurruru Arts and Culture Hub and began outdoors with delegates gathering under a winter sunset first in Victoria Square/Tarntanyangga with a taste of locally sourced traditional food and music, followed by a traditional Welcome to Kurna Country smoking ceremony led by Aboriginal Elders.

This was followed by welcomes to South Australia and the City of Adelaide at the Adelaide Town Hall by the Governor Hieu Van Le and Deputy Mayor Cllr Sandy Vershoor.

Responses from the international collaborating organisations were made by President of World Dance Alliance Asia-Pacific (WDA-AP) Urmimala Sarker (India) and dance and the Child international (daCi) Chair Maria Speth (The Netherlands). Garry Stewart, Artistic Director of the concurrent inaugural Adelaide Dance Festival also welcomed guests as Panpapanpalya 2018 coincided with the inaugural Adelaide Dance Festival. Congress delegates were granted discounts to selected events, including performances by the Spinners (Lina Limosani Projects), Australian Ballet and Australian Dance

Theatre.

Delegates learned about the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures in Australia with a multi-media projection incorporating the Aboriginal map, animated images, music and a narrated storyline with examples from across Australia. Over sixty First Nations performers from South Australian and interstate companies presented traditional and contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dances. The Town Hall opening culminated with a memorable mass interactive finale led by Artistic Director Deon Hastie and performers inviting all audience members to dance with specially commissioned music by the local Indigenous band Electric Fields. Panpapanpalya was committed to respecting Indigenous knowledges and welcomed First Nations people from Canada, Taiwan, Aotearoa New Zealand, the Pacific Islands and Africa.







PANPAPANPALYA

WORKSHOPS AND SCHOLARLY GATHERINGS

dance. generations. gathering. learning

Dance enthusiasts of all ages came together at certain points but were also able to follow interests and themes in the rich and expansive congress program over 6 days and evenings from the beginnings of dance in the early years through the different stages of school and further education - and beyond through life to the joys and challenges of dancing in later years with wisdom and changing bodies. The congress highlighted the transformative educational potential of dance to nurture learning through intercultural and cross-generational gatherings

Dance Flavours workshops offering tastes of dance. Many contributed to the 80 snapshot performances showcased on the first two evenings with other chances to perform in Pop-Ups and the Ausdance-led BigDance during the day.

The Scholarly Gatherings strand focused on more academic dance study and included over 40 workshop opportunities for delegates to gather to move along with presentations of over 100 papers, panel discussions, project dialogues, dance research workshops, lecture demonstrations, posters/installations and Pecha Kucha presentations.





AUSTRALIA

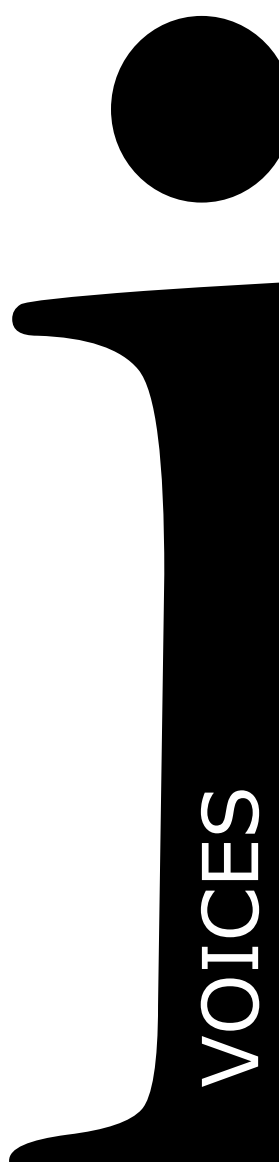


KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

4 leading voices of dance

Keynote speakers framed the week by providing their unique perspectives on dance and provoking delegates' thinking about how dance is located in their own lives, and more broadly how dance is positioned within the diverse global cultures we live in:

- [David McAllister](#), Artistic Director of the Australian Ballet, began the week's program by introducing delegates to the social and geographical context of dance in Australia in 'A great dancing nation: Australia's best kept secret'.
- Associate Professor [Katie Dawson](#) from the University of Texas at Austin invited the congress to actively 'Make your move', provoking all generations to consider how bodies create change.
- Australian cultural icon [Robyn Archer](#), in a shared keynote with the Adelaide Festival of Ideas, stimulated us with her interrogation of 'freedom' and 'democracy' as ideas intrinsic to cultural, social and political democracy across the world, followed in a forum with her reflections on how dance might contribute to personal mental wealth.
- In a concluding keynote, international artistic director [Sally Chance](#) provided a thought-provoking keynote highlighting how the engagement of babies and very young children in live dance performance showcases their competence as cultural participants.



YOUNG PEOPLE'S GATHERINGS

The Young People's Gatherings strand connected with UNESCO's goals for sustainability and arts education to consider how working in dance might address pressing global environmental, societal and cultural concerns.

daCi's new young Springboard congress members from Canada, New Zealand and Australia were mentored by Katie Dawson to expertly lead workshops that created a plan to stimulate future social action with 'The Adelaide Declaration'. This document was presented and signed at the Adelaide Town Hall during a special Lord Mayor's reception for key daCi and WDA leaders to meet local dignitaries. In addition a new strand titled Teachers' Gatherings enabled dance educators to network, share and debate ideas and practices.

The Twinning project concept initiated earlier by daCi also made a leap in this congress, with 10 dynamic projects presented that united dance enthusiasts from diverse cultures and generations including Africa, America, Asia, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. Meeting mostly for the first time in Adelaide, delegates shared their Twinning journeys of discovery and creation on the final morning. In addition the congress accommodated a range of forum activity - for early career researchers, youth dance practitioners and arts policy makers.



"...to explore ways to listen, to empower and mobilize young people around the world to contribute to sustainable development and an improved future for all"

-- Adelaide Declaration 2018



SPECIAL GUESTS

Other special guests taking part in the congress included Australian dancer Eileen Kramer who, born in 1914 (now aged 104), was no doubt the oldest delegate and led a workshop and performed in the Creative Gatherings project on the last afternoon.



This project exemplifies the many partnerships facilitated by the congress with the hospital's Centre for Creative Health and an associated UniSA-funded research project exploring 'resilience' for mental health across the lifespan through creative learning in dance.

Directed by guests, Portuguese choreographer Madalena Victorino and Italian dramaturg Giacomo Scalisi, over 250 delegates prepared across the week with 10 Australian dance artist leaders, to perform in a site-specific 'Dance Epidemic' at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and SA Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI).



over 250 delegates

with 10 Australian
dance artist leaders

created
'Dance Epidemic'

Black and white photos by Jen Brown

Photo: Eileen Kramer

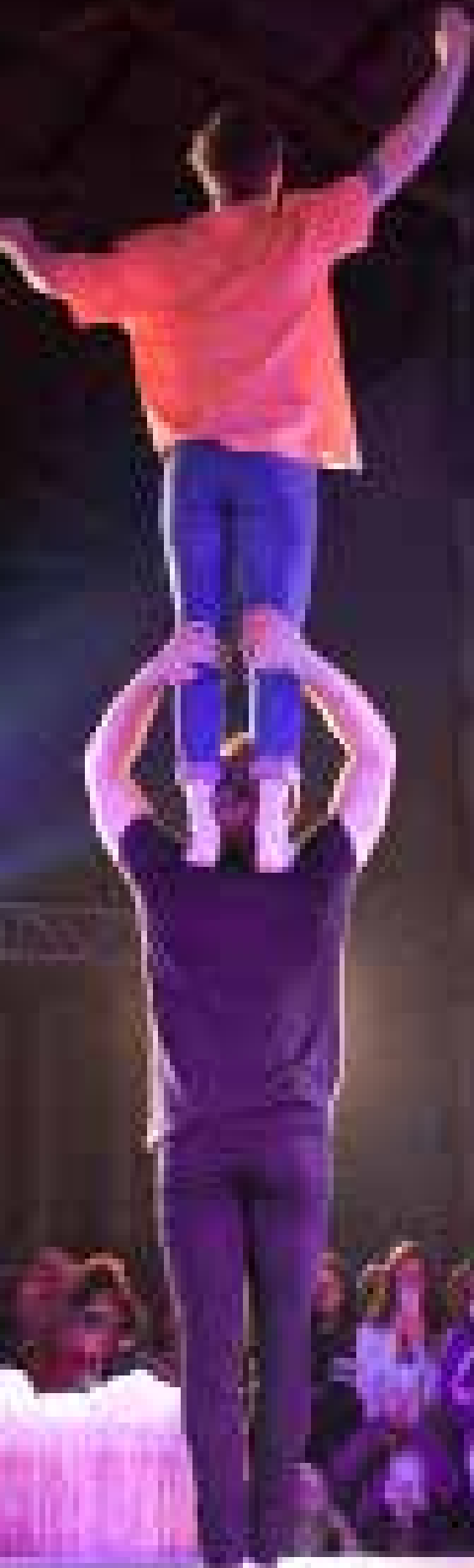


CLOSING EVENT

Local Cirkidz youth company director Joshua Hoare curated an exciting closing event **'Flying without Wings'** at Australia's oldest mainland theatre, the Queen's, with performances by Cirkidz, Australian Dance Theatre's Youth Ensemble and a handover presentation by Toronto, Canada, for the next 2021 daCi congress along with an announcement about the next WDA congresses by WDA-AP president Urmimala Sarker – and much celebratory dancing by the delegates.



[See you in Toronto 2021](#)



A LASTING LEGACY

The joint congress was an important one-off event for South Australia and we have received resounding positive feedback from delegates. The estimated value to the local economy of \$1 million generated by interstate and international visitors is now being analysed and such impact is an important consideration when making bids for such future events.

As convenor, I am delighted and thankful to the many who travelled from across the globe for a first visit to Australia. I am profoundly grateful for the generous support given by international committee colleagues Ralph Buck and Susan Koff, along with congress mentor Ann Kipling Brown plus local congress coordinator Julie Orchard, numerous members of the Australian organising committee, staff and students from the University of South Australia and venue partner Adelaide College of the Arts. The congress was made possible by generous funding from the Adelaide City Council and the South Australian government via Arts SA, as well as support from partners Adelaide Convention Bureau, Ausdance, The Royal Academy of Dance, Cirkidz and Kurruru Arts and Culture Hub.

Panpapanpalya was one of the world's largest gatherings to generate new thoughts and ideas for dance learning and teaching in the 21st century. The congress challenged a widely-held preconception that dance is a soft option for learning or study. The profit made will support both organisations to produce congress proceedings hosted by Ausdance National that will disseminate the best of the academic presentations. Watch out for an announcement soon via the Panpapanpalya website and Facebook!

Jeff Meiners

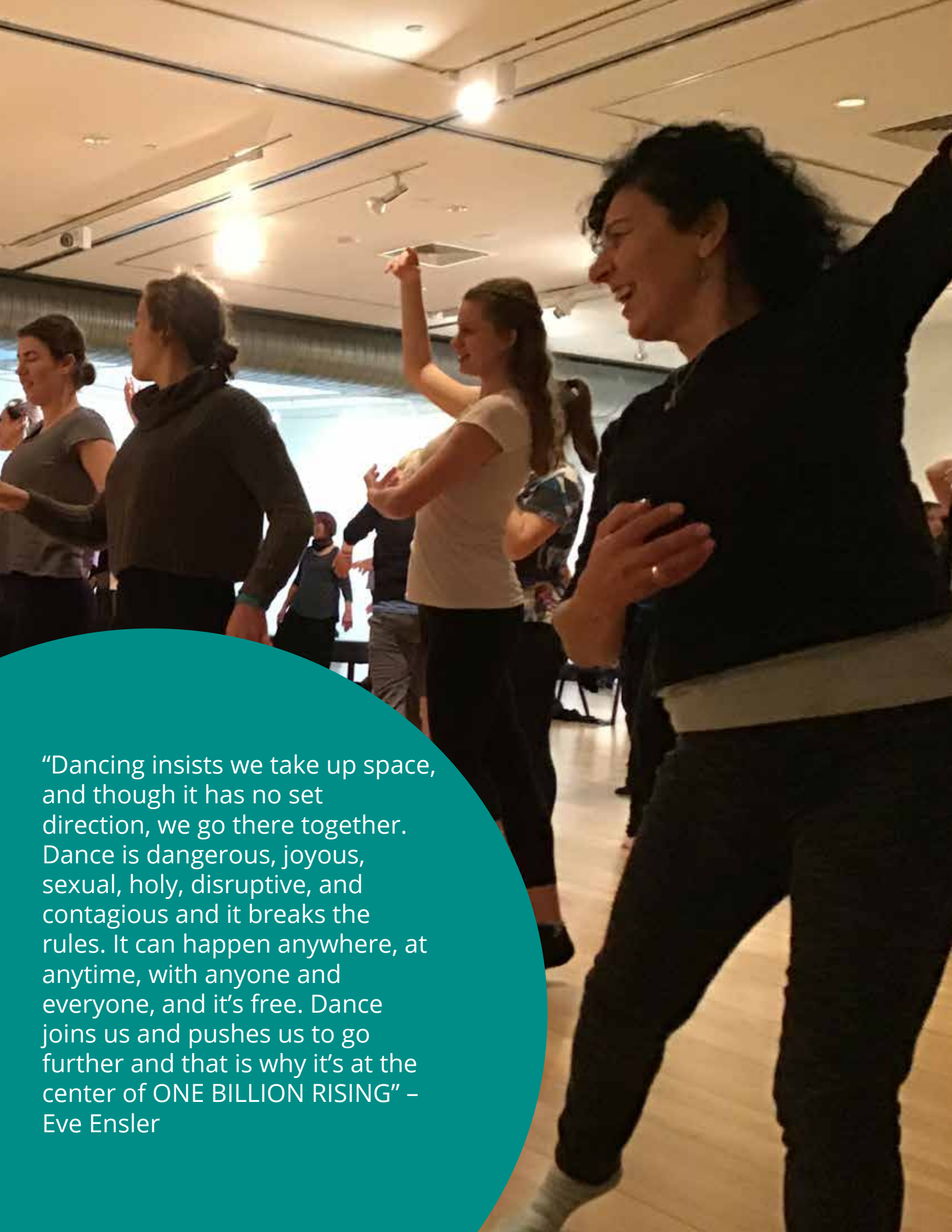
Congress Convenor



Panpapanalya
2018 Adelaide Australia

dance gathering generations learning





“Dancing insists we take up space, and though it has no set direction, we go there together. Dance is dangerous, joyous, sexual, holy, disruptive, and contagious and it breaks the rules. It can happen anywhere, at anytime, with anyone and everyone, and it’s free. Dance joins us and pushes us to go further and that is why it’s at the center of ONE BILLION RISING” – Eve Ensler

ONE BILLION RISING

One Billion Rising (OBR) is the biggest mass action to end violence against women in human history. The campaign, launched on Valentine's Day 2012, began as a call to action based on the staggering statistic that 1 in 3 women on the planet will be beaten or raped during her lifetime. With the world population at 7 billion, this adds up to more than ONE BILLION WOMEN AND GIRLS. Each year people come together on this date to dance and show their support.

DaCi supports this cause which is determined to create a new kind of consciousness – one where violence will be resisted until it is unthinkable. In the past activists have used “Break The Chain” – written and produced by Tena Clark with music by Tena Clark and Tim Heintz – as an integral and creative aspect of their Rising events. When the campaign was first created choreographer Debbie Allen gifted her choreography for “Break The Chain” to One Billion Rising. Since then, activists have been doing the original dance and interpreting it; making it their own. Others have created their own new choreography and incorporated into their events. Communities around the world have adapted, localised and completely re-envisioned the choreography, in many places integrating the dance into their cultures so that it remains current and relevant. These incredible dances, as well as innovative versions and adaptations of the original choreography, have been shared throughout the campaign; they are unique and inspiring.

Organizers and risers are encouraged to continue to localize their artistic expressions by using any version of the choreography your community chooses including the original choreography or a new set of moves that express the energy and message of One Billion Rising: Rise For Revolution for your communities, groups, and networks. Or multiple versions, there's no limit to how many ways you can DANCE! Break the Chain and DANCE for Revolution! Assemble your dance group together. Start to practice your own dance, or practice the online dance with us. Be ready to perform at february 14. (annual) somewhere in your own neighbourhood; a public place, a theatre, your dance studio or... another inspiring place.

[VIEW](#) activist videos dancing their own choreography. Show your solidarity!



Newsletter

Executive Committee

Chair: Susan Koff
Past Chair: Maria Speth
Chair Elect: Jeff Meiners
Secretary: Charlotte Svendler Nielsen
Treasurer/Membership: Diana Nurendini
Research Officer/member-At-Large:
Lynette Overby
Marketing Communications: Nichola Hall
Member-At-Large:
Nicholeen DeGrasse-Johnson, Liz Melchior

New contact email: admin@daci.international

International Membership Fees

Due: January 1, 2018
Individual: CDN \$40 per year
Full-time Students: CDN \$20 per year
Children/Youth Groups: CDN \$50 per year

Please contact your National Representative



National Representatives

Australia: [Kathy Vlassopoulos](#)
Brazil: [Alba Vieira](#)
Canada: [Kathy Bond](#) and [Mary-Elizabeth Manley](#)
Croatia: [Ivancica Jankovic](#)
www.daci-croatia.com.hr
China: [Jiamin Huang](#)
Denmark: [Laura Navndrup Black](#)
Estonia: [Anu Sööt](#)
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