

YDF25 MENTORS' BIOGRAPHIES

DEBORA DI CENTA

Debora Di Centa is a Canberra-based Italo-Australian independent dance artist with extensive knowledge in ballet, modern and contemporary dance, contact improvisation, physical theatre and Choreological Studies/Laban Movement Analysis.

Debora graduated and specialised in dance studies at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, London. Since then, she has collaborated in various dance works, research programs, and performances with many artists and dance specialists around the UK, Europe, Asia, Australia and the US.

Debora teaches, performs, choreographs, and directs dance events, works for professionals, in community dance settings and collaborates on various projects with Visual Artists, Musicians, Dance Companies, Schools, Universities and other Organizations.

Since 2019, Debora has been working for Ausdance ACT as a Project Manager and Youth Dance Festival Mentors Leader and Schools coordinator. YDF holds a special place in Deboras' life as it has been making her learn and grow through the years.

OLIVIA FYFE

Olivia is a wearer of many hats: a photographer, a professional dancer, choreographer, teacher, arts worker, and mother. She obtained her BA in Dance at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) and Taipei National University of the Arts.

Olivia went on to dance professionally with the Australian Dance Party performing in over 20 of their works. In 2021 she received a Canberra Critic Circle Award for her solo with cellist Alex Voorhoeve in 'Symbiosis'. Olivia is based in Canberra where she continues to collaborate with an exciting array of artists to make art in a variety of ways.

Olivia's very first experience with Ausdance ACT was performing in YDF with Belconnen High School and Hawker College. The experience left such an impact that Olivia went on to work for Ausdance ACT as Administrator and later Project Manager for several Youth Dance Festival and Open Classes (2015-2019).

PATRICIA HAYES CAVANAGH

Starting dance at 4 years old, Pat has been performing and creating for most of their life. At 15, she began to explore the world of improvisation, choreography, and artistic practice. Since finishing full-time study at Sydney Dance Company's Pre-Professional Year in 2020, Pat has pursued their creative interests through teaching, dancing, and arts engagement across multiple disciplines and age ranges.

A Party Artist for Australian Dance Party since 2021, Pat has performed in many site-specific and multi-disciplinary works that have won awards (LESS, 2022) and have toured regional NSW (Escape from Plastika, 2024).

Pat has also taught and worked with QL2 Dance since 2021, choreographing for two Chaos shows (Big Little Things, 2022, Yummy! 2023) and working as a rehearsal assistant for QL2's senior project, being Assistant to the Artistic Director in 2024's Subject To Change, Ruth Osborne OAM's final major project with QL2.

Pat is interested in using dance as a tool for exploring ideas connected to people, nature, and what it means to exist and move through the world.

"This is my third year being a mentor for YDF, and I am continuously excited and inspired to see how the students come together and create. Dance is a powerful tool for learning, and I have been so lucky to see so many wonderful works come out of YDF. Having the opportunity to go out into these schools is so special."

SUGAR KAYE GREFALDEO

Sugar is a dynamic and multi-talented figure in the Filipino Australian and global dance communities, known for her contributions as a performer, choreographer, dance educator, and community organizer.

Originally from the Philippines, Sugar's journey in dance began in her homeland where she was influenced and trained by the Filipino Hip Hop community. She gained significant recognition when she represented the Philippines in the *World Supremacy Battlegrounds* in 2017, where her team won a silver medal, and placed in the Top 4 at *Domination 2018*.

In Australia, Sugar has carved out a unique space for herself in the dance scene and continues to evolve as a versatile artist, learning from renowned teachers such as Yasim Coronado Veranes at Paradox Dance Studios. Here, she explores and hones her skills in lyrical & contemporary dance, afro, dancehall, and street Latin styles. In addition to her performance work, Sugar is a key member of the Filipino Australian community. She is one of the founding members of *Hiraya Performing Artist - Brisbane*, a collective that promotes Filipino indigenous and cultural dance through workshops, community events, and performances. Sugar's cultural work is deeply rooted in her heritage and aims to educate and inspire the next generation of dancers and artists. Through her work, Sugar has become a key figure in dance and bridging cultural divides through her artistry and leadership in the Filipino Australian community.

Last year's Youth Dance Festival was an inspiring experience, seeing young people express themselves with passion, courage, and creativity through dance.

JONAH LAMOND

Jonah Lamond is a dedicated and versatile dancer based in Canberra, Australia. Currently signed to 3WJ+BOY agency based in Auckland, New Zealand. Beginning his dance journey at the age of 15, Jonah has cultivated a deep passion for movement, specializing in hip-hop while also training extensively in Afro styles, lyrical, jazz funk, and musical theatre. His commitment to continuous growth drives him to refine his skills and broaden his artistic knowledge.

Jonah's foundation in dance was built with Play The Dance Company, where he trained under elite mentorship and quickly rose to become a leader within the company's crews. Under his leadership, these crews have achieved regional and national championship titles. He also trains with the three-time reigning Hip-Hop International (HHI) Australia champions, Kookies N Kream, in Sydney. Dedicated to understanding the roots of hip-hop, Jonah actively studies and trains in foundational styles, ensuring authenticity in his craft.

Jonah adores being a part of the Ausdance ACT team and has been incredibly inspired by Dance Fest teams in previous years. He is excited to continue working with the new generation of creatives over the next semester.

MIA RASHID

Mia Rashid is a ballet and contemporary dancer based in Canberra, Australia. She attended Newtown High School of the Performing Arts and continued her dance education at the Queensland Ballet Academy, Classical Ballet 121 Sydney, Joffrey School of Dance Chicago and recently, ADDA Barcelona.

She has worked with Chicago's Meadows Dance Collective, Las Peinetas Spanish Dance company in Sydney, partaken in a two month long artistic residency with Blivande House in Stockholm and recently performed as Anna II in Operantic's production of Seven Deadly Sins in Sydney.

As well as pursuing dance, Mia has just completed a double bachelor's degree in development studies and Anthropology at the Australian National University. Passionate about the power of movement, Mia aims to connect with audiences through her artistry.

This is Mia's 1st year as YDF Mentor, and she is very excited to connect with all students and teachers.

Thank you

Ausdance ACT