

Restless Dance Theatre Professional Development Day

The Responsive Arts Educator

Utilising Creativity, Autism - Inclusive Engagement & Contemporary Issues

Saturday June 27 - Week 9 of Term 2

11.30am – 5.30pm

The purpose of the 2026 Professional Development Day is to enhance, support and expand dance teachers' expertise and connection with students. South Australian dance educators, instructors, and studios hold a vital place in shaping the lives of dancers locally and abroad. They are the catalysts, the motivators, and the creators of possibilities. Teachers and educators will be invited to join us for a full day of professional learning workshops designed to elevate their teaching and practice; with tools they can apply immediately in their classroom and studio settings.

Schedule:

11.30am - 11.45am: Welcome and discuss the days event

11.45am - 12.45pm: Workshop - Improvisation - Responsive processes through the lens of inclusivity

12.45pm - 1.15pm: Lunch provided

1.15pm - 2.45pm: Workshop - Revealing ReMix - Engaging Autistic students: Creative and neuro-affirming practices

2.45pm - 3.00pm: Coffee break

3.00pm - 4.15pm: Workshop - Composition and Tasking – Creative exploration with a focus on accessibility

4.15pm - 5.15pm: Presentation - Contemporary Issues

5.15pm - 5.30pm: Debrief and farewell

11:45am - 12:45pm

Workshop - Improvisation - Responsive processes through the lens of inclusivity

Facilitated by Artistic Associate [Larissa McGowan](#) and Independent Artist [Marcus Louend](#)

Unlock new strategies for improvisation in your teaching practice, using language, conceptual tools and physical prompts to draw out creativity and expression in students and participants. The inclusive nature of improvisational techniques will be unpacked for greater understanding. Through physically engaging in improvisation activities and real-world applications, participants will gain confidence from this session in directing students of all abilities to explore via the use of differentiated improvisational prompts. This workshop will assist teachers and educators in activating freedom through movement for their students.

1:15pm – 2:45pm

Workshop - Revealing ReMix - Engaging Autistic Students: Creative and Neuro-Affirming Practices

Facilitated by Artistic Director [Michelle Ryan](#) & ReMix Program Leader [Emma Stokes](#)

Exploring how to support Autistic students to engage meaningfully and express themselves with confidence in classroom and dance settings. Through building understanding and using neuro-affirming approaches, participants will discover creative ways to connect, communicate, and respond to diverse learning styles. Restless' current place of research is driven by our 2026 project **ReMix** – a program that consists of Training, Research and Leadership pathways to ensure Autistic and neurodivergent individuals have equitable access to creative expression. The project creates inclusive, Autistic-led public programs that increase participation, employment pathways, and community visibility of Autistic individuals in the arts. This workshop will provide fresh tools and perspectives to apply directly in your teaching practice.

3:00pm – 4:15pm

Workshop - Composition and Tasking – Creative exploration with a focus on accessibility

Facilitated by Artistic Associate [Larissa McGowan](#) & Education Executive [Carolyn Obst](#)

Enjoy exploring new compositional games, tasks and devices to encourage 'creative risk taking' for all. Discuss and discover fresh ideas for generating movement and original movement responses to dance making. Developing tools, skills and confidence to draw self-expression from your learners will be a focus of this session. The unique nature of this workshop is the learning of various approaches to adapting and accommodating individual needs. By allowing alternative ways to approach the art of composition, participants will learn to enhance the creative experience for their students. This workshop will leave you inspired.

4:15pm – 5:15pm

Guest Presenter - Contemporary Issues

Facilitated by a leader in the Performing Arts Industry

This presentation will address some of the varied contemporary issues that face educators in the performing arts, in the current climate. Within a supported and caring environment, the sharing of ideas and exchanging of points of view will be encouraged and welcomed. This session is designed to engage.

All sessions are perfectly suited for teachers, educators and support staff working with neurodiverse and disabled students in both school and studio environments.

More information coming soon!