

## Member Profile



### Rachael Hilton Realises Her Dream

This year, Ausdance ACT Member Rachael Hilton realised an 18 year dream performing alongside her dance mentor, master teacher Suraya Hilal in Europe.



#### *Rehearsing in the Theatre*

Rachael first saw Hilal perform on video in 1995 thinking one day she'd love to acquire the skill to perform on stage with Suraya in Europe. Hilal had been part of the WOMAD festival that year and her technique had inspired Middle Eastern dancers around the country.

In 1996 Rachael began training with Hilal teachers and attended her first workshop with Hilal in 1997 in Winchester UK. Rachael continued her training, meeting Hilal again in 2002 during a workshop in Dusseldorf Germany. Following that meeting Rachael became an Associate of the Hilal Art Foundation. In 2003/4 Rachael gained formal dance teaching qualifications through Queensland University of Technology and joined the Hilal professional training group gaining her diploma from the Hilal Art Foundation in 2010. In 2011/12 Rachael successfully applied for an Artist in Residence at Belconnen Arts Centre for Hilal to develop a new program for Australian dancers and in 2013 Rachael and two colleagues travelled to Europe to work up the program for performance during the Hilal Dance Week in Dusseldorf German.



*In Class Training*

“The whole experience was amazing. Being in Europe and sharing time with like minded colleagues working towards a performance was special. Being directed by Suraya as well as having the privilege of dancing alongside her in one of her dance works will be one of the most memorable achievements of my life. I’ve been asked by a few people how I felt afterwards: directly afterwards, I was euphoric, though I had already started to wonder what next, however soon realised whatever I want to achieve, I just have to have the guts and persistence to make it happen and there are plans..”

We look forward to finding out what those plans entail!



*Jamming on the last day*