Welcome to the 35th Ausdance ACT Youth Dance Festival!

So, what's this year's theme all about?

The show title is GENERATION NEXT. Encompassing all the ideas from the next generation of dancers and young artists coming through our Dance Fest stage doors; it's about sharing the next generation of celebration, motivation, innovation, and imagination through dance.

GENERATION NEXT is essentially based around how the young people of Canberra can have the capacity to be beacons of change through their own opinions, their own thoughts, ideas, and values.

To help get you started, we've given you some initial idea points to help guide your dance fest piece:

GENERATION NEXT: CELEBRATION
GENERATION NEXT: MOTIVATION
GENERATION NEXT: INNOVATION

You might choose to use the title itself as the catalyst to create your piece, you might use one of the three suggested ideas below, you might use all of them.
GENERATION NEXT: CELEBRATION

2019 marks the 35th year of Dance Fest! So let’s celebrate!

Using the idea of GENERATION NEXT: CELEBRATION, you might like to create a piece that celebrates who you are as an individual, a collective of people, a school; create a piece that celebrates identity, individualism, humanity.

You might choose to work on something that celebrates genres of dance, music, an artist – whatever it may be find the joy, the fun. Let go and celebrate!

GENERATION NEXT: MOTIVATION

"Motivation is the reason for people's actions, willingness and goals. Motivation is derived from the word motive which is defined as a need that requires satisfaction. These needs could also be wants or desires that are acquired through influence of culture, society, lifestyle, etc. or generally innate."

Under this banner, GENERATION NEXT: MOTIVATION, we encourage you to dream big, to think about the world that you want to live in and take action! The world we live in today is a very different one to the world that was when Dance Fest started. Today we face different environmental, political, social challenges and successes. Within your Dance Fest piece make a statement for change, use your piece to highlight issues that not only young people of Canberra might face, but all of us as humanity.

GENERATION NEXT: INNOVATION

This is all about the next big thing… Moments, ideas, things that have changed (or are yet to change) the world, peoples’ lives, how people think! You might like to take the opportunity to be innovative yourself, how are you going to change the world?

Within the branch of GENERATION NEXT: INNOVATION, you might like to take a look back at particular milestones and moments in time that have ultimately changed history. 2019 marks some pretty significant milestones in our history and achievements of humanity that you might like to choose to use as inspiration for your Dance Fest piece. It marks the 50th year anniversary since the Apollo 11 moon landing, the 50th year of Sesame Street, 30 years since the Berlin Wall fell, 10 years since Barack Obama was inaugurated as President of America, and probably the most important anniversary of my childhood – the 25th anniversary since Disney’s The Lion King was released to the world. Closer to home, 2019 marks 110 years since the first powered aeroplane flight in Australia, 70 years since the commencement of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme, 60 years since ground was broken on the Sydney Opera House, 40 years since women in Australia win the right to maternity leave. All innovative moments in history that have led to generational change.

We look forward to seeing your unique approach to this years' Youth Dance Festival theme GENERATION NEXT!

Jamie Winbank
Creative Director