

MEDIA RELEASE

11 May 2023



Midnight at the Blue Star: Adelaide women bring the 1940s to life in new immersive dance production.

Dragonfly Dance, an Adelaide-based adult dance company that values diversity in age and body shape, is proud to present its latest production ***Midnight at the Blue Star***, an immersive dance performance exploring the remarkable stories of women during and after the war.

For two nights only, Friday 2 June and Sunday 4 June, the show will turn the Star Theatres into a fictional 1940s jazz and swing club, transporting audiences to an era of vintage glamour and incredible music. A collaboration between five choreographers, the show will feature a mix of jazz, tap, and swing dance, set to rhythmic and sentimental melodies from the Golden Age of Radio.

Director of the show and founder of Dragonfly Dance, Jo McDonald, says, "We wanted to create an immersive experience where the audience feels like they are patrons in a 1940s jazz club, but also get to witness the inner lives of the characters through vignettes. The vignettes reveal the inner lives of women in the era and depict various war and post-war topics".

A talented and diverse all-female cast will bring to life the stories of extraordinary women who navigated the challenges of war, displayed resilience, and paved the way for future generations.

McDonald says, "We were inspired by the likes of Nancy Wake, a New Zealand/Australian woman who was instrumental in helping people escape occupied France and was the Gestapo's most wanted, known as 'The White Mouse.' We also give a nod to The Garage Girls; A group of female codebreakers who worked at Bletchley Park. Other characters are drawn from the family histories of the dancers, such as grandmothers".

Midnight at the Blue Star will immerse spectators in the elegant and vibrant world of swing dance and jazz, which captivated generations in the 40s, through contemporary dance techniques, references to films of the era, and film noir style narration. Audiences can expect opportunities to get up and join in on the fun.

Dragonfly Dance has a long history of staging similar immersive dance performances, such as the sell-out shows 'Black Coffee' and 'Soul Night at the Cinnamon Lounge'. McDonald says, "We started 18 years ago as Move Through Life, giving adults the opportunity to pursue their dreams in dance through classes, performance, and choreographic and teaching opportunities. We've done several similar performances exploring dance of different eras in this kind of immersive format, which were sell-outs."

The new show embodies the company's commitment to diversity and empowerment, aiming to inspire audiences with the stories of women who overcame adversity. McDonald says, "Our company values diversity in age and body shape among our dancers, and this is reflected in the cast for this show".

The theme of female empowerment is fitting for McDonald, having herself won 'Quiet Achiever' at the 2020 SA Woman Awards, which celebrate the achievements of South Australian women in business.

The annual Adelaide Cabaret Fringe Festival, now in its fourth year, provides an open-access, affordably-priced, experimental platform where emerging talent can cut its teeth on courageous audiences in venues across Adelaide's West End.

Dragonfly Dance. Become yourself. Dance for adults of all ages. Ballet, contemporary, jazz, and tap
Classes, performance opportunities, teacher training, choreographer training
Ground floor, 80 Anzac Highway, Everard Park, SA 5035 | phone 08 7073 2069
email info@dragonflydance.com.au | www.dragonflydance.com.au

Tickets for **Midnight at the Blue Star** are available now at

<https://cabaretr fringe festival.com/artfuel/program/67/show/midnight-at-the-blue-star>

More information about the show can be found at www.dragonflydance.com.au/bluestar

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For interviews and photo opportunities, phone 0402 070 021 or email info@dragonflydance.com.au

Fri 2nd Jun 2023, 7.00pm

Sun 4th Jun 2023, 5.00pm

60mins

Rating: PG - Parental Guidance

Star Theatres One @ STAR THEATRES

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