



REVIEW
2 One Another
 Sydney Theatre

The poetry of Juliette Barton and Andrew Crawford. Pictures Alan Pryke

Rafael's 2 is at one with the audience

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Rafael Bonachela has long been vocal about his quest to reinvigorate contemporary dance, peel away its elitist image and reinstate it as accessible entertainment.

His previous works — most notably *6 Breaths* and *We Unfold* — chipped away at the frost but *2 One Another* is an awakening, a major turning point for Bonachela, Sydney Dance Company and, with any

luck, the catalyst for more choreographers to swap self-indulgence for interrelativity.

A subtle shake-up of the intricacies and absurdities that fetter the relationships we have with ourselves and each other, *2 One Another* puts the complexities of the human form under the microscope.

The opening scene, featuring 16 dancers, saw them split into three groups: one, two and the others. Together, they performed a series of perfectly synchronised movements that mimicked the platitudinous actions of everyday life — nodding, gesturing, pointing, pontificating.

Their eyes locked with the audience, as if to say, “Look at us — we’re all the same.”

The stillness didn’t last long. Those who have seen previous Bonachela works and wished for more dancing and less conceptual movement will be more than satiated by Bonachela’s vivifying choreography which catapulted the dancers into a constant state of flux and

change — all reality is matter in motion.

The dancers paired off in twos and threes, some shyly offering themselves to each other; others were more forceful, like the standout Andrew Crawford, who passionately poured his lithe limbs around Juliette Barton. They rarely gathered as a group but when they did it was akin to fireworks exploding, by virtue of Nick Wales’ beautiful score and Benjamin Cisterne’s galactic lighting design.

A omnipotent emotional journey that puts the audience in the driver’s seat, *2 One Another* is so steeped in reality that it’s impossible not to write yourself into the events unfolding on stage. Contemporary dance may never achieve mass appeal, but this comes pretty darn close.

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Sydney Dance Company, Sydney Theatre, Walsh Bay; until March 31, \$30-\$75, 9250 1999, sydneytheatre.org.au

Strength and agility with Todd Sutherland and Wayne Parsons.

