**Paige Gordon (CF 2000) Founding Director, Lifespan Dance**

Paige Gordon has worked in the Australian dance industry for over thirty years. After initial training with Kira Bousloff (founder of WA Ballet), Paige studied at WAAPA. She has performed with dance and theatre companies - WA Ballet, Meryl Tankard Company, WBK Theatre and numerous independent practitioners. Paige formed a project company in the ACT in 1993 creating an ongoing independent dance presence and which drew national interest. The work was seen as dynamic dance theatre, inspired by socio-political and environmental topics, collaborating with exciting dance/design/sound creatives and performing in non-theatre spaces such as Australian National Botanical Gardens and unused shopfronts to complement the mainstage theatre seasons. Works included *Shed* (1994), *The Coast* (1994), *Party!Party!Party!* (1995), *Paper City* (1996), *To The Wall* (1996), *Aves* (1997) and *Raising the Standard* (1998).

Paige was the Artistic Director of WA based Buzz Dance Theatre from 1998-2003 (now Co3) creating numerous works – *Rumpelstiltskin* (1999), *Mercurial* (2000), *Plastic Fantastic* (2001), *Zigwag* (2002), *Fracture* (2003) and *The Cave* (2004), curating two seasons od dancer’s work *Buzz Fizz* (2002) and *The* *Honey Season* (2003) and performing in the Perth International Arts Festivals, Awesome Festivals. The company toured throughout WA, nationally & internationally and created educational resources to support the programs. Paige received a Churchill Fellowship and Centenary Medal for her Service to Dance in 2000.

Paige is a passionate advocate for dance and dance artists, seeking ways to connect dance with community through vital partnerships. Paige was co-founder and AD of TRACKSUIT (DADAA) from 2010 - 2020 which offered accessible, inclusive dance workshops, performances and film opportunities for adults of all abilities. Paige also helped to found OnTrack (DADAA) offering a Midland-based dance opportunity. Both programs have continued to thrive. Paige has worked in secondary schools, leading masterclasses and choreographing for school musicals and presentations. She created and facilitated dance-in-health projects within WA hospitals (PMH and Bentley Adolescent Unit) and a recent report by the Chamber of Arts & Culture WA identified Paige’s dance-in-health work as a key ‘resource’ in WA, to be used as a framework for future arts-in-health projects. Paige trained in the Dance for Parkinson’s Program in 2015, founding and lead teaching classes throughout the Perth and Peel region. Paige was the Dance Curator for the Fairbridge Festival from 2019-2022 bringing a renewed quality of dance and dance workshops (including a Dance Artist In Residence initiative) to the Festival, within a challenging Covid environment.

She founded Lifespan Dance in 2019 to offer outreach dance services into aged care and to continue Seated Dance classes when funding for the DP program ceased. Lifespan Dance has initiated and continues to offer seated dance classes in four locations, taught by a team of dedicated dance artists. Lifespan’s outreach classes are taught in multiple aged care centres across Perth and Peel region.

Paige asserts that seated dance is a dance genre in its own right and has created seated dance performative opportunities for interested participants. Using a hybrid form of choreographic sharing, performances of WINGSPAN I and II were created and successfully performed at the Mandurah Arts Festival in 2021 and 2022. Recently Lifespan led a Seated Dance for 600 people at the National Disability Symposium. Lifespan was nominated for Australia Day Honours. Paige is on the National Committee of Dance for Parkinson’s Australia.

In 2022, Paige assisted Meryl Tankard and Link Dance Company (WAAPA)to remount ‘Chants de Mariage’ for the ICON : Pina Bausch Project. This is the second work that Paige has assisted Meryl in remounting (VX18504, ATYP, Carriageworks NSW, 2008).

Paige is super-proud of her daughter - professional contemporary dancer Lilly King currently working with Australasian Dance Collective.

Digital links to related articles and film –

General

<https://michellepotter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Paige-Gordon.pdf>

<https://ausdance.org.au/contributors/details/paige-gordon>

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-148988102/view>

<https://co3.org.au/about/ourjourney/>

Shed

<https://ausdance.org.au/articles/details/a-place-and-a-space>

<https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/3189676>

Tracksuit

<https://www.dadaa.org.au/find-a-program/tracksuit/>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-11-19/dance-troupe-puts-performers-with-disabilities-centrestage/8030504>

Lifespan Dance

<https://www.thesenior.com.au/story/7721832/want-a-workout-take-a-seat/>

<https://www.pressreader.com/australia/post-newspapers/20230218/282067691109582>

<https://www.mandurahmail.com.au/story/7447061/mandurah-seated-classes-bringing-dance-to-all-abilities/>

WINGSPAN II Performances

[https://www.mandurah.wa.gov.au/explore/whats-on/calendar/arts-and-culture/wingspan](https://www.mandurah.wa.gov.au/explore/whats-on/calendar/arts-and-culture/wingspan-ii)-ii

Remounting Meryl Tankard’s work – *Chants de Mariage*, *VX 18504*

<https://www.danceaustralia.com.au/reviews/review-waapa-s-icon-an-extraordinary-event>

<http://www.stagenoise.com/review/2008/vx18504>

Daughter – Lilly King

<https://australasiandancecollective.com/collective/artists/lilly-king>