



Ballina Shire Advocate

Wednesday 5/04/2017

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Deafness is no barrier

Dance 'transcends language'

FORMER East Ballina woman Anna Seymour has not let her hearing impairment stop her fulfilling her dreams.

The deaf woman is a contemporary dancer based in Melbourne.

She is returning to Ballina Shire next week to run a deaf-inclusive dance theatre workshop at the Tintenbar Hall, to be held from April 10-13.

She will be joined by former Sydney Dance Company dancer Michael Hennessy in the event hosted by Sprung!! Integrated Dance Theatre. Michael is a director of Sprung!!.

The workshop, open to deaf and hearing persons aged 14 and over who love dance, will explore the themes Home and Silence.

In an interview with Frankie magazine in September 2016, Anna said: "Dance has the ability and power to transcend language barriers".

While Auslan interpreters will be available throughout the workshop to support

Anna's teaching and the integration and participation of deaf dancers, the workshop is suitable for all who love expressing themselves through movement.

The finale of the workshop will be a performance at the Tintenbar Hall on April 13 at 3pm, with entry by gold coin donation.

Anna will hold an information session at the hall on Sunday, April 9, at 11am for dance teachers

interested in creating a more deaf-inclusive teaching environment, or those who simply want to understand more about how to connect with deaf dancers.

The cost of the workshop is \$200.

It has been supported by the Northern Rivers Community Foundation, Alstonville Quota, Ability Links and Social Futures.

For more information, email info.sprung@gmail.com.



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DANCE WORKSHOP: Former Ballina woman Anna Seymour, who is a contemporary dancer and is also deaf, is involved in a dance workshop at Tintenbar next week.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED