

Timothy Gordon

Ballet master and choreographer, National College of Dance (Newcastle)

New Zealand-born Timothy Gordon's performance career began in 1979 with the Australian Ballet, and took him to Nederlands Dans Theater and Ballet Frankfurt. At Ballet Frankfurt he moved from performer to teacher and choreographer, returning to Australia to work at the Australian Ballet School in 1987. He has since worked as a freelance choreographer and director, and taught at a variety of schools and companies both in Australia and overseas. He is also a qualified Alexander Technique practitioner.

These days Gordon is to be found at the National College of Dance in Newcastle. "I teach a diploma course," he says. "My practice is mostly choreographic and I teach in accordance to that principle and activity. I greatly enjoy the College's platform of invention and versatility, and the

students who are as authentic and as gifted as you could wish for. It's a great privilege in all respects."

Diversification from performance to choreographing and teaching was a "natural process", says Gordon. Like many dancers, he found the physical demands of dance on his body became the catalyst for a change of career focus. "I was spent physically," he remembers. "It finished abruptly and I had to go on, injuries et cetera. You can't rest on your laurels! You need fortitude, imagination and confidence to go on. Then you require a plan to go forward... I sought to broaden my experience and knowledge and offer something inherent from within that was both creative and practical."

Since leaving performance, Gordon's career has had multiple strands, all connected by dance. A wonderful concept, the arrangement has its challenges, he says. "I found it is nearly impossible to achieve the best balance between



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the different components I'm engaged in." Nonetheless, Gordon is passionate about his career. "In teaching I love the interaction, being enthusiastic, being clear about the information I put out there. I enjoy watching the blossoming of [young people's] abilities." About choreography he remarks, "It is everything interesting including being totally unpredictable and often on occasion an extremely challenging track to climb."

Gordon's advice to those interested in choreography or teaching? "Learn to think on your feet and question ideas no matter how embedded they are or who spouts them. Have some knowledge of all areas of your profession and the other arts. Continue to learn to refine your practice/methods and don't lose sight of your creativity."