



Did you know Daniel Belton...

...can sing and wants to learn to breathe underwater?

Choreographer, dancer and filmmaker Daniel Belton was named as one of five Arts Laureates by the Arts Foundation of New Zealand at the 2015 Westpac New Zealand Arts Awards.

Daniel comes from a visual arts and contemporary dance background and has performed extensively in New Zealand and Europe with dance luminaries Douglas Wright, Kim Brandstrup, Irek Mukhamedov, Vicente Saez, Lindsay Kemp, Elio Gervasi and Aletta Collins. Whilst building his reputation as a skilled dancer within contemporary dance repertoire, Daniel's collaborations on trans-media and multi-discipline works have achieved international recognition and acclaim. Since 2010 Daniel has been invited to undertake pedagogical and performance residencies all over the world. His most recent multi-media work (*OneOne*) for Good Company Arts has been celebrated in South America, Europe, Asia and the Pacific.

Here are some things that you did not know about Daniel.

Last dance performance attended - The opening night Gala of the Aarhus Festival (best Flamenco I have seen in years), Ryoji Ikeda's supercodex (live set) at ArtsScience Museum, Singapore

Stage performance would like to see - Pina Bausch

Would love to have dinner with - Paul Klee, Mother Teresa, Shakespeare and the Queen of Denmark

Most excited about - 4K, Hubble Telescope Optics and the future for humanity

First show performance - Gillian Francis School of Ballet's recital at Theatre Royal, Nelson in 1980

Favourite book - 'Astonishing the Gods' by Ben Okri

Currently reading - 'The Aleph' by Jorge Luis Borges

Would like to learn - Sign language and Braille, and how to breathe underwater

Where found on an average Saturday - Gardening, and with family at home, or visiting a gallery in Dunedin

Best of advice given - 'Work Smoothly, Lifetime Peace', Quan-Yin

Favourite place in NZ - There are many; somewhere deep in native bush, beside old trees and with the hint of ocean nearby, that's my favourite

Last film seen - 'The Wind Rises' by Japanese animation legend Hayao Miyazaki

Hidden talent - Singing

A moment in life to go back to - My son's birth (I was performing with Tanz Company Gervasi at Theater Künstlerhaus, Vienna)

Favourite season - I love the light in Autumn, and the colours

Moment in history wish to have witnessed - Diaghalevs' Ballets Russes premiere of 'Parade' 1917 (Picasso, Satie, Cocteau, Massine)

Coffee or tea - Both!

Childhood memory - Picking feijoas and grapes from our garden at 198 Nile Street

Best way to relax - Gardening, reading, yoga

Favourite restaurant/café - I like the new 'Standard Kitchen' café in Dunedin

Inspired by - Nature, Einstein said 'Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better'

Where most comfortable - Home, and under a starry night sky

Best gift ever received - My family, and beautiful Donnine. The Arts Laureate is an amazing gift, received this year from the Arts Foundation of NZ - really humbling and incredibly useful