

THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET SCHOOL

WINTER SEASON

THE *FUTURE OF BALLET* STARTS HERE

RIVERSIDE THEATRES
PARRAMATTA

12 - 13 JUNE
2026



The
Australian Ballet
School 

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THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET SCHOOL WINTER SEASON

DÉFILÉ

Performed by Level 8 students
Choreography by Lucinda Dunn OAM and Andrew Murphy
Music composed by Antonín Dvořák

LE BAL

Performed by Level 7 students
Choreography by Stephen Baynes
Music composed by Alexander Glazunov
Costumes by Hugh Colman, courtesy of The Australian Ballet
with generous support from The Lady Marigold Southey AC Artistic Enrichment Fund

FIGHT OR FLIGHT

Performed by Level 8 students
Choreography by Lucas Jervies
Music composed by Paul Terracini

ATLAS WAITING

Performed by Level 7 students
Choreography by Mason Lovegrove
Music composed by Ryan Lott

CONCERTO ANNIVERSARY

Performed by Level 8 students
Choreography by Lucas Jervies
Music composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we dance and share stories. We recognise their living connection with this place and pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET SCHOOL

The Australian Ballet School was founded in 1964 by Dame Margaret Scott AC DBE, whose visionary leadership established the School as Australia's national centre for elite ballet training. Its enduring commitment to excellence in dance has been shaped by inspiring leaders including Gailene Stock AM, Marilyn Rowe AM OBE, and Lisa Pavane. Megan Connelly was appointed Artistic Director and Head of School in 2024, leading the School into an exciting new chapter.

For more than 60 years, The Australian Ballet School has nurtured hundreds of aspiring dancers, transforming them into professional artists of the highest calibre. The School shares a proud and longstanding partnership with The Australian Ballet.

Students come from across Australia and neighbouring countries—young artists with exceptional talent and a passionate dedication to dance. Entry into our full-time and part-time programs is by audition. Full-time students are typically Year 9 equivalent and above, while part-time students range from 9 to 13 years of age. The Boarding Program at Marilyn Rowe House provides a safe and supportive residence for students from outside Melbourne, allowing them to live and learn alongside their peers.

Our full-time training program is delivered by highly respected and celebrated former professional dancers from the Australian Ballet, Mariinsky Ballet, Stuttgart Ballet, Houston Ballet, Royal Ballet, Ballets de Monte-Carlo and Birmingham Ballet, each with a passion to inspire and enrich the education of the next generation of dancers. Our world class dance program is integrated with academic studies, led by expert educators and supported by health and wellbeing professionals.

As a Registered Training Organisation, we offer three nationally accredited courses. The School offers a wide range of programs for the broader community, including early learning courses, school holiday intensives for all skill levels, and masterclasses delivered nationally to hundreds of children each year. The Australian Ballet School stages multiple performances in Melbourne, including a major end-of-year season at Arts Centre Melbourne. The School also presents one interstate season annually.

Senior students perform in The Australian Ballet's National Tour. Graduates of The Australian Ballet School are found in leading dance companies around the world, including The Australian Ballet, Queensland Ballet, West Australian Ballet, Royal New Zealand Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, Hong Kong Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet, BalletMet, Milwaukee Ballet, Singapore Ballet and Norwegian Ballet. Many alumni have gone on to shape the future of the art form as Artistic Directors and Choreographers, among them David McAllister AC, Graeme Murphy AO, Dani Rowe, Ty King-Wall, and Remi Wortmeyer.

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND HEAD OF SCHOOL



Welcome to our 2026 Winter Season at Riverside Theatres, Parramatta

We are absolutely thrilled to be performing in Sydney again and delighted to showcase students from the two highest levels of The Australian Ballet School: our Level 7 students and our Level 8 graduate students. This season brings together the versatility, artistry and ambition of our senior students in a program that reflects both the breadth of their training and the exciting future of ballet. At The Australian Ballet School, we continue to shape artists who are deeply grounded in the classical tradition while inspired by contemporary innovation, an approach that sits at the heart of this vibrant mixed program.

In recent months, our studios have been alive with energy, focus and purpose, as students, staff and choreographers have worked with great dedication to prepare for this season. I extend my sincere thanks to our exceptional artistic team as well as our production and administration teams, whose care and commitment ensure that each student is supported, challenged and empowered to reach their full potential.

We open the program with the commanding *Défilé*, choreographed by Lucinda Dunn OAM and Andrew Murphy, set to the music of Antonín Dvořák. Performed by our Level 8 pre-professional students, this work beautifully showcases the unity, discipline and shared purpose of our graduating dancers, offering a powerful introduction to their artistry.

Our Level 7 students take to the stage in *Le Bal*, created by alum and celebrated choreographer Stephen Baynes to music by Alexander Glazunov and wearing stunning costumes designed by Hugh Colman, by kind permission of The Australian Ballet and with generous support from The Lady Marigold Southey AC Artistic Enrichment Fund. Elegant and nuanced, this work highlights the students developing musicality, technical refinement and deepening connection to classical style.

Fight or Flight, a powerful new work by alum Lucas Jervies set to music by Australian composer Paul Terracini, demands dynamic physicality and emotional range from our Level 8 students.

Concerto Anniversary, also choreographed by Lucas Jervies and first created on West Australian Ballet, boldly brings the power of Tchaikovsky's score to life, revealing a passion and sense of abandon in our students beyond their years.

We are also proud to present *Atlas Waiting*, a compelling new work by alum and current Soloist with The Australian Ballet Mason Lovegrove, set to music by Ryan Lott. We are delighted to support new and bold choreographic voices, while proudly nurturing the artistic development of our alumni, and this work is a wonderful reflection of that commitment. Performed by our Level 7 students, it also speaks to the School's dedication to engaging our dancers in meaningful new creative processes.

Presented here in Parramatta, this program is a celebration of possibility, where discipline meets imagination and the next generation of artists steps confidently into the spotlight. From the precision of classical technique to the boldness of contemporary movement, this performance offers a compelling glimpse into the future of ballet.

This season would not be possible without the support of the Federal Government, our Patron Lady Southey AC, Bloch Australia, The Australian Ballet, our philanthropic supporters and The Ballet Society alliance. We are incredibly grateful.

Thank you for joining us and for supporting these remarkable young artists. We hope this performance moves and inspires you as deeply as it has all of us who have helped bring it to life.

Megan Connelly
Artistic Director & Head of School

Students of The Australian Ballet School
Photo: Sergey Konstantinov



Défilé

Cast: Level 8 students

Choreography by Lucinda Dunn OAM and Andrew Murphy

Costumes by The Australian Ballet School

Music: *Polonaise in E Flat Major*; Antonín Dvořák

Performed by Russian Philharmonic Orchestra *Conducted by* Dimitri Yablonsky

Courtesy of Select Audio-Visual Distribution Company Pty Ltd

Lighting by Richard Vabre

Défilé is a showcase of our pre-professional year, presenting dancers who have reached a high level of technical and artistic achievement. It offers audiences a glimpse of emerging performers on the cusp of their professional careers, demonstrating discipline, versatility, and artistry.

As their first major performances of the year, this marks an important transition from training to the professional stage, highlighting dancers who are preparing to step beyond training and into the industry.

Le Bal

Cast: Level 7 students

Choreography by Stephen Baynes

Costumes by Hugh Colman, courtesy of The Australian Ballet with generous support from The Lady Marigold Southey AC Artistic Enrichment Fund

Music: Excerpts from *The Seasons Opus 67*; Alexander Glazunov

Performed by Yevgeny Svetlanov/Philharmonia Orchestra.

Licensed courtesy of Warner Music Australia Pty Ltd.

Lighting by Richard Vabre



Summer from *The Seasons* by Glazunov is music which is made for dancing and its celebratory atmosphere provides a perfect background for a classical showpiece.

Le Bal has been created to be exactly that, a showpiece for the young dancers of Level 7.

I have been very impressed by the way they have risen to the challenges in the work and it has been a pleasure creating it with them.

I would also like to say how very grateful I am to Hugh Colman and The Australian Ballet for allowing us the use of the beautiful costumes from Ballet Imperial.

- Stephen Baynes

Students of The Australian Ballet School
Photo: Ellen Baxter

Fight or Flight

Cast: Level 8 students

Choreography by Lucas Jervies


Costumes by The Australian Ballet School

Music: *Gegensätze*; Paul Terracini

Performed by Sydney Brass.

Courtesy of Tall Poppies

Lighting by Richard Vabre



Paul Terracini's writing for brass is cinematic, joyous and wonderfully unpredictable qualities that drew me to this distinctly Australian work immediately. The title *Gegensätze* means opposites, and it is that binary that became the heart of our exploration in the studio: the bouncy, off-kilter energy of a hunt set against something altogether more soaring and seductive; fast and angular giving way to fluid and lush.

The piece carries a collective anxiety that hums beneath the surface of the group before releasing into something freer — a series of abandoned phrases that feel like escape itself. I am always drawn to the tension that lives between opposites, and this choreography finds its home in that liminal space, dwelling there with detail and complexity rather than rushing to resolve it.

- Lucas Jervies

Atlas Waiting

Cast: Level 7 students

Choreography by Mason Lovegrove

Costumes by The Australian Ballet School

Music Beautiful Mechanical; Ryan Lott

Courtesy of Concord Music Publishing, ANZ Pty Ltd obo Domino Publishing Company Ltd, Ghost Town, Inc. o/b/o yMusic

Lighting by Richard Vabre

A study on anticipation, unfolding in the fragile space between waiting and arrival.

Hunger crackles, restless and unresolved. Anticipation tightens the air, urgent, insistent. A scatter of impulses, a thousand nervous flickers, a million brief collisions.

Pacing. Waiting. Rushing.

Almost there. Almost ready. Almost too late.



Students of The Australian Ballet School
Photo: Kate Longley

Students of The Australian Ballet School
Photo: Sergey Konstantinov

Concerto Anniversary

Cast: Level 8 students

Choreography by Lucas Jervies

Costumes by The Australian Ballet School

Music: Excerpts from Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-Flat Minor Opus 23;

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

"I. Allegro non troppo e molto maestoso"

*Performed by Arcadi Volodos, Seiji Ozawa and Berliner Philharmoniker.
Courtesy of Sony BMG Entertainment. By arrangement with Sony Music
Entertainment Australia Pty Ltd.*

& "II. Andantino"

*Performed by Arcadi Volodos, Seiji Ozawa and Berliner Philharmoniker.
Courtesy of Sony BMG Entertainment. By arrangement with Sony Music
Entertainment Australia Pty Ltd.*

Original Lighting Design by Kristie Smith

Lighting by Richard Vabre

This ballet is performed with kind permission from West Australian Ballet

This ballet was created on West Australian Ballet in 2025 to mark a milestone; 150 years since Tchaikovsky set down one of the most beloved concertos in the classical repertoire. It felt right to honour that anniversary with a one-act ballet, a tradition I have long admired in the work of Kenneth MacMillan and George Balanchine.

Returning to this choreography with students of The Australian Ballet School has been a genuine joy. The score demands both technical precision and deep musicality, making it a rich vehicle for developing pas de deux skills and an instinct for phrasing. I remain endlessly curious about classical ballet technique, its capacity to move between the intimate and the grand, and the way even the smallest gesture can carry tremendous weight when placed against such iconic music.

- Lucas Jervies

CHOREOGRAPHERS



LUCINDA DUNN OAM

Choreographer *Défilé*
Guest Teacher

Lucinda received her early training in Sydney with Janece Graham and Tanya Pearson before going on to win a Prix de Lausanne scholarship to study at The Royal Ballet School. While in London she also performed with Birmingham Royal Ballet. In 1991 Lucinda joined The Australian Ballet and was promoted to principal artist in 2002.

In addition to the ballerina roles in all of the major classical ballets such as *Giselle*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Swan Lake* and *Coppélia*, a particular career highlight for Lucinda was dancing the world premiere of Stanton Welch's *The Sleeping Beauty* in 2005 as well as dancing *Firebird* and *Nutcracker - The Story of Clara* by Graeme Murphy.

Lucinda has won numerous awards including Australian Dance Award for Outstanding Performance 2008, Helpmann Award nomination for Dance Performer of the Year 2007 and 2004, and many more. As Australia's longest-serving ballerina, Lucinda retired in 2014 where she received an OAM for her contribution to ballet. That year, she became Artistic Director of the Tanya Pearson Academy and Sydney City Ballet, and has since produced numerous programs, served on the Prix de Lausanne jury, and worked as a guest coach and juror at major competitions.

Lucinda serves on the Create NSW board for dance and physical theatre and is an ambassador for The Australian Ballet's Ballet Society alliance. She continues as a freelance and guest teacher with The Australian Ballet and The Sydney Dance Company, and regularly adjudicates, hosts seminars, and leads workshops. In 2026, Lucinda joined The Australian Ballet School as guest teacher working with the senior students.



ANDREW MURPHY

Choreographer *Défilé*
Classical Teacher and Répétiteur

Andrew brings decades of experience to our students and learning environment. He was born in Sydney, Australia and began his dance training in Canberra with Betsy Sawers and Sandra Griffin. Andrew joined The Australian Ballet in 1989 where he rose to the rank of a Senior Soloist, before moving overseas to dance as a Principal with Birmingham Royal Ballet and Houston Ballet, where he performed until retiring from the stage.

He has performed leading roles in all the major classical productions, as well as in a wide range of contemporary ballets including works by Frederick Ashton, George Balanchine, James Kudelka, Natalie Weir, John Cranko, Twyla Tharp, Jerome Robbins, and Kenneth McMillan.

Andrew also personally worked with great choreographers such as David Bintley, Jifí Kylián, Christopher Bruce, Glen Tetley, Ben Stevenson, Stephen Baynes, Ronald Hynd, Stanton Welch, Mark Morris, Hans Van Manen, and Graeme Murphy AO.

Andrew was Principal Instructor and Men's Program Coordinator at the Houston Ballet Academy before returning to Australia to join The Australian Ballet School.



STEPHEN BAYNES

Choreographer *Le Bal*

Stephen Baynes was born in Adelaide. He graduated from The Australian Ballet School in 1975 and joined the company the following year. In 1981 he joined the Stuttgart Ballet, returning to the Australian Ballet in 1985 under the directorship of Maïna Gielgud.

In 1988 he won The Australian Ballet 25th Anniversary Choreographic Competition with *Ballade* which entered the repertoire. *Catalyst*, his first commissioned work for the company, premiered in 1990 touring nationally and on the 1992 tour of London, where it was nominated for an Olivier Award. It was also performed during the company's 1994 US Tour.

In 1995 Stephen was appointed Resident Choreographer and remained in that position until 2020.

Among the many works he created for the company, *Unspoken Dialogues* received the Helpmann Award for best choreography in 2005 and both *Molto Vivace* and *Constant Variants* received the Betty Pounder Award for best choreography at the Green Room Awards.

Stephen has had works commissioned by The Royal Ballet, New York City Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, Sydney Dance Company, Queensland Ballet, West Australian Ballet and The Hong Kong Ballet.



LUCAS JERVIES

Choreographer *Concerto Anniversary/Fight or Flight*
Contemporary Teacher

Lucas Jervies is an Australian choreographer and director with a diverse portfolio spanning ballet, contemporary dance, cabaret, opera, and theatre. In Australia, Lucas has created works for esteemed companies including The Australian Ballet, Sydney Dance Company, Queensland Ballet, West Australian Ballet, Sydney Festival, and Opera Australia. Internationally, his choreography has graced stages at the Finnish National Ballet, Scapino Ballet Rotterdam, Singapore Dance Theatre, Louisville Ballet, Milwaukee Ballet, and others.

He has also contributed significantly to Louisville Ballet with productions such as *The Firebird* and *Human Abstract*. For The Australian Ballet, Lucas has created several recent works, including *Spartacus*, *The Vow*, *Imposter* and additional choreography for *Swan Lake*.

Beyond ballet, Lucas's directorial and choreographic credits span diverse projects such as adapting and directing Roald Dahl's *The Witches* for Griffin Theatre, and co-devising *Hidden Sydney: The Glittering Mile* for Vivid Festival. Lucas has held various positions, including Affiliate Director at Griffin Theatre, Artistic Director of Buzz Dance Theatre, Rehearsal Director at Sydney Dance Company and co-director of JACK productions. Lucas danced professionally with The Australian Ballet, Dance Works Rotterdam, and Scapino Ballet Rotterdam, contributing to over 80 contemporary creations. He is a graduate of The Australian Ballet School and the National Institute of Dramatic Art in Directing.



MASON LOVEGROVE

Choreographer *Atlas Waiting*

Mason Lovegrove was born in Sydney and grew up in Bowral, NSW, and Melbourne, Victoria. They began dancing at age four to encourage physical movement after medical complications in their early years.

They trained at the Highlands School of Performing Arts with Annette Dirick before joining The Australian Ballet School, where they toured with The Dancers Company in 2014 and 2015 and took part in the student exchange with Canada's National Ballet School. They joined The Australian Ballet in 2016 and was promoted to coryphée in 2019, and to soloist in 2022.

Mason's repertoire highlights include The Knave in Christopher Wheeldon's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and Levin in Yuri Possokhov's *Anna Karenina*. They have choreographed four original works for the company's Bodytorque seasons, as well as spearheading a collaboration between the Australian Ballet and The Australian Ballet School during Covid theatre closures.

THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET SCHOOL

Support the Artists of Tomorrow

Talent deserves every chance to shine

The Australian Ballet School admits students solely on the basis of talent and artistic potential. More than one in three students at The Australian Ballet School rely on financial support to train at the level their talent demands.

For many families scholarships do far more than cover tuition, boarding fees, and uniforms. Your support could mean the difference between a dream realised and a dream deferred.

Please give today to have a lasting impact on the lives of our students.

Make a donation today



To learn more, please contact our Development team via email at development@australianballetschool.com.au

Students of The Australian Ballet School
Photo: Ellen Baxter



THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET



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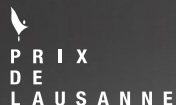


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Students of The Australian Ballet School
Photo: Sergey Konstantinov

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The Australian Ballet School extends heartfelt thanks to our generous donors. Your support empowers the next generation of dancers by providing world-class training, tailored health and wellbeing, inspiring performance opportunities, and a nurturing boarding residence at Marilyn Rowe House for students from across Australia and overseas.

This year, your generosity has helped young artists thrive, dream boldly, and take confident steps toward a bright future. We're deeply grateful for the vital role you play in their journey, and in the future of ballet.

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*Based on gifts received from June 2025 to June 2026.

To all donors, past and present: thank you for your generosity. Every gift has played a meaningful role in supporting our students and shaping the future of ballet in Australia. We are truly grateful for your part in our journey.



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Students of The Australian Ballet School
Photo: Sergey Konstantinov

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Students of The Australian Ballet School
Photo: Sergey Konstantinov

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THE BALLET SOCIETY

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Alum of The Australian Ballet School and Principal Artist of The Australian Ballet, Robyn Hendricks.



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MELBOURNE

13 - 14 November
2026



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Gracie Clark and Ethan Dwyer,
The Australian Ballet School 2025 Level 8 Students.

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