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# QueenslandBallet

## Media Release

27 October, 2016

### QUEENSLAND BALLET ANNOUNCES DANCER LINE UP FOR 2017



Queensland Ballet will soon welcome a new Soloist, two new Company Dancers, seven new Young Artists and the promotion of some of the 2016 Young Artists.

Artistic Director Li Cunxin said it was great to see the Company continue to grow and attract dancers from Queensland, Australia and abroad.

"Next year will see us bring on

both Australian and international dancers and we couldn't be happier with the diverse and talented group of dancers we have on board for our enchanting and captivating Season 2017," Mr Li said.

"We'll be welcoming three new female dancers to our Company with each of them bringing great experience from international ballet companies.

"I'm delighted that Lucy Green will be joining us from Royal New Zealand Ballet (RNZB). Lucy has been dancing with RNZB since 2010 and has always stood out to me as one of their most incredible dancers. She will join us as a Soloist and we're so pleased she'll be part of our Company.

"Lou Spichtig is a very talented young dancer who comes to us from Zürich Youth Ballet and was a gold medallist at both the Youth America Grand Prix and Varna International Ballet Competition.

"It's a pleasure to also be welcoming an Aussie dancer back home who has been dancing overseas for the last four years. Serena Green is originally from Sydney, trained in London and has been dancing at Balet Narodni Divadlo Brno in the Czech Republic.

"I know these three dancers will fit in perfectly with our current world-class dancers and look forward to their contribution to our Company."

Mr Li said three former Jette Parker Young Artists will be promoted with Samuel Packer and Wu Ze both moving up to join the Company Dancers along with D'Arcy Brazier who graduated from the Young Artist program in July this year.

2016 Young Artist Yayoi Matches will also stay on for some of our early seasons next year as an extra Company Dancer.

"It's very rewarding to see that our Young Artist program, so generously supported by the Oak Foundation, is helping us to find gifted young dancers and further develop their skills. This program has been so successful that we regularly promote our Young Artists into the Company," he said.

"We're also seeing such a great standard of dancer coming through our Queensland Ballet Academy with a number of our 2016 Pre Professional Program (PPP) students becoming Jette Parker Young Artists in 2017."

The current PPP Students moving up to the level of Jette Parker Young Artists will be Libby-Rose Niederer, Paige Rochester and Chiara Gonzalez. They will be joined by Karla Florez who has guested with the Company throughout 2016.

Also joining the 2017 Jette Parker Young Artists will be Suguru Otsuka from Hamburg Ballet School and Kihiko Kusukami and Peter Vassili from the Australian Ballet School.

"The Young Artist line up for 2017 is very exciting and I'd like to acknowledge the contribution of our 2016 Young Artists who are leaving us to pursue other opportunities including Harry Davis, Zoe Doonar, Tim Neff, Harley Campbell and Zacharie Dun," Mr Li said.

"We also farewell Company Dancer Tara Schaufuss next year as she seeks to further her ballet career elsewhere. Tara performed as a guest with Queensland Ballet in 2013 and joined the Company in 2014 as a Company Dancer.

"Tara has danced with various ballet companies throughout her career thus far and I know she will be successful wherever she chooses to dance next. We farewell her fondly and wish her very well."

"The entire Company is looking forward to the 2017 season as we bring cherished classics and brand new works to the stage for Brisbane audiences.

"We have world-class dancers who take to anything we program with gusto and always bring everything they have to the stage.

"Tickets are already selling fast to our Season 2017 so I'd encourage patrons to get in early to secure the best seats to our performances.

"We're looking forward to continuing to share our beautiful art-form with loyal and new audiences and to be part of our community developing a life-long love for and appreciation of ballet."

**-ENDS-**

**New Soloist and Company Dancer biographies follow.**

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### **Lucy Green - Soloist**

Lucy Green was born in Sydney and graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts before joining the Royal New Zealand Ballet in 2010.

Lucy has performed many principal and lead roles during her time with RNZB including *Cinderella*, *Giselle* and *Swan Lake*.



She has performed internationally with RNZB including tours to China, US, UK and Italy. In 2015 Lucy was invited by Scotland Ballet to perform as a Guest Principal Artist in the RNZB's production of *Cinderella*.

In Queensland Ballet and RNZB's recent co-production of Liam Scarlett's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Lucy danced the role of Titania and worked with Liam to create the role of Mustard Seed.

The *NZ Listener* praised Lucy's performance in Benjamin Millepied's *28 Variations on a Theme* by Paganini (2012) as 'dazzlingly fluid', with the *New Zealand Herald* declaring 'every inch of her a stunning new star on the rise.'

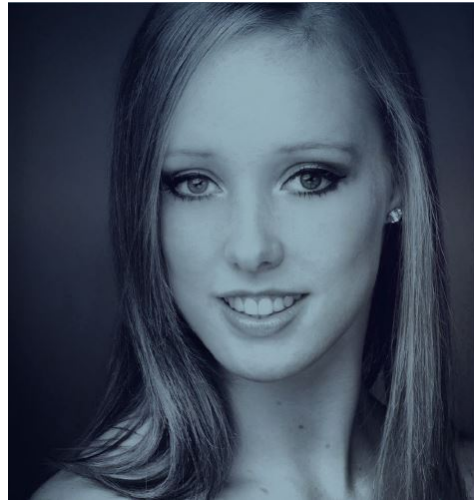
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### Serena Green - Company Dancer

Serena Green was born in Australia and began her ballet training at McDonald College of Performing Arts before being accepted in to the English National Ballet School (ENBS) in 2010. She graduated from ENBS in 2012 and accepted an offer from Balet Narodni Divadlo Brno (Balet NdB) in the Czech Republic.

Serena has been dancing with Balet NdB ever since and performed numerous Principal roles including Myrtha, Queen of the Willis in *Giselle*, Snow Queen in *The Nutcracker* and Russian Girl in *Serenade*.

She has also performed Soloist roles in *Swan Lake*, *Bayadera*, *The Nutcracker*, *Serenade*, and *Petite Mort*.



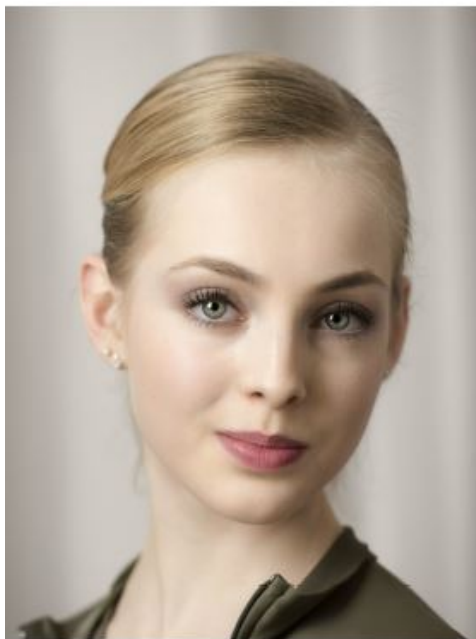
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### Lou Spichtig - Company Dancer

Swiss born Lou Spichtig trained at the Zürich Dance Academy graduating in 2015. After graduating she was accepted in to the Ballet Zürich Junior Company.

Lou has received numerous international ballet awards including three awards at the 27th Varna International Ballet Competition and Best Swiss Candidate and Audience Favourite at the 2015 Prix De Lausanne. She was also recognised with various awards that the South African International Ballet Competition in 2014 and the 2013 Youth America Grand Prix.

Lou's classical ballet experience includes roles in *Romeo & Juliet*, *Woyzeck*, *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, *La Fille Mal Gardee* and *Sleeping Beauty*.



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## Behind the scenes

Our fan pages and social media channels are a great way to keep up-to-date with what the Company is doing, both behind the scenes and on the stage.

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### Photography

Li Cunxin portrait. Photo Eduardo

Lucy Green as Odile. Photo Evan Li

Serena Green portrait courtesy of dancer

Lou Spichtig portrait courtesy of dancer

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