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Queensland **Ballet**

Media Release

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PRINCIPAL ARTIST CLARE MOREHEN TO MOVE ON FROM QUEENSLAND BALLET



After 13 years with Queensland Ballet, Principal Artist Clare Morehen has decided to call it a day.

Artistic Director Li Cunxin reflected on Clare's hard work, natural gift and talent and her commitment to the art form of ballet.

"Clare has dedicated her career thus far to Queensland Ballet and we couldn't have ever asked for more of her," he said.

"Clare has long been a Queensland Ballet audience favourite and has given countless unforgettable performances over the years.

"Clare has so often been the face of Queensland Ballet and we will miss her dedication to her craft, her natural grace and her love of this Company.

"Over the years Clare's talent has shone in both classical ballet and contemporary seasons. She is a truly gifted, musical and versatile dancer."

"Although Clare is leaving QB, she is by no means retiring from the stage which is great news for audiences. As a classical ballerina, Clare feels she has accomplished all that she can in the classical ballet genre and after dancing through some chronic injuries in recent times, she has decided to move on."

Clare said she is looking forward to exploring contemporary dance and the more modern side of ballet immediately after her last season with Queensland Ballet which will be *Raw*, opening on 17 March.

"It's with this more modern and contemporary movement that I feel at home and I know I have more to give in this discipline within the artform," she said.

"My time at Queensland Ballet has meant the absolute world to me and the Company has given me a career and opportunities I never thought possible. For that I will be forever grateful.



"I have had the opportunity to work with many great choreographers and staggers over the years, who have not only inspired me on a daily basis, but shaped my identity and enriched me artistically".

"Creating and collaborating has always been my passion and I will be forever thankful to the incredible choreographers who I had the opportunity to work with including, Francois Klaus, Greg Horsman, Natalie Weir, Nils Christie, and Tim Podesta.

"It is with a heavy heart I must farewell the people who I have considered my family for nearly 13 years. I will particularly miss the absolute beauty created on a daily basis and the incredible interactions with my colleagues, especially my dance partners. There are no words to describe the feeling of becoming lost in another's arms and eyes. Reading one another without words, just creating a singular motion and breath. This feeling is truly magical, and my amazing men will always have a piece of my heart.

"After leaving my post and what has been an all-consuming career, I look forward to spending more time with my Fiancé, Will Hughes and celebrating our wedding with friends and family in October."

Upon leaving Queensland Ballet after *Raw*, Clare will be working a collaboration with M&T in Motion and The Covent Garden Dance Company. The program is set to premiere in the UK in June and tour throughout Europe.

"Clare has not only been an incredibly valued and loved dancer with this Company for almost 13 years, she has also done some wonderful work behind the scenes as a dancer representative, has given up many a Christmas break to be a Summer School teacher, has inspired countless young children through her work with the Education and Engagement activities, and won over a raft of fans who will love her forever," Mr Li said.

"Clare's most memorable performances have crossed over both classical and contemporary ballets including the role of *Cinderella*, Carabosse in *The Sleeping Beauty*, her performance in Nils Christie's *Short Dialogues* and her powerful performance last year in Natalie Weir's *We Who Are Left*.



"We are very grateful to Clare for all the many inspiring and stunning performances she has given us and our audiences over the years.

"We're delighted to have Clare with us for the Raw season and we look forward to sharing her last official QB performances with our audiences.

"We know this is not the end as we are sure Clare will remain

part of the QB family and we hope we'll see her back on our stages in some capacity for a long time to come.

"For the moment though we wish Clare every success in her future endeavours, her marriage to Wil and for the next part of her ballet journey on the international stage."



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