

QueenslandBallet

Media Release

Queensland Ballet announces dancer promotions, farewells and a new arrival

Saturday, 4 July, 2015

Queensland Ballet Artistic Director Li Cunxin tonight announced the promotion of two of its most loved dancers and also introduced a new dancer joining the Company's ranks.

"I am delighted to announce that two of Queensland Ballet's most well-respected Company Dancers, Teri Crilly and Vito Bernasconi will be promoted to Junior Soloists," Mr Li said.

"I'm also pleased to reveal that we will soon welcome a new dancer to our Company with Chinese-born Yu LingPeng joining the Queensland Ballet family over the next few months.

"Both Vito and Teri have been dedicated in their pursuit of excellence, have worked very hard and shown their commitment as dancers. It is a pleasure to acknowledge that commitment through these promotions."

Teri joined Queensland Ballet's Professional Year program in 2008 and was promoted to Company Dancer in 2009. She has been a wonderful asset to the Company and has become one of Queensland Ballet's most recognised and loved dancers. Teri is perhaps best known for her performance as Clara in *The Nutcracker*.

Vito has been with Queensland Ballet since January 2013 and has quickly become well known for his flawless character portrayals and energetic style. Vito was recently nominated for an Australian Dance Award for his performance as Tybalt in Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *Romeo and Juliet* last year.

Teri and Vito were announced as Junior Soloists following a performance of Trey McIntyre's *Peter Pan* in which Teri danced the role of Michael Darling and Vito performed as one of Hook's pirates.

Queensland Ballet's newest dancer will join the Company following the sold out season of *Peter Pan* with Yu Lingpeng arriving in July.

"We are looking forward to welcoming Lingpeng into our Company and I feel sure that he will work well with our very talented group of dancers," Mr Li said.

"Lingpeng brings with him a variety of experience and talent, comes to Queensland Ballet from Beijing Dance Academy and has numerous ballet prizes to his name.

"As we celebrate these promotions and new arrival we also farewell two of our dancers as they seek to pursue their careers abroad and explore new opportunities," Mr Li said.

"Our Junior Soloist Emilio Pavan will leave the Company in late October to take up a position with the English National Ballet and Company Dancer Alec Roberts will join the National Canadian Ballet in August.

"Both dancers have been with Queensland Ballet since January 2013 and have both performed key roles in the Company's productions. We wish both Emilio and Alec every success in their future endeavours and feel very proud that Queensland Ballet has helped shape these two men into the remarkable dancers they are today.

"It is always bittersweet to farewell dancers as they move on to other companies but I feel it speaks volumes about Queensland Ballet that we are both sending out accomplished dancers and attracting dancers of a very high calibre.

"We are looking forward to the rest of season 2015 as we enjoy this very successful production of *Peter Pan*, soon head to London and then bring our audiences *Dance Dialogues*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, and *The Nutcracker*."

Biographies

Vito Bernsaconi

Vito grew up in Coogee, New South Wales. He began his ballet training at the age of 5 at Academy Ballet in Sydney. Vito graduated from The Australian Ballet School in 2012. Vito joined Queensland Ballet as a Company Dancer in January 2013.

Vito was recently nominated for an Australian Dance Award for his performance in Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *Romeo & Juliet*.

Vito is choreographing a work for Queensland Ballet's 2015 Dance Dialogues season called *La Mente*.

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Teri Crilly

Teri was born in Bunbury, Western Australia. She received her early ballet training from Allegonda Deppe at The Ballet School in Western Australia. Teri completed the National Theatre Ballet School's Advanced Diploma of Arts (Classical) course, in which she won the Kathleen Gorham Perpetual Award for the Most Outstanding Student in 2006. She then spent a year performing at Tokyo Disney Resort in Japan before accepting a three month contract with the Australian Ballet's Out There School Program.

Teri was a guest dancer in Queensland Ballet's production of *The Nutcracker* in 2007, and entered the Company's Professional Year program in January 2008.

In August 2008, Teri was offered and accepted a contract as a Trainee Dancer with Queensland Ballet, and was promoted to Company Dancer in 2009. Teri was selected by Australian dance critics as a Dancer to Watch in January 2012.

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Yu Lingpeng

Ling Peng holds a Bachelor Degree in Dance and has studied at Sichuan Ballet School and with the Beijing Dance Academy, where he was a scholarship recipient.

Ling Peng won first prize at the Beijing 5th Invitational Ballet Competition and second prizes at both the 11th Korean Ballet Competition and the first Hong Kong International Ballet Competition. He was the winner of the Beijing Dance Academy Competition for best performer and choreographer.

Media enquiries

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Behind the scenes at QB

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Photography**

Queensland Ballet dancers Vito Bernasconi and Teri Crilly, photo by David Kelly

Queensland Ballet dancer Sophie Zoricic, photo by Christian Tiger

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