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# Queensland **Ballet**

## Media Release

7 March, 2016

### SHAKESPEARE'S MYTHICAL TALE HITS THE BALLET STAGE



*"Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind, and therefore is winged Cupid painted blind."*

*William Shakespeare*

Queensland Ballet will soon bring one of Shakespeare's best loved tales to the stage when *A Midsummer Night's Dream* opens at QPAC's Playhouse on 1 April until 16 April.

Brought to life by one of the most sought after choreographers working today, Liam Scarlett, *Midsummer's* is replete with enchanted forests, mischievous forest sprites, elves and fairies, an other-worldly changeling boy, quirky explorers hunting fairies and rustic lost-boy types.

Queensland Ballet Artistic Director Li Cunxin said audiences would be transported by the incredibly musical choreography, fantastical sets and gorgeous costumes, delightfully cheeky characters and of course spectacular dancing.

“We are so excited about Liam Scarlett’s production of *Midsummers* and we’re sure this is going to be an absolute favourite with audiences,” Mr Li said.

“It is such a treat for us to be working with Liam on this production that he created for Queensland Ballet and the Royal New Zealand Ballet last year. Liam is such a choreographic talent and is highly sought after throughout the world.

“His gift for bringing stories to life through music and movement is extraordinary and our dancers could not be more thrilled to be performing his work for Brisbane audiences.”

Liam was appointed The Royal Ballet’s first Artist in Residence in 2012. He has created ballets for The Royal Ballet and commissions for New York City Ballet, San Francisco Ballet and English National Ballet.



He has brought together wonderful creatives on this project with costumes designed by the talented Tracy Grant Lord, lighting design by Kendall Smith and of course Felix Mendelssohn’s stunning musical score that works perfectly as a backdrop to the ballet.



The **story**, familiar to many, is Shakespeare's most popular comedy and was written around the late 1500s.

It follows the adventures of four young lovers, their misadventures in love and their interactions with the cheeky and mischievous woodland fairies and forest sprites. The story focuses on something everyone can relate to, falling in love.

Mr Li said that even though that story was written so long ago, it still feels very relevant to our everyday lives.

"It's about relationships, tolerance, exploration, misunderstandings and

forgiveness, all things we all face almost daily," Mr Li said.

"This story suits Liam's choreography perfectly as he is very clever and inventive with his creations. He has an innate creativity that shines through all his work and allows you to just get lost in the tale and revel in the beautiful movement.

"We're very proud to present this as a co-production with Royal New Zealand Ballet and when I saw that company premiere this ballet last year, I was blown away by its beauty.

"I think *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be an amazing experience for both our dancers and audiences alike.

"Our dancers have the wonderful privilege of working with an extraordinary choreographer who creates movement that they love to dance. Our audiences will fall in love with the characters, the beauty of the ballet and the magical music."

Liam Scarlett's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* opens at QPAC's Playhouse on 1 April. For more information and tickets visit [www.queenslandballet.com.au](http://www.queenslandballet.com.au) or call 136 246.

## Media inquiries:

Kendall Battley

Queensland Ballet Publicity Manager

Ph: 0401 739 159

Email: [kbattley@queenslandballet.com.au](mailto:kbattley@queenslandballet.com.au)



## Behind the scenes

If you're just getting to know QB, our fan pages on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Pinterest](#) and [Instagram](#) 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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Contact us

PO Box 3791 South Brisbane QLD 410

Phone 07 3013 6666 | Fax 07 3013 6600

[mail@queenslandballet.com.au](mailto:mail@queenslandballet.com.au) | [queenslandballet.com.au](http://queenslandballet.com.au)

### Photography

Principal Dancer Clare Morehen, Liam Scarlett's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Photo by Simon Lekias, Hair by Richard Kavanagh.

Liam Scarlett. Photo by Andrej Uspenski

Costumes Sketches by Tracy Grant Lord.

Queensland Ballet rehearsals. Photo by Christian Tiger.

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