

Queensland
Ballet

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR LI CUNXIN

2017

MEDIA KIT

2017 is the year to fall in love with Queensland Ballet

With a season of beloved ballet classics and brand new creations, Queensland Ballet's Season 2017 is set to make audiences fall in love with ballet.

Queensland Ballet Artistic Director Li Cunxin unveiled the new season sharing that his passion for the beautiful art form of ballet is as strong as ever.

"This is a stunning program and one that makes me realise that there's always more to discover and love about ballet," Mr Li said.

"Next year's mix of cherished classics and original works will challenge both audiences and artists alike, and will appeal to both seasoned ballet lovers as much as those new to the art form.

"The big drawcard in 2017 will be our production of the timeless *Swan Lake* which is traditional ballet at its most heartbreaking and glorious.

"It has been a few years since we've brought *Swan Lake* to the Brisbane stage and we're so pleased to be dancing the magical choreography of Ben Stevenson's production. This will be our blockbuster ballet for the year as the story of White Swan and Black Swan unfolds on the Lyric Theatre stage."

After the grandeur of *Swan Lake*, the comedic *La Fille mal gardée* (The Wayward Daughter) will provide wonderful light relief as a hilarious story of love unravels in the French countryside. Larger than life characters will delight as they deal with impossible love, unrequited love and misguided love.

"We're delighted to have co-commissioned this production with our friends at the West Australian Ballet. *La Fille* is one of the oldest ballets in the modern ballet repertoire, and French choreographer Marc Ribaud's version brings the ballet into the 1950s promising a lot of fun that the audience can relate to."

This colourful family ballet with wide appeal will head the bill for Queensland Ballet's regional Queensland Tour in August and September.

Three very different ballets come together in Queensland Ballet's season of *Raw* as we present a collection of world-class short works.

"We're thrilled to be collaborating with the wonderful Liam Scarlett again whose *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was a runaway success for us in 2016. Liam brings his acclaimed *No Man's Land* to this triple bill, along with Christopher Bruce's iconic *Ghost Dances* and Greg Horsman's *Glass Concerto*," he said.

"Back, due to popular demand, and a sell-out season in 2015, Trey McIntyre's *Peter Pan* returns to the Playhouse stage this season. We can't wait to share the magic of this production with you once again as our dancers soar through the air, a giant crocodile takes to the stage and we all travel to Neverland."

Two perennial favourites remain this year in *The Nutcracker* and our *Dance Dialogues* studio series.

"Ben Stevenson's *The Nutcracker* is a festive favourite that never gets old and we're so pleased that much of our audiences have made it a Christmas tradition for their families.

This production has become so popular that in 2017 we will be moving the season from the Playhouse to the Lyric Theatre to allow for larger audience numbers," he said.

"*Dance Dialogues* has become a staple in our season offering as it allows a more intimate studio experience for our audience and provides insight into the creative process.

"It often includes new works from emerging and established choreographers and allows opportunities for some of our own dancers to explore choreographing new works themselves."

Mr Li announced a new addition to the program that will see Queensland Ballet explore opportunities to collaborate and work with a variety of artists and art forms.

"I'm looking forward with much anticipation to opening the 2017 season with *Bespoke* which will present our Company and dancers in a very different light," Mr Li said.

"I've long believed in the need to bring new works to our ballet repertoire and to be inspired by other artists in the process.

"*Bespoke* will see us work with guest choreographers, acclaimed musicians such as Katie Noonan, independent music producers, fashion designers and lighting designers. The result will be innovative new multi-media works that appeal to new audiences as we perform this production at Brisbane Powerhouse.

"2017 is such an exciting year for Queensland Ballet and one that I'm sure will make our loyal season ticket holders and audiences fall in love with ballet all over again.

"The new offerings we have and the treasured classics that will hit the stage in 2017 will also no doubt draw new audiences to ballet as they discover a new love for this art form."

"We look forward to sharing this stunning season of ballet with Queensland audiences and hope to continue to break our own attendance and ticket sales records as more people get to know and love Queensland Ballet."

For more information on Queensland Ballet's Season 2017 and tickets sales visit www.queenslandballet.com.au

Season 2017 high resolution images are available in this media kit as is Season 2017 vision that is available for media use. Further details on each ballet in the 2017 Season follows.

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BESPOKE

10 - 12 FEBRUARY

Bespoke is about the future. Offering movement that challenges tradition, collaborations between art forms and new ideas.

This inaugural season of innovative performance will see our dancers team up with artists from diverse backgrounds, including Aria Award winning songstress Katie Noonan, electronic-beats project cln and our own Amy Hollingsworth, labelled the 'Supreme Athlete of Contemporary Dance' by London's *Daily Telegraph*.

High tech lighting design, cutting edge fashion, intense sound and dynamic movement come together for a multi-sensory experience.

Choreographers

Amy Hollingsworth and other guests to be announced.

Creative Consultant/Composer/Vocalist

Katie Noonan

Music Producer/Composer

cln

Lighting Designer

Cameron Goerg



RAW

17 – 25 MARCH

Three transcendent dance pieces with raw, powerful movement evoking stories of human experience.

Christopher Bruce's 1981 work *Ghost Dances* is one of the most celebrated contemporary ballet pieces of its generation. It tells stories of love and compassion, as death — in the form of the iconic “ghosts” — interrupts the daily lives of a series of ordinary people.

Liam Scarlett's *No Man's Land* draws on the power of dance to reflect upon the heartache of war. It brings to life the entwined destinies of women working in munition factories at home with the men fighting in the trenches.

Glass Concerto, choreographed by Greg Horsman, showcases the speed and precision of the artists of Queensland Ballet. Capturing the pulse and escalating intensity of Philip Glass's music, this piece premièred at the 43rd Prix de Lausanne Gala in Switzerland.

An assemblage of high energy, dynamic and emotional movement, *Raw* will captivate and inspire audiences.

GHOST DANCES

Choreographer & Set Designer Christopher Bruce

Recordings Inti-Illimani

Costume Designer Belinda Scarlett

Lighting Designer Nick Chelton

NO MAN'S LAND

Choreographer Liam Scarlett

Music/Composer excerpts from *Harmonies Poétiques et Religieuses* by Franz Liszt

Arranged & Orchestrated by Gavin Sutherland

Set & Costume Designer Jon Bausor

Lighting Designer Paul Keogan

A co-production with English National Ballet

GLASS CONCERTO

Choreographer Greg Horsman

Music *Concerto for Violin and Orchestra* by Philip Glass

Costume Designer George Wu

Lighting Designer Cameron Goerg



SWAN LAKE

5 - 13 MAY

This classic story of good versus evil is considered one of the greatest ballets of all time.

Young maiden Odette and her friends are victims of a terrible spell that turns them into swans by day, and only at night do they return to human form. To break the spell, the beautiful Odette must find eternal love.

After celebrating his birthday, Prince Siegfried comes across a lake where at midnight Odette transforms from a swan into a beautiful woman. Siegfried falls in love instantly but is tricked and betrayed by the seductive Black Swan, Odile.

True love prevails in this powerful story set to Tchaikovsky's glorious score. Ben Stevenson's traditional production features exquisite dancing, beautiful costumes and spectacular sets.

Choreographer

Ben Stevenson OBE after Petipa and Ivanov

Composer

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Conductor

Nigel Gaynor

Music performed by

Queensland Symphony Orchestra

Costume & Set Designer

Kristian Fredrikson



DANCE DIALOGUES

7 - 17 JUNE

This exclusive opportunity to experience Queensland Ballet performing in our studio home.

This annual highlight allows season ticket holders to get to know Queensland Ballet and the creative process a little better. Company dancers and Jette Parker Young Artists will present a collection of short ballets choreographed by our dancers and other emerging talent. Also witness a working rehearsal in which our dancers are coached by Artistic staff in an excerpt from an upcoming production.



LA FILLE MAL GARDÉE

BRISBANE 4 – 19 AUGUST

BRISBANE SEASON PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY SUNCORP

QUEENSLAND REGIONAL TOUR 25 AUGUST – 16 SEPTEMBER

REGIONAL TOURING IS SUPPORTED BY THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT THROUGH ARTS QUEENSLAND

Set in the French countryside in the 1950s, *La Fille mal gardée* delights and entertains audiences as a love triangle creates comic chaos.

Lise loves Colas. Colas loves Lise. But Lise's mother, the Widow Simone, has agreed that her wayward daughter should marry Alain, son of a pompous, wealthy vineyard owner. Alain however, is more interested in his precious umbrella than romance.

What ensues is a series of mischievous antics as Lise works her way out of the Widow's marriage contract and into the arms of her love-struck beau.

A popular family favourite because of its engaging story, colourful humour and beautiful dancing, this stunning production will leave you applauding for more.

Choreographer Marc Ribaud

Composer Ferdinand Hérold/
John Lanchbery

Conductor Nigel Gaynor

Music performed by
Camerata of St John's

Costume Designer Lexi De Silva

Lighting Designer Jon Buswell

Set Designer Richard Roberts

A CO-PRODUCTION WITH
WEST AUSTRALIAN BALLET.



PETER PAN

25 OCTOBER – 4 NOVEMBER

PRESENTED IN ASSOCIATION WITH POWERARTS

Take the hand of Peter Pan and come on a journey to the fabled Neverland...

Wendy and her two brothers literally fly into the adventure of a lifetime when Peter Pan leads them to a fantastical imaginary world of fairies, mermaids, pirates, and one very large crocodile.

With swashbuckling swordfights, over-sized puppets and breathtaking flying sequences, Trey McIntyre's *Peter Pan* uses a brilliant mix of dance and theatre to tell the tale of the boy who never grew up. Told from a child's perspective, this imaginative ballet re-interprets J M Barrie's famous story with wit, verve and a distinctly modern spirit.

Peter Pan may not have grown up, but his story has.

Choreographer Trey McIntyre

Composer Sir Edward Elgar, arranged by Niel DePonte

Conductor Nigel Gaynor

Music performed by Queensland Symphony Orchestra

Set Designer Thomas Boyd

Costume Designer Jeanne Button

Lighting Designer Christina R. Giannelli



THE NUTCRACKER

8 - 16 DECEMBER

You're invited into a magical world
of festive wonder.

After her family's annual celebration, little Clara is wide awake on Christmas Eve. Everyone has gone to sleep, the clock chimes midnight and a magical fantasy unfolds before her eyes!

Clara's gift of a Nutcracker comes to life, mischievous mice are foiled by toy soldiers, a handsome Prince takes her on a fairy tale adventure and a blizzard of ballerinas reveal an enchanting Land of Sweets, ruled by the beautiful Sugar Plum Fairy.

With the magnificent music of Tchaikovsky and lavish sets and costumes, Ben Stevenson's *The Nutcracker* is a must-see Christmas treat.

Choreographer Ben Stevenson OBE

Composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Conductor Nigel Gaynor

Music performed by Queensland Symphony Orchestra

Set Designer Thomas Boyd

Costume Designer Desmond Heeley

Associate Costume Designer Noelene Hill

Lighting Designer David Walters



FALL *in* LOVE

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