

PETER PAN

BIOGRAPHIES – The Creatives

Russell Kerr - Choreographer

Born in Auckland in 1930, Russell Kerr displayed an early talent for both dance and piano, studying ballet with Auckland teacher Kathleen Whitford. In 1950 he was awarded a New Zealand Government Bursary to travel to Europe and danced first with the Jose Greco Spanish Company before Sadler's Wells (now Royal Ballet). He also performed with Ballet Rambert and London's Festival Ballet as soloist dancer before returning to New Zealand in 1957.

Turning to choreography, he also held many key positions including Director of the Nettleton-Edwards-Kerr School of Ballet (1959-61), Artistic Director of the Royal New Zealand Ballet (1962-69), Director of the New Zealand Dance Centre (1969-77), Director of the Southern Ballet Theatre (1978-1990), and is a Trustee of the Christchurch Dance Education Bursary Trust.

Additionally, Kerr was awarded a QEII Arts Council Fellowship in 1977, a Queen's Service Medal for Services to Ballet in 1986, and in 2000, was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

Across his career, he has choreographed 72 ballets including *Swan Lake*, *Peter Pan*, and *A Christmas Carol*. He is known for his ability to 'convey drama and poetry through his choreography' (Raewyn White, New Zealand Herald).

Sandy Delasalle-Scannella – Repetiteur

Sandy was born in Cannes, France. She completed her training at the Centre International de Danse – Rosella Hightower and at the Académie de danse classique – Princesse Grace in Monte Carlo.

At the age of 17, Swiss chorographer and director Heinz Spoerli noticed Sandy at the Prix de Lausanne and offered her a soloist contract with the Basler Ballet. Five years later Sandy was appointed as a Principal dancer at Deutsche Oper am Rhein, followed by the State Theatre Wiesbaden, Deutsche Oper Berlin and joined the Ballet du Rhin after the birth of her son.

Her repertoire includes the major roles in *Swan Lake*, *Nutcracker*, *Don Quixote*, *Giselle*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *La Sylphide*, *La Fille mal gardée* and *Coppelia*.

Since her debut she's been working with the greatest contemporary choreographers such as Maurice Béjart, Nacho Duato, Hans Van Manen, William Forsythe, Jiri Kylian, Valery Panov, Nils Christie, Ronald Hynd, David Nixon, Ray Barra, Lucinda Childs, including works by George Balanchine and Angelin Preljocaj from whom she performed *Le Parc* with Paris Opera Etoile – Laurent Hilaire.

During her dance career Sandy was a special guest artist with Ballett Frankfurt under the direction of William Forsythe to perform *In the middle somewhat elevated*, as well with Uwe Scholz in Leipzig, Yuri Vamos in Dusseldorf & Richard Cragun in Berlin. In 1997, she was nominated 'Best Upcoming Dancer' from international ballet critics.

Sandy has participated in a number of international galas and festivals in New York (Metropolitan Theatre), Tokyo, Tel Aviv, Kiev, Madrid, Istanbul, Paris, Los Angeles & Taipei performing various roles such as *Bahkti*, *In the Middle Somewhat Elevated*, *Giselle*, *Swan Lake* and *Romeo & Juliet* with her husband Aurelien Scannella.

Sandy joined West Australian Ballet as Ballet Mistress in 2013 and made her return to stage in Annabelle Lopez Ochoa *La Pluie* with Matthew Lehmann at the 2015 Ballet at the Quarry season.

Craig Lord-Sole – Repetiteur

Craig was born in Whyalla, South Australia. His initial training was with Joyce Clothier, then with Janice James in Adelaide and finally at The Australian Ballet School.

Craig danced with the Royal New Zealand Ballet from 1996 until 2007. He performed principal roles in Carmen, Dracula, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Romeo and Juliet, The Nutcracker, Giselle, and Swan Lake. His repertoire included one act ballets by David Dawson, George Balanchine, Mark Morris, Jiří Kylián, Javier De Frutos, and Graeme Murphy. Craig was also engaged as a resident repetiteur for Royal New Zealand Ballet, restaging several works.

Since joining West Australian Ballet as Ballet Master in 2008, Craig has immensely enjoyed working with the artists of the company and its collaborators. Highlights have included assisting Lucette Aldous in the creation of Don Quixote, and working alongside Pablo Aharonian in the restaging of Marcia Haydée's The Sleeping Beauty.

Cédric Ygnace – Repetiteur

Born in France, Cédric Ygnace graduated from Académie de Danse Classique – Princesse Grace de Monaco de Marika Besobrasova on The John Gilpin Scholarship. He danced with Les Ballets de Monté-Carlo (1996-1998) and from 1998 to 2012 with Dutch National Ballet as a Principal Dancer. His repertoire includes Principal roles in *Swan Lake* (Rudi van Danzig), *The Sleeping Beauty* (Sir Peter Wright), *The Nutcracker* (Wayne Eagling/Toer van Schayk), *La Syphide* (Dinna Bjørn), *Onegin* (J. Cranko), *Cinderella* (Sir Frederick Ashton), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Sir Frederick Ashton), *Giselle* (Maina Gielgud, Beaujean/Bustamente), *La Bayadere* (N. Makarova), *Don Quixote* (A Ratmansky), *Nijinsky* (K. Pastor), *Don Giovanni* (K. Pastor) and *Petroushka* by Michel Fokine.

Cédric has danced in a vast range of Balanchine ballets including *Apollon Musagete*, *Agon*, *Concerto Barocco*, *Donizzetti Variations*, *La Valse*, *Rubies*, *Emeralds*, *Diamond*, *Square Dance*, *Serenade*, *Symphony in C*, *Symphony in Three Movements*, *The Four Temperaments*, *Theme and Variations*, *The Prodigal Son*, *Tchaikovsky pas de deux* and *Violin Concerto*.

Cédric has also been invited to perform as a Guest Artist at a number of international galas and companies and has worked with international choreographers such as; Ted Brandsen, Caroline Carlson, Nacho Duato, William Forsythe, Martha Graham, Jean-Christophe Maillot, Maguy Marin, Hans Van Manen, Mark Morris, Krzyztof Pastor, Alexey Ratmansky, Jerome Robbins, Twyla Tharp and since 1998, extensively with David Dawson.

Cédric was awarded the Prix de Lausanne in 1996, Gold medal at Rieti Competition in 1996, Danza & Danza prize in 1996, Espoir De La Danse International in 1996, Alexandra Radius Prize in 2004 and the Golden Swan Award in 2009.

Kristian Fredrikson AO - Set & Costume Designer

Kristian Fredrikson was a New Zealand-born, Australian journalist and newspaper critic who turned to art in the 1960's and designed sets and costumes for theatre, opera, dance, film and television. He studied design in Wellington and his first stage design was *Winter Garden*

for the New Zealand Ballet. In 1963 he was invited to design a staging of *Aurora's Wedding* for The Australian Ballet and then went on to become resident designer for the Melbourne Theatre Company.

Fredrikson established an acclaimed collaborative partnership with Graeme Murphy, which began in earnest when Fredrikson designed Murphy's *Sheherazade* for Sydney Dance Company in 1979 and continued with The Australian Ballet as well as for Opera Australia and included Murphy's *Nutcracker* in 1992, *Tivoli* in 2001 and *Swan Lake* in 2002. He also enjoyed a collaborative relationship with Stanton Welch for whom he designed Pecos Bill in Welch's *Tales of Texas* for Houston Ballet (2004) and *The Sleeping Beauty* for The Australian Ballet (2005). He also created designs for Welch's new production of *Swan Lake* to premiere by Houston Ballet in 2006.

Fredrikson also continued to work in his native New Zealand in both opera and ballet. In addition to *Winter Garden*, works he designed for the New Zealand Ballet include *Cinderella*, *Swan Lake*, *Jean*, *Peter Pan*, and *A Christmas Carol*. He also was one of a specialised team of designers who worked on the opening ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Fredrikson received four Erik Design Awards and won a number of prestigious Green Room Awards including the 2003 award for concept and realisation with his designs for The Australian Ballet's *Swan Lake*. In 1999 he received the Australian Dance Award for services to dance and in 2003 his work on *Swan Lake* also earned him a Helpmann Award. He died in Sydney in November 2005.

Jon Buswell – Lighting Designer

Jon Buswell has designed lighting for well over one hundred productions in the UK, Europe and Australia. A graduate of Croydon School of Art in the UK, Jon worked initially for the Royal Shakespeare Company before becoming a freelance designer in 1997, working across all disciplines of the performing arts. Jon was the Technical Director of West Australian Ballet from 2008 – 2015 and has just taken up the position of Technical Director at The Australian Ballet. Recent Australasian engagements include *Love Song*, and *The 39 Steps* (Melbourne Theatre Company); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Sydney Theatre Company); *The Glass Menagerie*, *Twelfth Night*, *Madagascar*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Blithe Spirit* and *The Seagull* (Black Swan State Theatre Company); *Così fan tutte*, and *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* (Victorian Opera); *Coppelia* and *The Sleeping Beauty* (Queensland Ballet); *La Bohème*, *The Nutcracker*, *Giselle*, *Don Quixote*, *Cinderella*, *Neon Lights*, *La Sylphide*, *Pinocchio*, and *Coppelia* (West Australian Ballet); *Raymonda*, *Constant Variants*, *Symphonie Fantastique*, *Interplay* and *The Sleeping Beauty* (The Australian

Ballet); and *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, *Don Quixote*, *La Sylphide*, *Peter Pan*, and *The Sleeping Beauty* (Royal New Zealand Ballet).

Philip Norman - Composer/Arranger

From organs to orchestras, car horns to choirs, ballads to ballet, Philip Norman's experience as a composer spans the breadth of the performing arts. Based in Christchurch, and one of a handful of New Zealand composers in full-time practice, he has had works commissioned or performed by most of the leading music, theatre and ballet companies in New Zealand. His works include the stage musical *Footrot Flats*, which, since its successful Australian premiere in Perth thirty years ago has enjoyed performances throughout Australia. Another musical, *Love Off the Shelf*, continues to be performed in Australia, England and New Zealand.

He has enjoyed a particularly fruitful partnership with choreographer Russell Kerr, collaborating on five ballets including an electronic score for *A Christmas Carol*, which was subsequently converted into an opera and then back again into a ballet, with orchestral score, for the Royal New Zealand Ballet. *Peter Pan* was a commission from the Royal New Zealand Ballet at the instigation of then Artistic Director Matz Skoog, since 1999.

Recent compositions by Philip include settings of poems and stories by New Zealand author and friend Margaret Mahy who died in 2012. These settings were brought together in a memorial concert for orchestra, singers and narrator, conducted, coincidentally, by Kenneth Young.

Philip Norman is also an award-winning author and holds a PhD in musicology. He is currently the holder of the inaugural Lilburn Research Fellowship at the National Library of New Zealand working towards completing a book on the history of New Zealand composition.

Myron Romanul – Conductor

Recently nominated for the Marie Taglioni European Award as 'Best Conductor', Myron Romanul is one of the most fascinating and intriguing musicians on the music scene today. His passion and enthusiasm for music has given him the ability to bring people from many different types of arts and backgrounds together to produce spectacular performances that have moved audiences as well as bring critical acclaim.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A., he comes from a musical family and is the grandson of Stella Roman, former leading dramatic soprano at La Scala and the Metropolitan Opera. He began studying piano and memorising orchestral scores when he was six. He was featured with the New England Conservatory Ragtime Ensemble on the Angel-EMI recording *Scott Joplin: The Red Back Book* which won a Grammy Award for Best Classical Chamber Music. He studied conducting at the New England Conservatory of Music, the Boston University School of Music and the Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood with Seiji Ozawa, Gunther Schuller and Joseph Silverstein. His long association with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, working with Ozawa, Kurt Mazur, Arthur Fiedler and John Williams, to mention a few, has been a strong influence in his growth as a conductor. After conducting orchestras such as the Central Massachusetts Symphony Orchestra, the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra and the Boston Ballet Orchestra, he moved to Germany where he has served as Kapellmeister, Associate and Assistant Music Directors in various opera houses in Stuttgart, Karlsruhe, Mainz and Essen. He has also guest conducted throughout Germany as well as orchestras in North and South America, Europe and Asia. Romanul was a major force in the successful Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival in Alaska with his creative 16-year run as Music/Artistic Director. His recently released CD, *The Piano Of The Opera* has won critical acclaim.

He is currently conductor at the National Theater Munich, Germany, where since 1987 he has been leading performances of the Bayern State Opera and Ballet. In addition, he is Principal Conductor of the Massachusetts Symphony Orchestra and Guest Conductor at the Opera national du rhin, France. He is also currently Artist in Residence at Wesley College.

His theatre and concerts experiences extend from opera, operetta, ballet, musicals to big bands.