

Choreographers



Carina Roberts as Clara. Photo by Sergey Pevnev



Jayne Smeulders

Born in Dampier, Western Australia, Jayne began her ballet training at the Jody Marshall Dance Company followed by further study at The Graduate College of Dance under the direction of Terri Charlesworth. In 1993 she received a scholarship to finish her studies in Germany at Hamburg Straatsoper GmbH Ballettschule, and performed for four years with Nederlands Dans Theater II touring most major theatres around the world and working with many internationally acclaimed choreographers.

Jayne joined West Australian Ballet in 1999, and was promoted to Principal in 2008. She was nominated for a Helpmann Award in 2003 and awarded a WA Dance Award for Most Outstanding Female Dancer in 2008. In 2009, she had the honour of being awarded the Western Australian Citizen of the Year for her services to Arts, Culture and Entertainment.

In 2011, Jayne choreographed her first full length production for West Australian Ballet, *Cinderella*. She was also delighted to have her *Tarantella* included in West Australian Ballet's 2015 *Embraceable* You Balanchine season and *GALA* season in 2020.

Retiring in 2016, Jayne has now turned her focus to mentoring, teaching and choreography. Currently, Jayne is the Unit Coordinator for the Dance Program (Music Theatre) at Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts as well as teaching and choreographing in the Elite Performance (Classical) department.



Sandy Delasalle-Scannella

PRINCIPAL REHEARSAL DIRECTOR
AND ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE

Sandy was born in Cannes, France. She completed her training at the CID - Rosella Hightower and at the Academie de Danse Classique - Princesse Grace in Monte Carlo. At the age of 17, she was offered a Soloist contract with the Basler Ballet and became a Principal at the age of 21 at Deutsche Oper am Rhein Dusseldorf.

She continued her career as a Principal in Wiesbaden, Deutsche Oper Berlin and before moving to Ballet du Rhin. Her repertoire includes the leads in all classical ballets as well as working extensively with great contemporary choreographers. Sandy was a guest artist with William Forsythe performing *In the Middle*, *Somewhat Elevated* and took part in galas and festivals around the world.

Sandy joined West Australian Ballet as Ballet Mistress in 2013 and made her return to the stage in *La Pluie* with Principal Dancer Matthew Lehmann in 2015. Sandy was also invited to perform *On the Nature of Daylight* at the 2016 Helpmann Awards ceremony in Sydney.

In 2018, Sandy was promoted to Principal Ballet Mistress and Artistic Associate. While with West Australian Ballet she has also co-choreographed *Giselle*, various works for *Genesis* and tonight's performance of *The Nutcracker* for the Company.



Aurélien Scannella

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Aurélien was born in Mons, Belgium. He completed his training at the prestigious Royal Ballet School of Flanders and was subsequently accepted into the Royal Ballet of Flanders. After three years he was appointed as a Soloist, Deutsche Oper Berlin and Ballett Basel.

His repertoire includes all major classical ballets, as well as extensive experience in contemporary styles. During his dance career Aurélien participated in a number of international galas and festivals around the world. For two years running, he took part in the *World Ballet Stars Festival* in Kiev where he presented the pas de deux from William Forsythe's acclaimed *In the Middle*, *Somewhat Elevated* with French dancer and wife, Sandy Delasalle. This was the first time the pas de deux was presented in the Ukraine, and was described as ground-breaking by the media.

Aurélien has participated in a number of benefit galas for AIDS and cancer, performing various roles such as *Le Corsaire*, *Gopak Variation*, *Swan Lake*, *Giselle* and *Don Quixote* pas de deux. For two years he was a member of the Berlin based Gregor Seyffert & Company and participated in the European tour of Juan Carlos Garcia's *Light in Shadows*. In 2008 he retired from his dancing career to focus on teaching, quickly becoming one of the most sought after Ballet Masters in the industry, working as a guest Ballet Master for Ballet Preljocaj, Scapino Ballet, National Ballet of Portugal, Dutch National Ballet, Ballet d'Europe, Béjar Ballet Lausanne, Bordeaux Opera Ballet, Lyon Opera Ballet, Finnish National Ballet, Hong Kong Ballet, National Ballet of Estonia, Royal Swedish Ballet and Ballet du Rhin.

Aurélien became Artistic Director of West Australian Ballet in 2013 and has added a large amount of core repertoire including new productions of *Giselle*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *La Fille Mal Gardée*, *Snow White* and *the 7 Dwarfs*, *Coppélia*, *Cinderella*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Nutcracker*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Dracula*, *Swan Lake* and echoes of *VAN GOGH*.