

# Christmas turning white at The Maj

AS the weather heats up, WA Ballet will transform His Majesty's Theatre into a winter wonderland for their Christmas ballet, *The Nutcracker*.

When it first premiered in 2016, artistic director Aurelien Scannella said he wanted audiences to feel they were in Europe where it was snowing outside and the Christmas season was beginning.

Collectively choreographed by Aurelien, his wife and ballet mistress Sandy Delasalle and former principal dancer Jayne Smeuders, seven years ago it was one of the biggest shows the company had produced.

The sets and costumes were designed by British duo Charles Cusick Smith and Phil Daniels, (whose work shows in the Victoria and Albert

Museum) and the ballet's costume department made 147 individual costumes and almost 200 hairpieces, wigs and hats.

"WA Ballet didn't have a classical version of *The Nutcracker*, so we created this ballet to bring a real sense of white Christmas to Perth, one that would become a holiday tradition," Aurelien said.

As the clock strikes midnight in London on

Christmas Eve 1830, a magical adventure unfolds for Clara, filled with dancing snowflakes, lively gingerbread cookies, the Sugar Plum Fairy, the Nutcracker Soldier and a band of villainous vermin led by the evil Rat King.

■ WA Ballet performs *The Nutcracker* at His Majesty's Theatre from November 17 to December 10.



■ Clara (Chihiro Nomura) embarks on a Christmas Eve adventure with *The Nutcracker* (Gakuro Matsui).

## Optus Stadium to Subi's Postal Walk

Indie pop/rock band King Ibis was one of two winners in the competition to

perform ahead of Coldplay in the band's two Perth concerts next weekend.



■ After winning a competition to play at the Coldplay concert, King Ibis will perform free in Subiaco.

And next month, King Ibis will be in Subiaco as part of Suburban Vibes' Sundays on the Deck series in Postal Walk.

Each of the two free Sundays on the Deck sessions features local artists or bands playing 45-minute sets in a relaxed, family-friendly outdoor event with bean bags, rugs and entertainment for the kids.

The first session from 5 to 7pm on Sunday

November 19 will feature folk guitarist and singer Clare Perrott, who is studying voice at WAAPA and teaches at School of Rock at Jolimont. She will be followed by the soulful melodies of Jordy Maxwell.

■ On Sunday December 10 King Ibis will take to the stage following the close folk harmonies of *The Stamps*.



■ Claire Angel Bonner returns to Australia with her 19th century guitar.

## From Italy with love, and guitar

Tasmanian-born WAAPA graduate Claire Angel Bonner has returned to Australia for the first time in 11 years and has two performances booked in Perth this week.

The virtuoso guitarist graduated from WAAPA in 2011 and the following year she moved to Italy for post-graduate studies. She has become Europe's pre-eminent performer of late 18th and early 19th

Century guitar music.

"It's quite different to the modern version; smaller, more mellow, more delicate," she said of the 19th century guitar originally designed as a concert instrument.

"It's always been the supreme instrument for the love song, the ultimate musical vehicle for romance."

She is touring with two recital programs. On Wednesday, November 15,

at St Andrew's Anglican Church in Subiaco, she will perform *From Italy with Love*, featuring Italian opera music. This will be a fundraiser for CARAD asylum seeker and refugee support.

And on Thursday, November 16, at Callaway Auditorium at UWA's School of Music she will perform *A Tale of Three Cities* – "a musical journey through Napoleon's Europe".

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