

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release



WEST AUSTRALIAN  
BALLET

Patron:  
The Honourable Kim Beazley AC  
Governor of Western Australia

Artistic Director:  
Aurélien Scannella

## WEST AUSTRALIAN BALLET TO INSPIRE WITH WORLD-CLASS SEASON 2019

After a highly acclaimed Season 2018 featuring multiple sell-out productions, West Australian Ballet's Season 2019 will be an exploration of the theme 'live and alive'.

As a live art-form, ballet defies nature. It transcends the limitations of a human body. Each movement is a unique moment created for the audience, a moment that is the compilation of years of hard work and commitment, a moment that cannot be missed and can never be recreated.

Now in his seventh season as Artistic Director, **Aurélien Scannella** has created a program that will celebrate the aspects of live dance.

"Each dance performance is unique, it's art that comes alive onstage," says Scannella. "Season 2019 will see intense contemporary works, the reimagining of classic tales and eccentric family favourites performed for the people of Western Australia."

As the Company has done for the past 26 years, 2019 will open at the Quarry Amphitheatre with ***In-Synch: Ballet at the Quarry***, a production featuring three works (two World Premieres and one Australian Premiere) as a part of **Perth Festival**.

The first highly anticipated work will see West Australian Ballet collaborate with the State's contemporary dance company, **Co3 Australia**, and prolific Australian choreographer **Garry Stewart**. The work, called ***Reincarnation***, will honour the authentic heritages of both classical ballet and contemporary dance and explore the notion of death and transformation stemming from classical ballet narratives such as *Giselle* or *Swan Lake*. This unique World Premiere will feature costumes from **Jonathan Hindmarsh** and music from the composition of **Brendan Woithe**.

The second work presented at the outdoor setting of the Quarry Amphitheatre, will be a groundbreaking World Premiere conceptual work created by **Aurélien Scannella** and WAB Principal Ballet Mistress and Artistic Associate, **Sandy Delasalle**, distinctively named ***In-Synch***. The work will feature world-renowned French vocal loop artist, beat boxer and finalist on **The Voice France, MB14**, and will see dancers improvise to the sounds he creates live at each unique performance. WAB will also engage former Company Soloist and Sydney Dance Company dancer **David Mack** to create a frame of movement to feature in this spectacularly divergent piece.

The final piece presented to Perth audiences will be the Australian Premiere of Finnish choreographer **Johanna Nuutinen's *X-It***, which has been uniquely adapted for West Australian Ballet. The physically challenging work takes a look into life that is always under surveillance, and the stirring emotional effect that it has on human relationships. With dancers synchronised between the stage and digital worlds borne, *X-It* will be an enigmatic visual feast.

Following a lively season at the spectacular open-air Quarry Amphitheatre, WAB will hit the road in March on a Regional Tour, taking a thrilling family experience which includes excerpts from many of the Company's most popular works to **Kalbarri, Port Hedland, Karratha and Mandurah**.



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In May WAB will return to His Majesty's Theatre, with Greg Horsman's re-imagined classical ballet, *La Bayadère*. The colourful and energetic tale reset in 19<sup>th</sup> century India under the rule of the British Raj, sees Solor, the son of the Maharajah, fall in love with Nikiya, a Bayadère (a Temple Dancer), but he is forced to marry the Governor-General's daughter Edith as a sign of solidarity. The hedonistic tale features the iconic Kingdom of the Shades, a cauldron of colonial politics, opium-fuelled dreams and glittering ballroom scenes. Horsman will return to WAB for the first time since his highly successful season of *Coppélia* in 2015.

A staple of the of WAB's annual Season since 2006 has been the choreographic showcase *Genesis*, which returns in an extended run of ten performances. Each year *Genesis* is a chance for WAB's dancers to showcase their choreographic flair by creating their own short works in the intimate setting of the West Australian Ballet Centre in Maylands.

The historic Romantic-era work *Giselle* is set to wow Perth audiences at His Majesty's Theatre next September. The tale about a vengeful yet transcendent love is created as the beautiful yet innocent peasant Giselle falls deeply in love with Prince-in-disguise Albrecht. As she learns of Albrecht's engagement, her grief sends her mad and she dies of a broken heart. This stunning 178-year-old classic of the ballet world features atmospheric sets and beautiful classical costumes and was choreographed in 2014 by Scannella, and **Sandy Delasalle**.

The final production of WAB's lively Season 2019 will be **Septime Webre's** acclaimed *ALICE (in wonderland)* which played to sold out houses in Hong Kong in 2018. This giddy, over-the-top reimagining of the Lewis Carroll classic will be a showcase of energetic and fast flowing dance complemented by **James Kronzer's** beautiful sets. A co-production with Hong Kong Ballet, this extravagant production will bedazzle the whole family; from jaw-dropping scenes with a giant Alice, to exquisite costuming and spectacular theatrical effects, this fast and furious season will have ballet first-timers, families and ballet-lovers in raptures.

As always, West Australian Ballet will continue to enrich lives through dance by ensuring those with limited access to the arts in our community have the opportunity to experience these performances, to engaging with dance schools across the state. West Australian Ballet will also present a wide suite of public offerings including Vernissage, Open Fridays, Junior Members along with philanthropy events, education and outreach programs, and adult ballet classes for all skill levels.

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#### To book

Season Packages are available to book via [waballet.com.au](http://waballet.com.au) from 7:30pm Wednesday 24 October, 2018. Single tickets will be available from Monday 19 November via [waballet.com.au](http://waballet.com.au)

**Images:** <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hl6y0p0idp4u52p/AADvifYoD7HDiKUeNjHyhFKsa?dl=0>

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## Production Credits

**In-Synch: Ballet at the Quarry:**  
8 February – 2 March, Quarry Amphitheatre

### Reincarnation

Choreographer: Garry Stewart, Costumes: Johnathan Hindmarsh,  
Composer: Brendan Woithe

### In-Synch

Concept: Aurélien Scannella & Sandy Delasalle, Music & Vocals: MB14,  
Improvisation Provocateur: David Mack, Costumes: Rhiannon Walker

### X-It

Concept and Choreography: Johanna Nuutinen, Assistant Choreographer: Jarkko Lehmus, Costume Design: Rhiannon Walker, Music: Alva Noto & Ryuichi Sakamoto, Jean Louis Huhta, Amon Tobin, Director of Photography: Gavin Carroll, Lush – The Content Agency

*In-Synch: Ballet at the Quarry supported by*



*Reincarnation in collaboration with*



Reincarnation is supported by the Australian Government Australia Council for the Arts, Major Collaboration Fund.

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### La Bayadère

9 May – 25 May, His Majesty's Theatre with West Australian Symphony Orchestra

Choreographer: Greg Horsman after Marius Petipa, Assistant Repetiteur: Clytie Campbell, Set & Costume Design: Gary Harris, Lighting: Jon Buswell, Music: Ludwig Minkus, Music Arrangement: Nigel Gaynor, Conductor: Judith Yan

*La Bayadère is a co-production between West Australian Ballet, Queensland Ballet and Royal Winnipeg Ballet.*

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### Genesis

27 June – 6 July, West Australian Ballet Centre

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### Giselle

13 September – 28 September, His Majesty's Theatre with West Australian Symphony Orchestra

Choreographers: Aurélien Scannella and Sandy Delasalle after Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot, Sets & Costumes: Based on the original designs by Peter Cazalet, Lighting: Jon Buswell, Music: Adolphe Adam, Conductor: Jessica Gethin

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### ALICE (in wonderland)

21 November – 15 December, His Majesty's Theatre with West Australian Philharmonic Orchestra

Choreography: Septime Webre, Sets: James Kronzer, Costumes: Liz Vandal, Lighting: Clifton Taylor, Puppet: Eric Van Wyk, Music: Mathew Pierce, Conductor: Jessica Gethin

*ALICE (in wonderland) is a co-production between West Australian Ballet and Hong Kong Ballet.*

*ALICE (in wonderland) supported by*

