



WEST AUSTRALIAN
BALLET

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Patron:
The Honourable Kim Beazley AC
Governor of Western Australia

Artistic Director:
Aurélien Scannella

Murderous passion never looked so beautiful in West Australian Ballet's *La Bayadère*.

After a successful *Ballet at the Quarry* season, West Australian Ballet will bring a bright and bold colonial India to life in the reimaging of ***La Bayadère (The Temple Dancer)*** at His Majesty's Theatre this May.

Choreographed by Queensland Ballet's Ballet Master, **Greg Horsman**, (after the great Marius Petipa – *The Nutcracker, Swan Lake, Don Quixote, Sleeping Beauty*) this lavish production of *La Bayadère*, French for 'The Temple Dancer', sees the ballet set in colonial India in 1855 under British rule. The ballet follows the tragic love story of Prince Solor, the son of the Maharajah, who falls in love with Nikiya, (a Bayadère). But trouble strikes as Prince Solor is betrothed to Edith (formerly Gamzatti in the original *La Bayadère*), the daughter of the Governor General, as part of a treaty to end hostilities.

West Australian Ballet Artistic Director, **Aurélien Scannella**, said he was thrilled at the opportunity to stage this reinvigorated classical ballet in co-production with Queensland Ballet and Artistic Director **Li Cunxin** (*Mao's Last Dancer*).

"*La Bayadère* is one of the iconic classical ballets. Greg has done an incredible job modernising the story line but audiences will be pleased to hear many of the iconic scenes like The Kingdom of the Shades will remain true to the original choreography," Scannella said.

"The Kingdom of the Shades is a gorgeous moment in the ballet. It really is one of the all-time iconic moments in classical ballet, a scene so visually impacting that it is often performed on its own as an excerpt. It is incredibly demanding physically on the dancers and requires impeccable technique and musicality. I am sure it will be one of the lasting scenes in the audience's minds as they leave the theatre." explains Scannella.

Choreographer, **Greg Horsman**, said in changing the setting and story of the ballet slightly, he hopes to give it a tighter, more believable narrative that keeps the audience engaged right to the very end.

"In this production I've made some character and design changes to bring in the British influence, and I've also added in some opportunities for the male dancers to feature." explains Horsman.

This production sees Greg Horsman working along-side creative collaborators, **Gary Harris**, Sets and Costume Design, Lighting Designer **Jon Buswell** and Music Director **Nigel Gaynor**.

In addition to the set and costume designs evoking a different time and place, Music Arranger **Nigel Gaynor**, has included some traditional Indian instruments, subtly altered melodies, and set movements in a harmonic minor key (rather than the original major) to sound more exotic than **Ludwig Minkus'** original score. **West Australian**



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Symphony Orchestra will bring to life this iconic score under the instruction of Canadian Conductor, **Judith Yan** (Conductor of *Dracula* and *Don Quixote*).

While *La Bayadère* may be an unfamiliar ballet title for many arts lovers, its original choreographer Marius Petipa is considered to be one of the most influential choreographers in ballet history. His ballets *Don Quixote*, *The Nutcracker* and *The Sleeping Beauty* are staples of classical ballet repertoire. His revivals of many other classical ballets such as *Swan Lake*, *Giselle*, *Coppélia* and *La Fille Mal Gardée* have now become the definitive versions of these titles for many Ballet Companies around the world.

“Petipa’s The Kingdom of the Shades choreography within *La Bayadère* is often a measure of the unity, strength and finesse of a ballet company’s Corps de Ballet. The scene, done well, is one of the most sublime moments in classical ballet” states Aurélien Scannella.

A co-production with Queensland Ballet and Royal Winnipeg Ballet, *La Bayadère* opens at His Majesty’s Theatre on 9 May.

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- PRODUCTION CREDITS -

[La Bayadère](#)

9 May – 25 May 2019

His Majesty’s Theatre

With West Australian Symphony Orchestra

Artistic Director: Aurélien Scannella

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

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Principal Partner





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Conductor: Judith Yan

Patron:
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Artistic Director:
Aurélien Scannella