



WEST AUSTRALIAN
BALLET

Patron:
The Honourable Kim Beazley AC
Governor of Western Australia

Artistic Director:
Aurélien Scannella

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 6 August 2019

PERTH'S 115 YEAR OLD THEATRE HAUNTED

While Perth's iconic His Majesty's Theatre is not free of its ghostly rumours, West Australian Ballet will materialise in the 115 year-old Edwardian theatre this September with its haunting tale of heartbreak, *Giselle*.

The 178 year-old ballet, which was seen by over 10,000 people in its 2014 season, will have a 14 show run as West Australian Ballet's world-class dancers, many of whom have not yet performed *Giselle* in Perth, take on the Classical cornerstone.

Choreographed by Artistic Director Aurélien Scannella and Principal Ballet Mistress & Artistic Associate Sandy Delasalle, who have danced the production in Europe countless times, earned acclaimed reviews in 2014 with the New York Times labelling West Australian Ballet's *Giselle* as 'culture itself landing with perfect precision'.

"This production is incredibly close to both Sandy and my hearts," says Scannella. "Not only did we dance this iconic work together many times, it was also the first production we choreographed for the people of WA".

Scannella continues, "This is Classical ballet at its most beautiful and with our truly world-class dancers, ballet lovers and those not yet familiar with West Australian Ballet will enjoy this Romantic classic".

For the first time in the Company's 67 year history, the general public will have a chance to win a once-in-a-lifetime on-stage appearance through West Australian Ballet's *Giselle* Lottery. The appearance will feature in the Closing Night performance, with no dance experience required as the winner joins the Prince of Courtland's hunting party in a bespoke costume fitted for their performance, as well as Opening and Closing Night packages. With three other incredible prizes on offer, tickets for the lottery are just \$35, and raise money for the highly anticipated end-of-year family production, *ALICE (in wonderland)*.

The historic production follows peasant girl *Giselle* as she falls in love with *Albrecht*, a prince in disguise. When she discovers he's engaged to another, her grief sends her mad and she dies of a broken heart, with her spirit joining the *Wilis*.

The *Wilis*, which are vengeful ghosts of women who died before marriage, lure men into the forest to make them dance until they die. Adolphe Adam's powerful score will be played live at each performance by the West Australian Symphony Orchestra under the instruction of experienced West Australian conductor Jessica Gethin.

As this hauntingly beautiful ballet, originally created by Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot, comes to life, the thematic relevance of first love heartbreak resonates with all.

- Ends -



WEST AUSTRALIAN
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Giselle

13 – 28 September 2019

His Majesty's Theatre

Tickets: <https://waballet.com.au/whats-on/giselle/>

Lottery: <https://waballet.com.au/giselle-lottery/>

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Production Credits:

Choreographers: Aurélien Scannella and Sandy Delasalle after Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot

Sets & Costumes: Peter Cazalet

Lighting: Jon Buswell

Music: Adolphe Adam

Conductor: Jessica Gethin