



WEST AUSTRALIAN
BALLET

Patron:
The Honourable Kim Beazley AC
Governor of Western Australia

Artistic Director:
Aurélien Scannella

MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed until 7:00pm, Tuesday 15 October

LEAPING TO NEW HEIGHTS IN 2020

As he enters his eighth season as Artistic Director and following multiple record-breaking years in 2016, 2018 and 2019, **Aurélien Scannella** has plans to yet again grow the State Ballet Company, West Australian Ballet.

“With our collectively strong Company that has almost 40 world-class dancers, we need to perform more than ever before to share the incredible emotional exchange that features in our art-form,” says Scannella.

“Dancers are made to be on-stage, so in 2020 we’ll perform over 90 performances including a new season called *STATE*, and a five-city tour to China which is in the final planning stages.”

West Australian Ballet’s season will start as it has for the past 27 years, with contemporary triple-bill ***Light and Shadow: Ballet at the Quarry*** in February as a part of Perth Festival. With works from two living choreographic legends and a co-production with innovative world-leaders **Dutch National Ballet**, this year’s Quarry season will rock Perth.

The headline work signifies the return of celebrated international choreographer **Krzysztof Pastor**, with ***In Light and Shadow*** set to make its Australian Premiere after critical acclaim with European and Asian ballet companies. The work which is set to the music of **Johann Sebastian Bach** begins with strong and intimate pas de deux acting as the shadow, to the alternate joyous ensemble end, in the light.

Returning to Perth after a long absence, legendary Australian Choreographer **Graeme Murphy** brings a 20 minute excerpt of his acclaimed work ***Air and Other Invisible Forces*** to the West Australian Ballet for the first time. The work, which Murphy describes as “A blank page containing a faint trace of dried tears could tell us everything about the content,” is inspired by the music **Michael Askill** and **Giya Kancheli**.

To complete the season, is an exciting new co-production from the mind of effervescent up-and-coming Choreographer **Wubkje Kuindersma**. Named by Dance Magazine as the ‘Top 25 to watch in 2019’, this fluid work aptly named ***Architecture of Hope*** has been created for eight dancers around life’s reliance on hope and the feeling of belonging. The work makes its World Premiere in Perth before being performed by one of the world’s major exponents of dance, **Dutch National Ballet**, reflecting the growing world-class reputation of your State Ballet Company.

Following the highly-touted ***Ballet at the Quarry*** line-up, the Company will return to the historic West Australian Ballet Centre for a seven show run of ***Genesis*** in March. The annual creative showcase sees the dancers take charge of the choreography in this experimental multi-work season.



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In May, Perth's children will have their dreams come true with the Australian Premiere of *The Sleeping Beauty*. The Classical cornerstone is set the music of **Tchaikovsky** played live by **West Australian Symphony Orchestra (WASO)** under Conductor **Judith Yan**. Choreographed by **Javier Torres**, the production remains close to Marius Petipa's original version which debuted in 1890 Saint Petersburg. The iconic story features a bewitched Princess Aurora, a fight between powerful fairies and the adventures of Prince Désiré.

Anticipation will be key as the introduction of a new mainstage season at the State Theatre Centre of WA comes to life in June. **STATE** will be a modern multi-work season at the home of Contemporary dance, with the meaning not only in reference to our home state of WA, but also representative of the state of mind and feelings brought on when witnessing contemporary dance.

The showcase presented will feature the stunning 40 minute production of Graeme Murphy's *Air and Other Invisible Forces* and features beautiful costumes by well-known Australian fashion designer **Akira Isogawa**.

The second work will be a restaging of award winning Choreographer Garry Stewart's *Reincarnation* which was created for West Australian Ballet in collaboration with the State's Contemporary Dance Company **Co:3 Australia** in 2018, who will again join us onstage for the work. The piece, which was lauded as "Robust, razor sharp choreography" by Dance Australia upon its premiere in 2018, will be amplified when presented in Heath Ledger Theatre.

The final work will be an Australian Premiere of an exciting 18 minute duet based on a mythological story. *Galatea and Pygmalion* tells the tale of sculptor Pygmalion, who asks Aphrodite to breathe life into his mesmerising sculpture. The Neoclassical work was created by Hong Kong duo Justyne Li Sze Yeung and Wong Tan Ki, and will bring a liveliness to the State Theatre with its silky fluid movements.

In September, fear will reign again. West Australian Ballet's multi award-winning *Dracula* makes a return to the His Majesty's Theatre after a record-breaking, sell-out World Premiere season in 2018. Heralded as "Technically brilliant" by The Australian and "A fantasy that ensnares the senses in every way conceivable" by The West Australian, it is yet to be confirmed if Artistic Director Aurélien Scannella will return as the "Old Count Dracula". WASO will be lead by Perth Conductor **Jessica Gethin** as they play Wojciech Kilar's entrancing score that featured in the movie *Bram Stoker's Dracula* (1992).

Currently planned for October, the whole Company will undertake a five-city tour of Classical Cornerstone, *Giselle*, to the **People's Republic of China**. With confirmed backing from the State Government, the tour is to be confirmed shortly following the finalisation of corporate sponsorship agreements. West Australian Ballet has the aim is to visit Guangzhou, Perth's sister city Chengdu, Shanghai, Shandong and Beijing for a total of eight performances of the celebrated 178 year old ballet. The culmination of a long term International Touring Strategy which has seen gala performances in Indonesia, the Philippines and China, will further cement our mission to enrich lives through dance.

To complete the year in November, high-demand family Christmas favourite *The Nutcracker* will return, but in a dual season with a multi-work production; **GALA**. The limited 12 performances of *The Nutcracker* sees the continuation of our family ballet tradition at Christmas



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as Clara enters the Land of the Sweets and journey's through battles with the Rat King and dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy.

GALA will feature an exclusive seven performances of some of the Company's most-loved works including; **Radio & Juliet**, **Zip Zap Zoom**, **Takuto** and excerpts from **Le Corsaire**, **The Great Gatsby** and many others. This tasting plate of acclaimed works will encourage patrons to dress up for a night of glamour a black-tie suggestion to add to the gala experience.

Alongside these seven WA seasons, West Australian Ballet will run an extended Regional Education and Community program over the next three years after grant support from Lotterywest. The program is set to run in the Goldfields and Pilbara to deepen its engagement in the areas.

The Company's Junior Members program will also continue enabling children to connect to their State Ballet Company with numerous engagement opportunities offered including \$15 tickets and a raft of benefits for those under 18. Adult Classes will also continue to be taught by West Australian Ballet's current and former dancers at our state-of-the-art studios for those wanting fitness, fun and enrichment.

- Ends -

Images: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zhqs674y8tngcc6/AAA000s05EnZCkkGlm5yijB8a?dl=0>

Light and Shadow: Ballet at the Quarry

7 – 29 February

Quarry Amphitheatre, City Beach

Dracula

11 – 26 September

His Majesty's Theatre

Genesis

24 – 28 March

West Australian Ballet Centre, Maylands

GALA

Selected dates 19 November – 11 December

His Majesty's Theatre

and

The Sleeping Beauty

8 – 23 May

His Majesty's Theatre, Perth

The Nutcracker

Selected dates 21 November – 13 December

His Majesty's Theatre

STATE

State Theatre Centre of WA

19 – 27 June



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