



WEST AUSTRALIAN  
BALLETT

Patron:  
The Honourable Kim Beazley AC  
Governor of Western Australia

Artistic Director:  
Aurélien Scannella

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 21 October 2019

## MADNESS ENSUES AT WEST AUSTRALIAN BALLETT

It's not often that West Australian Ballet's elite dancers trip, but they've been encouraged to take a trip down the rabbit hole as the Company debuts a new version of the fantastical tale, *ALICE (in wonderland)*. The Classical Ballet, which stays true to Lewis Carroll's historic book, continues the tradition of family-friendly end of year ballets.

Created by Hong Kong Ballet's Artistic Director and prolific American Choreographer Septime Webre, *ALICE (in wonderland)* is a behemoth production, with 214 bedazzling costumes designed by Cirque du Soleil Costume Designer Liz Vandal, 166 props used every show and over 200 lighting cues alone in the two hour performance.

West Australian Ballet Artistic Director Aurélien Scannella says the spectacular ballet is perfect for both children and adults with energetic dancing, including impressive lifts and the introduction of theatre Fly System to the State Ballet Company.

"This is a brand new 'Alice' for Perth and with its near-crazy staging, adults and kids will love their trip to the ballet," said Scannella, "West Australian Ballet dancers will also reach new heights with a new theatre Fly System, this will truly be unmissable"

The Fly system being introduced for this season is being installed by Las Vegas' Fly by Foy, world leaders in aerography training and effects who have designed sequences for stars like Beyoncé, and the *Billy Elliot* and *Tarzan* productions. Their rigging for this production includes a tandem bicycle ridden by Tweedledee and Tweedledum and an amazing 'growth' scene for the titular character.

Along with the already exciting production is Puppet Designer Eric Van Wyk's gigantic creation, the dangerous Jabberwock. The puppet, which is over five metres in length when on-stage, is operated by seven dancers as it threatens Alice and her friends in Act II.

A co-production with Webre's Hong Kong Ballet, *ALICE* received acclaimed reviews when it premiered last year in the Pearl of the Orient, with the South China Morning Times saying "Webre pulls out all the stops; packed with spectacular theatrical effects, fast and furious dancing and blazing energy, it's great entertainment for children, parents and ballet lovers alike."

West Australian Ballet also highlight the support of its private donors who were critical in bringing *ALICE* to life for all of WA. Tickets are already flying out the door, so don't be late! *ALICE (in wonderland)* opens Thursday 21 November.

- Ends -



WEST AUSTRALIAN  
**BALLET**

West Australian Ballet's *ALICE (in wonderland)*

21 November – 15 December

His Majesty's Theatre

<https://waballet.com.au/whats-on/alice-in-wonderland/>

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Images:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/elpf9adliiyfelc/AADQ\\_8D2iPIWek2stVn6JoH6a?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/elpf9adliiyfelc/AADQ_8D2iPIWek2stVn6JoH6a?dl=0)

Choreography: Septime Webre

Répétiteur: Johanna Wilt

Sets: James Kronzer

Costumes: Liz Vandal

Lighting: Clifton Taylor

Relight: Steve O'Shea

Puppet Designer: Eric Van Wyk

Music: Matthew Pierce

Conductor: Jessica Gethin

Artistic Director: Aurélien Scannella

With West Australian Philharmonic Orchestra