

en pointe

EDITION 4

Seasons Greeting to all!

It's that time of year again when everyone you speak to remarks on how quickly time has passed since last Christmas and comments such as "The year has flown by!" remind us that time stands still for no-one. But for two hours, 4 or 5 times a year, we can sit in the quiet majesty of the theatre, enjoy the art and music of ballet, and for that, our heart is full and our soul is replenished.

Thank you to our wonderful Members for your continued support of The Friends of The Australian Ballet, we've had a spectacular year of ballet and events. Your financial membership, generous donations and attendance at dress rehearsals have contributed to the new dancers' pointe shoe fund, the tuition of a talented ballet student from NSW to train at The Australian Ballet School and one of our biggest donations to date \$100,000 to The Australian Ballet for the new production of *Spartacus*.

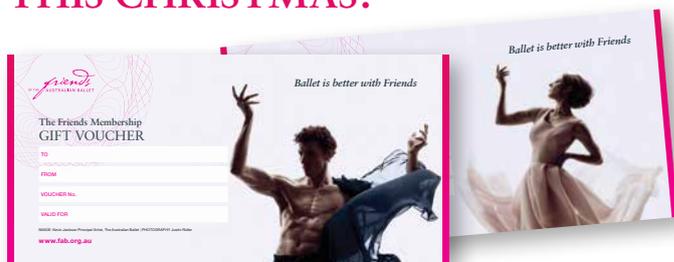
Our work is not done yet! We will be asking you to dig deep once more for the arts, The Australian Ballets spectacular new production of *Spartacus* and the Friends support of *Crassus*.

With so much going on, make sure to follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/friendsofAB and check out our website for all bookings, events and membership at www.fab.org.au

Until next time.

Sally-Anne, Jo and The Friends Council

GIVE THE GIFT OF BALLET THIS CHRISTMAS!



Wish your friends and loved ones a joyous festive season with our specially designed 'The Friends Membership Gift Voucher', featuring beautifully photographed Kevin Jackson and Lana Jones, The Australian Ballet principal artists.

Order now to receive them in time for Christmas and the New Year! Purchase online at www.fab.org.au or phone 9252 7322.

Our Friends Membership Gift Vouchers are available throughout the year, so keep them in mind to treat someone special!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS NOW DUE!

Return the Membership Application or renew online now at www.fab.org.au so you don't miss any of the new season. Tickets to the Dress Rehearsals go on sale Friday 23 February 2018.

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FRIENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET (NSW)
PRODUCTION SPONSOR OF SPARTACUS

Support Crassus

Friends of The Australian Ballet (NSW) has committed to making a major financial gift to the company for the development of The Australian Ballets new production of *Spartacus*. The Friends of The Australian Ballet (NSW) will permanently acknowledged as the custodian of the Principle Roman character *Crassus* for the life of the production.

This unique association with *Crassus* will allow us to provide our loyal Friends with exclusive ongoing access to behind the scenes news, talks and special events during the creation of this exhilarating production.

Make a donation in support of *Crassus*. Sponsors will be acknowledged in our *En Pointe* newsletter and website as Bronze \$20, Silver \$50 Gold \$100 and Platinum over \$150.

Make a donation to *Crassus* online at www.fab.org.au or call 02 9252 7322.



A TRIBUTE TO AUSTRALIA'S ICONIC DANCEMAKER

Murphy

Thursday 5 April 2018 | 7pm | Sydney Opera House

“Murphy’s choreography is an engaging mix of new and familiar: just when you have a sense of where a phrase is going, it does something fresh.” – Sydney Morning Herald

What makes Graeme Murphy Australia’s premier choreographer? A bold imagination, irreverent humour, profound musicality and a matchless sense of the body in space.

In 2018, Graeme Murphy AO celebrates 50 years with The Australian Ballet. He began his dance career in the company’s corps de ballet, made his first work for our Choreographic Workshop, and went on to an incandescent career as the head of Sydney Dance Company.

Along the way, he produced landmark productions for The Australian Ballet: he set his version of *The Nutcracker* in a scorching Melbourne summer, made *Swan Lake* into a modern love triangle and charted a dancer’s journey in the moving *Beyond Twelve*.

We pay tribute to this remarkable artist with a revival of his vividly reimagined *Firebird*, paired with highlights from his stellar career, featuring inventive dance, eye-opening design and transporting music.

Repertoire:
The Silver Rose (excerpt)
Shéhérazade
Air and Other Invisible Forces (excerpt)
Ellipse (excerpt)
Grand (excerpt)
Firebird

Join us to celebrate one of Australia’s greats. Book online at www.fab.org.au

TOP RIGHT: Graeme Murphy AO with his muse, wife and creative associate, Janet Vernon AM and David McAlister AM in the studio, 2007. RIGHT: *Firebird*, 2009. Kevin Jackson, Danielle Rowe and the artists of The Australian Ballet. PHOTO: Alex Makaye



MATINEE AND EVENING PERFORMANCES

Effervescent romance overflowing with glamour

The Merry Widow

Friday 27 April 2018 | 1pm & 7pm | Sydney Opera House

Irresistibly frothy and lavishly theatrical, *The Merry Widow* has enough tangled affairs, narrow misses and jealous lovers to fuel a French farce.

The tiny principality of Pontevedro is on the verge of bankruptcy, and the dashing Count Danilo must rescue his country by marrying the newly widowed and fabulously wealthy Hanna Glawari. Only when they meet does he realise that she’s his childhood sweetheart – and that she hasn’t forgiven him for jilting her years ago.

Based on the beloved operetta, this lively tale is set in the ballrooms and salons of Belle Époque Paris and is dressed magnificently in velvets, silks, spangles and feathers.

Created especially for The Australian Ballet, *The Merry Widow* is a laugh-along favorite with hum-along melodies and its heart on its sleeve.

Suitable for children

Book tickets to The Australian Ballet dress rehearsal of *The Merry Widow* online at www.fab.org.au

“This sumptuous soufflé of a ballet is possibly one of the best The Australian Ballet has produced.” – The Australian



Friends’ Dance Card

Below is a list of dates for 2018 to add to your diary. More will be added throughout the year so keep an eye on our website and ‘Like’ us on Facebook for regular postings.

- \\ MEET THE NEW DANCERS – Cocktail Event | 6:30pm | Tuesday 3 April | The Establishment
- \\ MURPHY – Dress Rehearsal | 7pm | Thursday 5 April | Sydney Opera House
- \\ THE MERRY WINDOW – Dress Rehearsal | 1pm & 7pm | Friday 27 April | Sydney Opera House
- \\ LEO SCOFIELD PRESENTS – Premier Screenings | Verona Cinema Paddington
 - La Scala Ballet: *Le Corsaire* | 6pm | Thursday 21 June
 - Paris Opera Ballet: *Pite/Perez/Schechter* | 6pm | Thursday 5 July
- \\ TBC
 - The Friends Annual Champagne High Tea
 - Youth Workshop and Event



NEW
The Friends of The Australian Ballet Youth Membership – The perfect Christmas Gift!

An exciting Membership program for dance fans aged 2-17 at any stage of their dance journey.

Annual Membership \$40 – JOIN ONLINE NOW at www.fab.org.au or call 02 9252 7322

LIFE MEMBERS



This year we acknowledge and celebrate two of our Councillors, Alan Jackson and Robert McCormack AM, who have served on the Friends of The Australian Ballet Council for over 35 years. Now as they say ‘Quantity is not Quality’, but it’s their qualities in generosity of spirit and their different skills have complimented the energy and expertise that make these two gentlemen an invaluable asset to the organisation.

On behalf of the Friends of The Australian Ballet Council we thank Alan Jackson and Robert McCormack for their service and we welcome them as our Life Members.

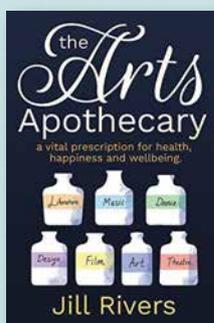
FRIENDS ON THE TOWN...



On Sunday 26 November, 120 Friends gathered for our SOLD OUT Annual Christmas Luncheon in the beautiful Ivy Sunroom.

Guest were treated to an insightful 'In Conversation' with Stephen Heathcote AM and Lucas Jervies, hosted by seasoned Arts Journalist Jo Litson on The Australian Ballets upcoming production of *Spartacus*. Attendees were entertained with stories and antics from Stephens days as *Spartacus* as well as Lucas's early days as an extra in the original production. We heard Lucas's vision for *Spartacus* 2018 and wait with great excitement for the new production! With many raffle prizes on offer the signed original Australian Ballet poster of Stephen Heathcote as *Spartacus* was a much-desired prize!

Tickets to our events always sell out fast, so make sure to book early.



SPECIAL OFFER FOR THE FRIENDS

The Arts Apothecary

– a vital prescription for health, happiness and wellbeing

The Arts Apothecary is a book about the powerful new thinking around the impact of creative practises on our health. This book draws attention to the overlooked impact of arts and culture on our social wellbeing and cohesion, our physical and mental health, our education system, our national status and our economy.

Jill Rivers was The Australian Ballet Media Director from 1988 – 1998 and has remained immersed in dance, and insists that dancers are the happiest people she knows!

This book is endorsed by the former Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet, Maina Gielgud AO and Arts Council England. It was launched in Melbourne on 3 October by The Australian Ballet Artistic Director David McAllister AM.

Order your copy today at www.art-fulliving.com/special-offer – Cost: \$20 + \$10 postage

The Friends of The Australian Ballet

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