

en pointe



EDITION 1

The power of imagination

In 2018 The Australian Ballet celebrate all that is unique about the company.

The genius of our Australian choreographers, the athleticism of our dancers, the rare skill of our artisans, and the boldness and open spirit that enables us to transcend boundaries and reach new heights. The Friends of The Australian Ballet have been able to share a glimpse of this power with our members during the first Sydney season back at the Opera House. Thrilling our members with dress rehearsals of *Murphy* from one of Australia's most iconic and prolific choreographers and delighting us with a uniquely Australian production of *The Merry Widow*. The power of imagination is strong and with the second season to come members should be feeling very excited!



I would like to take the opportunity to personally thank the Council and Members of the Friends of The Australian Ballet for making my time with the Friends so pleasurable, it has been more than just a job for me and I have loved getting to know many of you over the years. Special thanks must go to the heart and soul of the Friends, Deputy Chair Alan Jackson for your friendship and support, I will truly miss seeing you in the office every week.

Signing off for the last time,
Sally-Anne (pictured with Alan Jackson)

We've had lots of changes taking place within our organisation since our last Newsletter, after two years we say good bye to Jo Michel the Friends Admin Coordinator, and we welcome Lynn Neilsen to the role. Many of you may know Lynn from her work at The Australian Ballet in the Philanthropy Team.

Sadly, this will be my last newsletter, as I too am leaving my position as Marketing & Events Manager at the Friends after almost 5 years in the position. As many of you know my daughter Audrey is a ballet dancer and my family is packing up and moving to London to support Audrey pursue her dreams at The Royal Ballet School. But fear not, the Friends have found an excellent replacement for me and the new Marketing & Events Manager Katie Hayward has already commenced ensuring a smooth transition for all. Katie comes to the Friends from a background of ticketing and marketing in the Arts and her last ballet project was working with the Paris Opera Ballet Tour 2013. I know you will give both Lynn and Katie a warm welcome when you meet them in person at an upcoming event or dress rehearsal.

.....
Inside En Pointe >>

|| SPARTACUS || DRESS REHEARSALS + MORE

Friends' Dance Card

Below is a list of dates for 2018 to add to your diary. 'Like' us on Facebook for regular postings.

- || CHAIRMAN'S DINNER WITH GUEST OF HONOUR LISA PAVANE | Tuesday 10 July | 6.30pm
La Rosa, The Strand Arcade S
- || SPARTACUS – THE MEN BEHIND THE LEGEND CHAMPAGNE HIGH TEA | Sunday 26 August
11am | The Ivy Ballroom
- || SPARTACUS – DRESS REHEARSAL on sale 31 August
Thursday 8 November | 7pm | Sydney Opera House
- || SPARTACUS YOUTH WORKSHOP – TBC
Sunday 11 November | 3pm | The Concourse Studios
- || CINDERELLA – DRESS REHEARSAL on sale 28 September
Thursday 29 November | 7pm | Sydney Opera House
- || CINDERELLA YOUTH WORKSHOP – TBC
Sunday 2 December | 3pm | The Concourse Studios
- || THE FRIENDS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY LUNCHEON – TBC

SPARTACUS



David McAllister AM



Kevin Jackson



Ty King-Wall

THE FRIENDS ANNUAL CHAMPAGNE HIGH TEA – MEMBERS EVENT

THE MEN BEHIND THE LEGEND

Sunday 26 August | 11am
The Ivy Ballroom

The Friends of the Australian Ballet invite you explore the legend that is *SPARTACUS*!

Our annual High Tea is the event of the year not to be missed! It's a time to dress up, get a group together and celebrate ballet. This year as always, our guest of honour is Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet – David McAllister AM. David will be joined on stage by Principal Dancer in the role of *Spartacus* – Kevin Jackson and in the role of the Friends sponsored Character *Crassus* – Principal Dancer Ty King-Wall who will take us behind the curtain of this fantastic, new production.

One of the things that makes this event so special is the invited former dancers of The Australian Ballet living in NSW and you can honor them by 'Sponsoring a Dancer' to sit at your table. Sponsoring a dancer also allows you VIP access to an exclusive pre-function *Meet and Greet* with David, Kevin and Ty along with all the former dancers.

The high tea will also debut the world premiere of *POWERHOUSE*, a new piece by Choreographer Lucas Jervies. *POWERHOUSE* will be performed by the talented Artists of the Sydney City Youth Ballet, Artistic Director Lucinda Dunn OAM.

Tickets to this event always sell out, so don't delay!

Book online at www.fab.org.au



THE GIVING FRIENDS – SUPPORT CRASSUS

THANK YOU

The NSW Friends of The Australian Ballet will be permanently acknowledged as the custodian of the *Crassus* character from The Australian Ballet's new production of *Spartacus*. We hold this position in high esteem and thank our members who have contributed and continue to support the preservation of this iconic character.

PLATINUM DONORS

Anonymous \ Mathew Blampey
Mignon Bly \ Julie Gould
Louise Hamshere \ Iris Luke
Trevor Rice \ Peter Southwell-Keely
Peter Thornhill and Frieda Thornhill

GOLD DONORS

Anonymous
Phil Bendrey and Laurel Bendrey
Joan Cowie \ Brian Galway
Helen Goddard \ Alan Jackson
Pamela Whalan

SILVER DONORS

Anonymous \ Anonymous
Sari Browne \ Joan Cassidy
Diana Dodds \ Anne Farago
Barbara Hawke \ Toni Ireland
Anna Kerdijk Nicholson
Archibald McKenzie
Olive Meredith \ Elizabeth Morris
Hal Myers \ Valerie Neave
Jackie Stamford \ Michele Topcic
Eva Venables \ Lois Walker

BRONZE DONOR

Anonymous \ Anonymous
Jacqueline Farrar \ Patricia Heasty
Neville Howard \ Benita Illingworth
Wendy James \ Janet Johnston
Jeanette Loewensohn \ Maree McDonald
Dawn McWilliams \ Irene O'Connor
Diana-Rose Orr \ Ruth Pike
Judith Reilly \ Beatrice Roberts
Edna Rumore \ Brenda Satill
Margaret Schneider \ Patsy Shannon
Carolyn Ward \ Gwen Wheatley
Ruth Zionzee

Donate to *Crassus* at www.fab.org.au



5 REASONS

YOU NEED TO SEE SPARTACUS MEMBERS DRESS REHEARSAL

Thursday 8 November | 7pm
Sydney Opera House

Everyone's favourite fairytale with a twist!

Lucas Jervies' brand-new version of *Spartacus* weaves a gritty account of a slave rebellion with a moving love story. Here are five reasons you won't want to miss out on the centerpiece of our season!

1. THE MALE SIDE OF BALLET

If you think pointe shoes and tutus when you think ballet, you're not alone. However *Spartacus*, with its male-centered narrative and all-male ensemble scenes, brings the boys into the spotlight.

2. THE LOVE STORY

Of course, that's not to say that women don't play a part in the ballet. *Spartacus* is built around the tenderness between the rebellious leader and his wife Flavia. Their passion provides *Spartacus*' emotional core – and its spectacular pas de deux.

3. LUCAS JERVIES

A choreographer and a NIDA-trained director, Jervies was the dramaturge on David McAllister's *The Sleeping Beauty*. To create his own version of *Spartacus* is a long-held dream.

4. JÉRÔME KAPLAN

This award-winning French designer created the fanciful sets and costumes for Alexei Ratmansky's *Cinderella* in 2013. We can't wait to see what Kaplan's imagination will make of the decadent festivities of imperial Rome.

5. FIGHT CLUB

Principal Artist Kevin Jackson, will create the lead role of *Spartacus*, has already begun to build his 'Spartacus body'.

Tickets on sale from 31 August 2018.
Visit www.fab.org.au

MEMBERS DRESS REHEARSAL

Cinderella

Thursday 29 November | 7pm
Sydney Opera House

Made especially for The Australian Ballet by Alexei Ratmansky, the world's most in-demand choreographer, this *Cinderella* has all the elements of the story we know and love – a feisty heroine, a dashing prince, a kindly godmother and a deliciously wicked stepmother – with some fantastical additions.

Ratmansky is artist in residence at American Ballet Theatre, a recipient of the MacArthur 'Genius' grant, and the acknowledged master of the modern story ballet. His *Cinderella*, designed by the acclaimed Jérôme Kaplan, takes its vision from Prokofiev's dark and surprising 1940s score and whirls with stars and planets, Surrealist-inspired projections and a Dior-worthy golden ball gown.

After playing to packed houses and adoring audiences in London, Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane, this witty and romantic *Cinderella* returns to the Sydney Opera House stage for an exclusive performance that will delight every generation.

See why *Cinderella* is the perfect fit.

Tickets on sale from 28 September 2018.
Book online at www.fab.org.au



\ MEMBERS EVENT

CHAIRMAN'S DINNER WITH GUEST OF HONOUR LISA PAVANE

Tuesday 10 July | 6.30pm

La Rosa, The Strand Arcade | \$120 per person



We are thrilled to invite our members to an intimate dining experience where, along with the Friends Chairman and Council, we will discuss the future of ballet in Australia.

The evening will be led by Lisa Pavane, Director of The Australian Ballet School, and who is charged with training our future ballet dancers.

Enjoy an open conversation over dinner about Australia's position both here and in the international ballet community.

Dinner includes 2 courses plus beverages to be held in La Rosa's private dining area.

RSVP Monday 2 July

Numbers are strictly limited so call now on 9252 7322 or book online and further information at www.fab.org.au



Leo Schofield



LEO SCHOFIELD PRESENTS...

Paris Opera Ballet | New Production

Thierrée / Schechter / Pérez / Pite

Saturday 5 July | Palace Verona, Paddington

5:30pm – Pre-screening talk | Champagne on arrival
6pm – Screening

A mixed programme of works by some of the world's most exciting contemporary dance makers.

Canadian Crystal Pite's dazzling *The Seasons' Canon*, set to music by Max Richter, thrilled audiences at the Palais Garnier last season. Spain's Iván Pérez occupies the stage of the Opera for the first time with a creation for ten male dancers. To conclude the bill, Israel's Hofesh Shechter, often lauded for his telluric, trance-evoking dances, offers a new version of his piece *The Art of Not Looking Back*.

Plus: Programme addition! The cinema presentation will now also include a new work from Switzerland's James Thierrée, who takes over the magnificent public areas of the Palais Garnier and introduces us to his dream-like world.

Book now – www.fab.org.au or phone 02 9252 7322

FRIENDS ON THE TOWN...

Meet the New Dancers

Tuesday 3 April – as is the Friends tradition, we formally welcomed dancers new to the company in 2018 with a sold-out event at The Establishment.

The Friends of The Australian Ballet contributed \$3,500 to the dancers Pointe Shoe fund and the event was supported by our wonderful annual sponsors Bloch, Mr Rebell Barnes and Showface cosmetics. David McAllister AM Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet spoke with passion as he introduced us to the new dancers and what made each of them successful in their selection to the company.

Amongst the new cohort of Dancers welcomed was last year's Friends of The Australian Ballet, Australian Ballet School Scholarship recipient Joseph Romancewicz (pictured below) who once again thanked members for the scholarship awarded to him.



Friends of The Australian Ballet NSW Scholarship



Sunday 25 February – over 60 members and guests welcomed Lisa Pavane, Director of The Australian Ballet School back to Sydney.

Lisa was very generous with her time and spoke at length about The Australian Ballet School students of today and the school's aim to balance the rigorous demands of professional training with a creative, caring and challenging environment where excellence can flourish.

We were introduced to our 2018 Friends of The Australian Ballet Scholarship recipient Riley Lapham (pictured above with Sally-Anne Freeman and Lisa Pavane). Riley is a 17 year old student of The Australian Ballet School from Wollongong, NSW. Riley started ballet when she was 6 years old at a local dance studio, Beverley Rowles School of Dance under the guidance of Marshall Rowles.

Since then Riley has completed The Australian Ballet School's Interstate Training Programme Levels 5 to 7, achieving the Excellence Award in each. She was selected to compete in the Prix de Lausanne in 2015, where she reached the finals, and in February 2018, represented Australia at the Orchard Ballet Gala in Tokyo. Riley is currently in Level 8 and is training towards her Graduate Diploma of Classical Ballet. She hopes to be employed by a professional ballet company after graduating.

The Friends of The Australian Ballet wish Riley all the best in the pursuit of her ballet career and hope our support is of benefit.

SPECIAL MEMBERS TICKET OFFER LA SCALA

7-18 November 2018 | QPAC

Italy's celebrated Teatro alla Scala Ballet Company (La Scala Ballet) performs for the first time ever in Australia – and only in Brisbane – as part of the QPAC International Series.

Bringing their 110-strong company to QPAC's Lyric Theatre, La Scala Ballet will perform two iconic productions, both much-loved and stunning works of the classical repertoire, Rudolf Nureyev's festive *Don Quixote*, and the haunting *Giselle*.

In partnership with QPAC, the Friends would like to offer all our members a special ticket price offering a 10% discount in A & B Reserve.

ONLINE BOOKING ONLY by using the following links or visit www.fab.org.au:

|| Don Quixote

www.qpac.com.au/event/la_scala_don_quixote_18/?special=85700996

|| Giselle

www.qpac.com.au/event/la_scala_giselle_18/?special=857014f7

Valid until 9am, Monday 30 July.

Why not make a weekend of it and take in both programmes over 16-18 November?

We hope you enjoy your trip to Brisbane!



The Friends of The Australian Ballet

Level 4, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks Sydney

P: 02 9252 7322 | F: 02 9252 7366 | www.fab.org.au

email: admin@fab.org.au | Instagram: @friendsausballet

Facebook: facebook.com/friendsofAB

Katie Hayward, Marketing and Events Manager

Lynn Neilsen, Administration Coordinator

