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The Australian Ballet returns to New York

The company celebrates its 50th anniversary with three North American premieres

After a more than decade-long absence, The Australian Ballet returns to the United States as part of their historic 50th anniversary celebrations.

The company will visit **New York from June 12 – 17, 2012** with three works making their North American stage debut at the David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center. Two distinctly Australian programs will be presented, allowing American audiences to discover a company in peak form.

Graeme Murphy's critically acclaimed **Swan Lake** is the perfect illustration of the company's innovative and dynamic style. This brilliant interpretation has won more than ten major awards and sold out theatres at home and around the world.

The contemporary counterpart to this program is an all-Australian mixed bill, featuring Wayne McGregor's rule-breaking **Dyad 1929** (created on The Australian Ballet's dancers in 2009) and an entirely new work choreographed by Stephen Page in an exciting collaboration with **Bangarra Dance Theatre**. This work will have its world premiere in Australia in February 2012. Joining this bill is a third yet-to-be-announced piece.

The artistic director of The Australian Ballet, David McAllister, is thrilled to be bringing the company back to New York with a stellar repertoire that showcases the company's strength and artistry.

"This is an amazing opportunity to see The Australian Ballet perform stunning works which have defined and shaped us. This is our eighth tour of the United States, and we love performing there," said McAllister.

"These works are all unique to the company and I can't wait to share them with American audiences for the very first time."

International touring has always been an important part of The Australian Ballet's vision. The company has visited 37 countries and 87 cities in its lifetime, developing a global reputation for technical excellence, versatility and dramatic flair.

On The Australian Ballet's last visit in 1999, *The New York Times* proclaimed "the company has a sleekness, clarity and modern spirit", while the *New York Post* praised the "Wonder from Down Under".

In 2012, the company will be travelling to New York with a touring party of 120 members. The dancers will be joined by artistic, technical, wardrobe, medical and music staff. More than 650 costumes and 250 pairs of pointe shoes will travel 16,500 kilometres to reach their destination.

Home to the New York City Ballet and New York City Opera, the recently refurbished David H. Koch Theater in the heart of the city's arts district will host the company. Seating more than 2,500 patrons, its lighting, acoustics and flooring are specifically designed for ballet.

"This tour is just one of the ways The Australian Ballet are celebrating our 50th milestone," said McAllister. "There will be lots of surprises in store for audiences at home to look forward to!"

The Australian Ballet will announce its full 50th anniversary program later this year.

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NEWS FROM

The Australian Ballet



DATES

Australian mixed bill

(*Dyad 1929*, Bangarra collaboration, third work to be announced)

June 12 – 13, 2012 (2 performances)

Swan Lake

June 15 – 17, 2012 (4 performances)

All performances will take place at the David H. Koch Theater, Lincoln Center, New York.

Tickets will go on sale to the general public later this year. Visit www.australianballet.com.au/newyork for further updates.

CREDITS

DYAD 1929 (2009)

Choreography Wayne McGregor

Music Steve Reich *Double Sextet*

Stage concept Wayne McGregor and Lucy Carter

Costume design Moritz Junge

Lighting design Lucy Carter

Collaboration with Bangarra Dance Theatre (2012)

Choreography Stephen Page

Music David Page

Costume design Jennifer Irwin

Set design Jacob Nash

SWAN LAKE (2002)

Choreography Graeme Murphy

Creative associate Janet Vernon

Music Pyotr Ilyitch Tchaikovsky

Set and costume design Kristian Fredrikson

Concept Graeme Murphy, Janet Vernon and Kristian Fredrikson

Lighting design Damien Cooper

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