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50 luminous years of The Australian Ballet

A year of celebrations in store as 2012 season announced

The Australian Ballet has launched a blockbuster program to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2012.

Revealing the season repertoire in Melbourne today, Artistic Director David McAllister announced five new commissions – including a traditional *Swan Lake* – along with classic revivals of audience favourites, an all-Australian dance party and a special international gala.

This milestone season is the culmination of a three-year program showcasing the company's rich history and achievements. McAllister says the championing of original works is a bold move into the future.

“Over 50 years, the company has developed a dynamic and unique style, and I'm so proud to have so many Australian choreographers featured in such a historic year,” said McAllister.

“This really is our biggest season ever. There's traditional full-length works mixed in with more experimental triple bills, extensive national and regional tours, a free outdoor performance and a host of Education programs. We want to share our 50th birthday with as many people as possible!”

The 50th anniversary 2012 season:

- *Infinity*
- *Onegin*
- *Let's Dance*
- *Icons*
- *Swan Lake*
- *50th Anniversary Gala*
- *Romeo & Juliet*
- *New York international tour*

Infinity brings together three trailblazers of Australian dance: **Graeme Murphy**, **Stephen Page** and **Gideon Obarzanek**. Each will bring their unique style to three brand-new works with a contemporary edge.

A much loved classic, **John Cranko's *Onegin*** brims with emotion and human drama. Set to a stirring Tchaikovsky score, 1820s St Petersburg will come to life in this tragic tale of lost love.

Leading dance companies around the country will join forces for a celebration in ***Let's Dance***. Adding to the festivities will be the premiere of a new work by rising choreographic star **Tim Harbour**.

Pivotal works from the company's formative years will be restaged in ***Icons***. ***The Display***, ***Gemini*** and ***Beyond Twelve*** were all seminal works of their time and instrumental in developing the company's national dance identity.

What better birthday present to the company and Australian audiences than a new, traditional ***Swan Lake*** choreographed by **Stephen Baynes** with **David McAllister** as creative associate and costumes designed by Hugh Colman.

In the week marking our 50th birthday, artists from the world's leading ballet companies will gather for an **50th Anniversary Gala**. The Australian Ballet will showcase its world-class dancers with the beautifully demanding work ***Etudes***.

Following the world premiere in 2011, **Graeme Murphy's *Romeo & Juliet*** will travel to Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth. Ballet fans in Canberra will also be treated to a free outdoor performance with **Telstra's Ballet in the Gardens**.

On the touring front the company will embark on its 32nd international tour to **New York** in June. **The Dancers Company** will tour extensively throughout regional areas in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria with the lively Spanish classic *Don Quixote*.

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For media enquiries or to receive a copy of the 2012 media kit, please contact:

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NEWS FROM

The Australian Ballet



Five new Australian commissions, lush costumes, inspirational music, a swag of international guest artists and an impressive back catalogue of repertoire is enough to make any ballet fan dizzy. 2012 is one 50th birthday party you won't want to miss.

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