

The Australian Ballet

GRAEME MURPHY'S

# ROMEO & JULIET

**Artistic Director**

David McAllister AM

**Executive Director**

Valerie Wilder

**Music Director & Chief Conductor**

Nicolette Fraillon

**Concertmaster**

Adam Chalabi

with Orchestra Victoria  
the Arts Centre, State Theatre

Wednesday evening  
21 September 2011

There will be one interval of 20 minutes

This performance will conclude at approximately  
9.55pm

**FREE FORUM**

**DANCE AS A CAREER**

Suitable for age 10 to adult  
SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 5PM – 6PM  
the Arts Centre, State Theatre

If you are passionate about dance, don't miss our Dance as a Career forum. Artistic Director David McAllister and dancers of The Australian Ballet will discuss topics such as auditioning for a company and what to expect from a career, as well as answering your questions.

This event will be AUSLAN interpreted.

**Free entry. Register**

at [australianballet.com.au/danceasacareer](http://australianballet.com.au/danceasacareer)

**To find out more about our Education program**

visit [australianballet.com.au/education](http://australianballet.com.au/education)

**The 10<sup>th</sup> performance in the world premiere season of**

**ROMEO & JULIET**

*Juliet*

Madeleine Eastoe

*Romeo*

Kevin Jackson

*Mercutio*

Daniel Gaudiello

*Benvolio*

Jacob Sofer

*Tybalt*

Andrew Killian

*Paris*

Ben Davis

*Lord Capulet*

Damien Welch\*

*Lady Capulet*

Amy Harris

*Holy Man*

Jarryd Madden

*Juliet's nurse*

Elizabeth Hill\*

*Prince of Darkness*

Adam Bull

*Prince of Peace*

Tristan Message\*

*Lord Montague*

John-Paul Idaszak

*Lady Montague*

Alice Topp

*Betrothed*

Karen Nanasca

Chengwu Guo

With Artists of The Australian Ballet  
and Students of the May Downs School of Dance

\*Guest artist

Additional Guest Artists: Colin Peasley, Frank Leo,  
Megan Connelly

**OUR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON – GOLDEN!**

In 2012 we'll be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday with a glittering season featuring iconic works from our repertoire, five world premieres, and a new production of the classical masterpiece *Swan Lake*. It's a party you'll never forget! 2012 season packages are on sale now. Visit [australianballet.com.au](http://australianballet.com.au) for more info and bookings.

**LUMINOUS: OUR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BOOK**

*Luminous* captures 50 years of The Australian Ballet in photographs. A lavish 368 pages of iconic images and never-seen-before shots, accompanied by essays by Australia's leading arts writers, make it the perfect memento of the company you love. Get your copy from The Australian Ballet Shop. ([australianballet.com.au/shop](http://australianballet.com.au/shop))

**ROMEO & JULIET ON STVDIO**

Relive the magic of *Romeo & Juliet* in your own living room! STVDIO will be filming tonight's performance of *Romeo & Juliet* for a live broadcast. Look out for it on STVDIO over the next few months.

*Smoke effects will be used in this production*

*This season of Romeo & Juliet is dedicated to Dame Margaret Scott AC, DBE*

Government Partners



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# The Australian Ballet

GRAEME MURPHY'S

# ROMEO & JULIET

*Concept and choreography* Graeme Murphy  
*Creative associate* Janet Vernon  
*Music* Sergei Prokofiev  
*Costume design* Akira Isogawa  
*Set design* Gerard Manion  
*Lighting design* Damien Cooper  
*Projection design* Jason Lam

**The costume creation for this production was made possible by a generous gift from the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation with a matching gift from The Ian Potter Foundation**

Wallpaper design CHATTERTON F5710-01 used by kind permission of Osborne and Little

These performances of *Romeo and Juliet* by Sergei Prokofiev are given by permission of Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd, exclusive agents for Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd of London

## SYNOPSIS

Between the Montagues and Capulets there is a bitter and ancient feud. Romeo, a son of the Montagues, goes uninvited to a Capulet ball and is instantly smitten with Juliet, the daughter of the house. Later that night, Romeo visits Juliet's balcony, and they rapturously declare their love.

A sympathetic Holy Man marries the pair in secrecy, and they arrange to meet in Juliet's bedroom that night. But before their marriage is consummated, Tybalt, Juliet's hot-tempered cousin, meets Romeo in the market place and tries to provoke him into a fight. When he refuses, Tybalt brawls with Romeo's dear friend Mercutio and kills him. Enraged, Romeo kills Tybalt and is sentenced to exile.

Before he leaves, the lovers spend their wedding night together. They part the next morning in despair. Juliet's parents announce their plan to marry her to the nobleman Paris, so she resorts to a drug that will send her into a death-like trance.

Romeo, in exile, hears of Juliet's death and, missing the messenger sent to assure him she is alive, rushes to her tomb, where he finds and kills the mourning Paris. Overcome with grief for his lost love he drinks poison and dies by Juliet's side – just as she wakes from her drugged sleep. Finding Romeo's body, she stabs herself with his dagger and the two lovers lie together in death.

## CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE

This timeless tale is in fact a tale for ALL times. LOVE transforms and transcends, opening a door to reveal a different world, where time bends and stretches and landscapes appear both familiar and foreign. Into this world our lovers stray, to pit their passion against bigotry, conflict and hatred. DEATH also transforms and transcends – flesh melts and becomes earth in life's continuum.

William Shakespeare's prose is legend, his words immortal. My words, written in flesh and sweat, are ephemeral. Though I strive for some gestural equivalent, my language can only be read through the lens of the dancers' artistry. Happily the commitment and talent of this company is my greatest ally.

I am indebted to David McAllister for giving me the opportunity to tackle this glorious tale, and I am in awe of The Australian Ballet's set design, costume and technical departments, who have supported my long-time collaborators Akira Isogawa, Gerard Manion, Damien Cooper and Jason Lam in realising their extraordinary visions. I also thank the music department, led by Nicolette Fraillon, whose research and advice has been invaluable. My personal Juliet, Janet Vernon, has been as lovingly determined as Ms Capulet Jnr to put right my wrongs and find solutions to the many twists and turns of this ballet's journey.

I trust my *Romeo & Juliet* brings some truths and perhaps tears to you, the audience, and, I hope, some small measure of pride to my teacher, mentor and friend Dame Margaret Scott, to whom it is lovingly dedicated.

*Graeme Murphy 2011*