

NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET

For immediate release: Wednesday 23 May 2018



The Australian Ballet's *Coppélia*. Photo Justin Ridler.

The Australian Ballet Regional Tour brings the beloved *Coppélia* to far-reaching audiences across Australia

The Australian Ballet is thrilled to be bringing the much-loved ballet *Coppélia* to regional and remote communities in Australia in 2018. The critically acclaimed production will be presented in Victoria, Queensland and the Northern Territory from **18 July to 24 August**.

The Australian Ballet 2018 Regional Tour will include rarely visited cities such as Bundaberg, Alice Springs, Darwin and Cairns, where it will perform at a special outdoor venue, Munro Martin Parklands. During this year's Regional Tour, The Australian Ballet will also be 'deep-diving' into the local communities through activities for children, schools and community groups beyond the stage.

Executive Director Libby Christie said: "From our earliest years, The Australian Ballet has been committed to sharing the transformative power of dance with all Australians, including ballet lovers in regional communities. We're delighted to be bringing this production of *Coppélia* on such an extensive tour in 2018. This year our touring activities will include programs on and off the stage, which connect us with broader communities as well as our regional ballet lovers. Our touring party of 42 will cover more than 11,300 km this year, including the Northern Territory and Far North Queensland. We're excited to continue our tradition of creating unforgettable experiences for our regional audiences."

The tour is expected to reach over 9,500 audience members in regional locations across three states, showcasing the artistry and technical skills of performers of The Australian Ballet and graduating students of The Australian Ballet School. In addition, aspiring dancers from Darwin and Alice Springs will be offered the rare

opportunity to audition for a coveted one-week professional development placement with The Australian Ballet.

The Australian Ballet will also engage with local communities through education and community programs. As part of the tour, The Australian Ballet's education team will visit 15 schools in regional Victoria, Queensland and the Northern Territory, giving over 3,600 students the chance to experience fun and immersive workshops free of charge. It will also offer programs that give regional communities the opportunity to look 'behind the curtain'.

Artistic Director David McAllister said: "Regional touring plays a pivotal role in transporting Australians out of the ordinary and into a world of imagination and beauty. Each year since 1982, The Australian Ballet Regional Tour has visited regional centres throughout the country, presenting a diverse repertoire to new audiences. This year, we're delighted to be bringing one of the classic family favourites *Coppélia* on the road. *Coppélia* has an important place in The Australian Ballet's history. It was performed during the company's inaugural season in 1962 and later revived in 1979 in a new production by The Australian Ballet's founding Artistic Director Dame Peggy van Praagh and the renowned theatre director George Ogilvie."

The Australia Ballet Regional Tour is made possible thanks to the support of Principal Partner, Telstra.

Telstra's Chief Financial Officer Warwick Bray said the company's 34-year partnership with The Australian Ballet has helped connect more Australians in regional cities and towns with the magic of ballet.

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"We are dedicated to supporting the communities our customers and employees call home. We are incredibly proud of our long-standing partnership with The Australian Ballet because, together, we are helping regional audiences connect with world-class performers while also encouraging local rising stars."

About *Coppélia*

Transporting audiences from the everyday to a magical world, *Coppélia* is a spectacular production, set to Léo Delibes' cheery score, perfect for the whole family.

Audiences will meet lovers Swanilda and Franz and their neighbour Dr Coppelius, an eccentric toy maker who dreams of bringing his mechanical toys to life. Dr Coppelius has a daughter who is not what she seems and Swanilda must rescue Franz from the magician's sinister doll-filled hair – with the help of some fancy footwork.

Bursting with sorcery and masquerade, romance and high jinks, this is the funniest, sunniest ballet audiences will see in 2018.

What the critics had to say:

"Kristian Fredrikson's costumes and sets are sumptuous, the dancing is neat and engaging, and children in particular will enjoy the story." **The Age**

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Horsham, Horsham Town Hall
Wednesday 18 July, 7.30pm

Narre Warren, Bunjil Place Theatre
Friday 20 July, 7.30pm
Saturday 21 July, 1.30pm and 7.30pm

Toowoomba, Empire Theatre
Wednesday 25 July, 7.30pm

Bundaberg, Moncrieff Entertainment Centre
Saturday 28 July, 7.30pm

Gladstone, Gladstone Entertainment Centre
Tuesday 31 July, 7.30pm

Mackay, Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre
Friday 3 August, 7.30pm

Cairns, Munro Martin Parklands
Saturday 11 August, 7:30pm

Alice Springs, Araluen Arts Centre
Friday 17 August, 7.30pm
Saturday 18 August, 1.30pm and 7.30pm

Darwin, Darwin Entertainment Centre
Thursday 23 August, 7.30pm
Friday 24 August, 7.30pm

STEP INSIDE the Ballet

The Australian Ballet's much-loved Step Inside program offers a rare look behind the curtain.

Open Day. The Australian Ballet is taking over Munro Martin Parklands in Cairns for a free morning of classes, giveaways and a celebration of all things ballet.

Cairns, Munro Martin Parklands
Saturday 11 August, 9:30am to 2:00pm

Open classes give dance students the chance to participate in a class on stage with a member of the artistic staff, with live piano accompaniment.

Cairns, Munro Martin Parklands
Saturday 11 August, 10:30am

Darwin, Darwin Entertainment Centre
Friday 24 August, 4.30pm

Behind the Scenes. Join us for a special peek into the daily life of our dancers. From your theatre seat you'll watch as they take class on stage and fine-tune their technique in preparation for a performance. This is a unique, behind-the-scenes look at what it really takes to prepare for a performance.

Narre Warren, Bunjil Place Theatre
Saturday 21 July, 12.00pm

Bundaberg, Moncrieff Entertainment Centre
Saturday 28 July, 12:00pm

Alice Springs, Araluen Arts Centre
Saturday 18 August, 12.00pm

Education Workshops

Students will take part in free and fun dance education workshops in their schools that align with the Australian curriculum using an arts approach to delivering science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

Alice Springs, Ntaria School Hermannsburg
For the first time, The Australian Ballet will visit Ntaria School, which is 99% Indigenous.

For other education workshops in **Horsham**, **Cairns** and **Alice Springs**, please visit:

australianballet.com.au/learning-and-development

For further information:

australianballet.com.au

australianballet.com.au/step-inside

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