

NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET

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Callum Linnane and Coco Mathieson in *Aurum*. Photo Jeff Busby

Dancers and choreographers of The Australian Ballet take to the stage in New York this May

This May, 12 dancers and three resident choreographers from The Australian Ballet will head to New York to present three original works, including one world premiere, at The Joyce Theater as part of a two-week celebration of Australian dance.

At the invitation of The Joyce Theater New York, The Australian Ballet will be featuring the imaginative works of three of Australia's leading choreographers, who have all danced and developed their choreographic careers with The Australian Ballet. The program includes 2005 Helpmann award winning *Unspoken Dialogues* by Stephen Baynes, *Aurum* by Alice Topp, created with the support of a Rudolf Nureyev Prize for New Dance, and the world premiere of a new work by Tim Harbour, *Chairman Dances*.

Following its long tradition of touring works unique to the company, this New York program presents an outstanding opportunity to showcase the world class Australian creative talent of The Australian Ballet. Since the company first began its international touring program in 1965, The Australian Ballet has visited 88 cities across 37 countries. The company completed its ninth tour to China in 2018 and last performed in New York in 2012 to celebrate its 50th anniversary and in 2014 for the Fall for Dance Festival.

"Once again we are touring a uniquely Australian program featuring our home grown choreographers and works created especially for The Australian Ballet. The intimate setting of The Joyce Theater will be a wonderful platform for the world premiere of Tim Harbour's *Chairman Dances*, the American premiere of Alice Topp's Nureyev Prize winning *Aurum* and the return of Stephen Baynes' haunting *Unspoken Dialogues*," says Artistic Director David McAllister.

Australian Consul-General Alastair J M Walton remarked "I'm delighted that The Australian Ballet is bringing its outstanding talent to the New York stage. The Australian Consulate-General has been working hand in hand with The Joyce Theater to support this collaboration and the promotion of Australian culture in outstanding American institutions. Every day we work to bring our two great countries more closely together in every field."

Baynes' award-winning pas de deux *Unspoken Dialogues* is set to the music of contemporary Russian composer Alfred Schnittke. What began as a short workshop piece presented at Melbourne's Malthouse Theatre in 1995, was revisited and transformed into work that captured the whole sonata. This new choreography was created on Steven Heathcote and Justine Summer as part of the 2004 *Southern Lights* triple bill in 2004. This work has been celebrated around the world with performances in London in honour of The Royal Ballet's 75th Anniversary in 2015 and as a part of The Australian Ballet's 2015 China Tour.

Alice Topp's *Aurum* was created especially for The Australian Ballet's contemporary triple bill program *Verve* in 2018. The work was created with the support of the Rudolf Nureyev Prize for New Dance awarded by The Joyce Theater with major funding from the Rudolf Nureyev Dance Foundation. *Aurum* draws inspiration from the Japanese art of kintsugi—repairing cracked pottery with precious metals—and explores damage, healing, and the beauty of our flaws. The dancers' powerful movement is framed in breathtaking stage design featuring a reflective golden floor and ripples of burnished light.

Harbour's brand new *Chairman Dances* is a whimsical interpretation of the energetic music by John Adams of the same name, which will showcase the incredible dancers of

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NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET

The Australian Ballet on the world stage. This Joyce Theater season will see the global premiere of this work.

The Australian Ballet appears at The Joyce Theater thanks to the support of its generous patrons, and its partners: the Australian Government (through the Department of Communications and the Arts); Major International Tour Partner IFM Investments; International Tour Partner Telstra; and Official Airline Partner Qantas. Thanks also to those who contributed to The Australian Ballet's International Touring Fund. The company extends its deep gratitude to these invaluable supporters.

CREDITS

Unspoken dialogues
Choreography Stephen Baynes
Music Alfred Schnittke
Costume design Michael Pearce
Original lighting design Rachel Burke

Aurum
Choreography Alice Topp
Music Ludovico Einaudi
Costume design Alice Topp
Stage and lighting design Jon Buswell

Chairman Dances
Choreography Tim Harbour
Music John Adams
Costume design Tim Harbour
Lighting design Jon Buswell

DATES

New York, United States

9 MAY – 12 May
Joyce Theater
Tickets: <https://joyce.org/performances/australian-ballet>

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