

NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET

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

The Australian Ballet Regional Tour brings 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 2019. The critically acclaimed production will be presented in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia from **3 to 24 August**.

The Australian Ballet 2019 Regional Tour will visit Griffith, Albury and Wagga Wagga in New South Wales, Tanunda and Mount Gambier in South Australia and Shepparton and Warragul in Victoria. During the tour, The Australian Ballet will also 'deep-dive' into the local communities through activities for children, schools and community groups beyond the stage.

Executive Director Libby Christie said: "The Australian Ballet Regional Tour is a highlight on our annual calendar. This is a vital initiative in our commitment to engaging with local communities across the nation and sharing not only our artistry, but our people and resources through a hands-on community approach. We believe in the transformative power of dance and strive to touch the hearts and minds of as many people as possible in all corners of the country through our regional touring."

The tour is expected to reach more than 5,000 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.

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, New South Wales and South Australia, giving more than 3,600 students the chance to experience free fun and immersive workshops. It will also offer programs that give regional communities an opportunity to peek 'behind the curtain'. In addition to the Regional Tour, the Education team will continue its journey

of educating and inspiring communities in remote areas of Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia.

Artistic Director David McAllister said: "Our regional tour is a vital link to the audience who love ballet around the country. So many of our dancers through the years have come from remote and regional areas and to have the opportunity to see their national ballet company in or close to their home town is important to ensure dancers from around Australia continue to aspire and dream big."

"*Coppélia* is one of the iconic works in The Australian Ballet's repertoire and is a ballet we have performed around the globe. This production will bring magic and joyous dancing to audiences in NSW, South Australia and Victoria and makes for an inspiring night in the theatre."

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

Telstra's Group Executive of Legal & Corporate Affairs, Carmel Mulhern said: "The company's 35-year partnership with The Australian Ballet has helped connect more Australians in regional cities and towns with the magic of ballet."

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

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Bursting with sorcery and masquerade, romance and high jinks, this is the funniest, sunniest ballet audiences will see in 2019.

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

Griffith, Griffith Regional Theatre
Saturday 3 August, 1.30pm and 7.30pm

Wagga Wagga, Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre
Tuesday 6 August, 7.30pm
Wednesday 7 August, 7.30pm

Shepparton, Westside Performing Arts Centre
Friday 9 August, 7.30pm
Saturday 10 August, 1.30pm and 7.30pm

Albury, Albury Entertainment Centre
Tuesday 13 August, 7.30pm
Wednesday 14 August, 7.30pm

Warragul, West Gippsland Arts Centre
Saturday 17 August, 1.30pm and 7.30pm

Tanunda, Brenton Langbein Theatre
Wednesday 21 August, 7:30pm

Mount Gambier, Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre
Saturday 24 August, 1.30pm and 7.30pm

STEP INSIDE the Ballet

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

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.

Wagga Wagga, Wagga Wagga Civic Centre
Wednesday 7 August, 4.30pm

Shepparton, Westside Performing Arts Centre
Friday 9 August, 4.30pm

Albury, Albury Entertainment Centre
Wednesday 14 August, 4.30pm

Warragul, West Gippsland Arts Centre
Saturday 17 August, 4.30pm

Tanunda, Brenton Langbein Theatre
Wednesday 21 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.

Griffith, Griffith Regional Theatre
Saturday 3 August, 12.00pm

Wagga Wagga, Wagga Wagga Civic Centre
Wednesday 7 August, 11.30am

Shepparton, Westside Performing Arts Centre
Saturday 10 August, 12.00pm

Albury, Albury Entertainment Centre
Wednesday 14 August, 11.30am

Warragul, West Gippsland Arts Centre
Saturday 17 August, 12.00pm

Tanunda, Brenton Langbein Theatre
Wednesday 21 August, 11.30am

Mount Gambier, Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre
Saturday 24 August, 12.00pm

For further information:

australianballet.com.au
australianballet.com.au/step-inside

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