

THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET

Principal Artists of The Australian Ballet. Photography Pierre Toussaint



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The Australian Ballet is back performing with its highly anticipated *Summertime at the Ballet*, at Melbourne's Margaret Court Arena

The dancers of The Australian Ballet will be back in the spotlight this February with the long-awaited *Summertime at the Ballet*, marking the company's first performances after almost a year off stage, and the launch of a new era under David Hallberg's directorship. *Summertime at the Ballet* will be staged between 25 – 28 February exclusively at Melbourne's Margaret Court Arena; it's the first time the company has performed at the venue.

Curated by The Australian Ballet's new Artistic Director, David Hallberg, *Summertime at the Ballet* is a stunning display of ballet highlights throughout the centuries and will be a spectacle of impressive proportions. The artistry and versatility of the company's dancers will shine in a selection from ballet's most celebrated classics, new contemporary works and signature repertoire chosen to delight ballet lovers and new audiences alike.

The *Summertime at the Ballet* program will include excerpts from Marius Petipa's *La Bayadère*, Tim Harbour's *Filigree and Shadow*, Steven Baynes' *Molto Vivace*, George Balanchine's *Themes and Variations*, Rudolf Nureyev's *Don Quixote*, Ronald Hynd's *The Merry Widow*, Alice Topp's *Logos* and Lucas Jervies' *Spartacus*. It will also feature Balanchine's *Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux*.

A perfect night out for families, dance-lovers as well as those seeing ballet for the first time, *Summertime at the Ballet* offers something for everyone at an accessible price point.

The classics will take audiences on a journey through lavish early 20th-century Paris, with 20 dancers waltzing across the stage in *The Merry Widow*; to soul-stirring Spain, as two principal artists perform the technically demanding Act III pas de deux from *Don Quixote*; then to intoxicating India, where 24 dancers in white tutus will appear to float in the ethereal Kingdom of the Shades scene from *La Bayadère*. Audiences will be dazzled by the sumptuous costumes customary to traditional ballets.

Lovers of modern work will revel in the contemporary whip-fast choreography of *Filigree and Shadow*, performed to electro music by 48nord, and the raw emotion of a pas de deux from the newest work in the program, Alice Topp's 2020 ballet *Logos*, set to a score by Ludovico Einaudi.

The Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet, David Hallberg, says: "*Summertime at the Ballet* will be momentous for many reasons; firstly, it brings to life my first-ever showcase for the company I now have the privilege to lead; and secondly, it marks the moment our extraordinary dancers will showcase their artistry to audiences in almost 12 months. I have carefully selected these excerpts as they encompass the versatility of these artists through the beauty of dance. Performed in a new venue, it will highlight the company with a fresh angle, in Melbourne only.

Margaret Court Arena will provide a spectacular space for the company's first performances on-stage since March. The Australian Ballet and Melbourne & Olympic Parks has

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News from The Australian Ballet

worked closely and diligently with government bodies on its COVID-safe plan for live performance.

The Executive Director of The Australian Ballet, Libby Christie, says: "We would like to thank the Victorian Government for its tremendous support through Creative Victoria's Strategic Investment Program in helping us bring our *Summertime at the Ballet* season to the stage through their Strategic Investment Fund, and would also like to thank our new partner Audi for helping us bring ballet back to our beloved audiences. After a year of cancelled performances, this is a momentous occasion for Australia's national ballet company, and we can't wait to be back on stage again. We are working very closely with Melbourne & Olympic Parks Trust to ensure we follow required and Victorian Government COVID-safe regulations to ensure our *Summertime at the Ballet* season is of the highest COVID-safe standards to protect our artists and audiences."

Summertime at the Ballet is a must-attend event for people and families of all interests and will guarantee a special night out thanks to the joy-inducing spirit of dance.

MELBOURNE

25 – 28 FEBRUARY

Margaret Court Arena
With Orchestra Victoria

FOR TICKETS PLEASE VISIT:

australianballet.com.au/the-ballets/summertime-at-the-ballet

PRODUCTION CREDITS

The Kingdom of the Shades
from *La Bayadère*
Choreography Marius Petipa
Music Ludwig Minkus
arranged by John Lanchbery

Trio from *Filigree and Shadow*
Choreography Tim Harbour
Music 48nord

Pas de deux from *Molto Vivace*
Choreography Stephen Baynes
Music George Frederic Handel
Largo from *Xerxes*

Tschaikovsky Pas de Deux
Choreography George Balanchine
©The George Balanchine Trust
Music Piotr Illyich Tchaikovsky
Excerpt from *Swan Lake*, Op. 20, Act III

Act III Pas de deux from *Don Quixote*
Choreography Rudolf Nureyev
Music Ludwig Minkus
arranged by John Lanchbery

Waltz from *The Merry Widow*
Choreography Ronald Hynd
Music Franz Lehár
arranged by John Lanchbery

Excerpts from Act I of *Spartacus*
Choreography Lucas Jervies
Music Aram Khachaturian
Pas de deux and finale from

Clay Duet (excerpt from *Logos*)
Choreography and costume design Alice Topp
Music Ludovico Einaudi
'Whirling Winds'

Theme and Variations
Choreography George Balanchine
©The George Balanchine Trust
Music Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Excerpt from *Orchestral Suite No.3 in G, Op.55*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://australianballet.com.au>

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