

NEWSFROM
THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET

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The Australian Ballet welcomes South Australian board members

The chair of The Australian Ballet's board, Craig Dunn, today announced the appointment of **Natasha Stott Despoja AO** to the company's board of directors, replacing long-serving South Australian Director John Ellice-Flint, who retires from the board in February 2020. Dunn also announced the appointment of well-known South Australian **Jane McLachlan** to the Australian Ballet Foundation Board.

Thanking **John Ellice-Flint** for his ten years of service as a director, Dunn commented, "John has been a passionate supporter of The Australian Ballet and its dancers over many years and provided his expertise as well as an important connection to the South Australian Government and that state's ballet-loving audience. As well as serving as a board director, John brought his financial skills to our Audit and Risk and Investment Committees over many years. John was instrumental in ensuring the company has a rigorous strategic planning and risk management process in place. On behalf of my fellow directors, I would like to thank John for his great contribution to the ongoing success of the company."

Announcing **Natasha Stott Despoja's** appointment to the board of The Australian Ballet, Dunn said, "We are delighted that Natasha is bringing her remarkable leadership skills and love of ballet to our board. As we head into an exciting new era for the company and announce a new artistic director in 2020, Natasha's contribution to the transformation process will be valuable."

A longtime supporter of both the company and the artform, Natasha describes ballet as her "true love". "I have grown up with The Australian Ballet and to join its board is a great privilege. From dancing as a young

girl and attending The Australian Ballet's performances from a young age, I have always found beauty, inspiration and escape in ballet. It is an honour to join this board and be part of such an esteemed arts organisation that I admire so much."

Natasha Stott Despoja is the founding chair of Our Watch (the Foundation to Prevent Violence Against Women and their Children) and was Australia's Global Ambassador for Women and Girls (2013 – 2016). She is a former Senator for South Australia (1995 – 2008) and a former leader of the Australian Democrats. She is an Honorary Visiting Research Fellow of The University of Adelaide, a member of the Australian National University Council, a member of Board Agenda 50:50 by 2030 Advisory Group and a member of the FIFA 2023 Women's World Cup Steering Committee.

Natasha Stott Despoja AO joins current directors of the board of The Australian Ballet Craig Dunn (Chair), Olivia Bell, Annabelle Chaplain, Penny Fowler, Catherine Harris AO, Catherine Livingstone AO, Edwina McCann, Tony Osmond, Bruce Parncutt AO and Susan Street AO.

Further adding to The Australian Ballet's outstanding cohort of South Australian support, Craig Dunn also announced the appointment of **Jane McLachlan** to the company's Foundation Board to represent South Australia.

A former dancer with a lifelong love of dance and a commitment to bringing the joy of ballet to South Australians, Jane McLachlan commented: "I am thrilled to be joining The Australian Ballet Foundation Board. It

has been my dream to be part of Australia's premiere dance company since I was a young dancer. I am so excited to have the opportunity to be involved in supporting such a fabulous, progressive dance company. I feel so fortunate to be able to play a role in the close-knit family of inspiring, talented artists who make up The Australian Ballet."

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