

Academy^{OF}
Queensland Ballet



ACADEMY OF QUEENSLAND BALLET

Gala

6 – 8 August 2026

Talbot Theatre, Thomas Dixon Centre



From the Academy Director

Welcome to the 2026 Academy of Queensland Ballet *Gala*.

Tonight, we celebrate the dedication, artistry, and achievements of the talented young dancers of our Academy. This annual *Gala* is the culmination of months of rigorous training, creative exploration, and personal growth, providing students with the opportunity to perform in a professional theatre environment and share their work with you.

The journey to this stage requires commitment, discipline, and resilience. Throughout the year, our students have embraced challenges, refined their skills, and supported one another in pursuit of excellence. Their passion, determination, and professionalism are reflected in every performance, and I am immensely proud of all they have accomplished.

This year's program showcases the breadth of training offered by the Academy of Queensland Ballet, from our youngest students appearing in the *Academy Défilé* to our graduate dancers preparing for professional careers. We also have a short

performance by Queensland Ballets' esteemed Jette Parker Young Artists.

Through a diverse collection of classical, character, and contemporary works, audiences will witness not only technical achievement but also the individuality and artistic potential of the next generation of dance artists.

My sincere thanks go to our choreographers, répétiteurs, creative collaborators, Academy faculty and staff, and the many Queensland Ballet teams whose expertise and care make this production possible. I also acknowledge our education partners, donors, scholarship supporters, and philanthropic community for their invaluable contributions.

Finally, thank you to our families, carers, and friends. Your encouragement, sacrifice, and unwavering support are essential to every student's journey.

I hope you enjoy this celebration of talent, creativity, and the bright future of dance.

Christian Tatchev

Director, Academy of Queensland Ballet

Our Supporters

Our grateful thanks go to Dr Philip Bacon AO, Allan Green, Darren and Carmel Brown, Dr Ben Duke and Mrs Cate Heyworth-Smith KC, McLaren Family, Lynette Denny AM, Troy and Karelia Gianduzzo, Anonymous and every supporter and Academy Soirée patron who has donated to the Academy of Queensland Ballet.

We are so deeply grateful to you for supporting the Academy to make the greatest impact in our community, to ensure a world-class training ground for the next generation of artists, to enrich lives and lift the spirits of humanity high – thank you.

Scholarships, awards and bursaries

Ergon Energy & Energex Scholarship
Queensland Department of Education
Li Cunxin Scholarship Fund - Supported by Cathie Reid and Stuart Giles
Queensland Ballet Friends
Paulette Carson Trust, managed by Perpetual Trustees
Ruth Lane Memorial Bursary
Prof Ashley Goldsworthy AO OBE KSS KM
Chris and Kate May

If you would like to know more about how you can support the Academy, please call **07 3013 6660**, email **development@queenslandballet.com.au** or visit **queenslandballet.com.au/support**

Kathleen Lott Ballet Piano Fellowship

Supported by Marion Pender

Queensland Regional Scholarship Fund

Mr Tim Fairfax AC & Mrs Gina Fairfax AC

The Jette Parker Young Artist Program

The Jette Parker Young Artist Program is generously supported by Oak Foundation, Barbara Bedwell, Darren & Carmel Brown, Marietjie & Keith Brown, Brett Clark AM & Maria Clark, Dr Ben Duke & Ms Cate Heyworth-Smith KC, Frazer Family Foundation, Goldburg Family Foundation, Patricia Macdonald Memorial Foundation, CP Morris Fund at the APS Foundation, and Liz & Graeme Wikman.

The Program

Act I

ACADEMY DÉFILÉ

Choreographer _____ Paul Boyd
Composer _____ Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Dancers _____ All Academy Levels

CADETS

Choreographer _____ Vladimir Varkovitsky
Composer _____ Ludwig Minkus
Dancers _____ Lower School Men & Level 5 Ladies

WALTZ OF THE HOURS (EXCERPT FROM COPPÉLIA)

Choreographer _____ Veronika Sheremetieva
after Arthur Saint Leon
Composer _____ Léo Delibes
Dancers _____ Level 4 & Level 6 Ladies

MAZURKA (EXCERPT FROM COPPÉLIA)

Choreographer _____ Lisa Edwards
Composer _____ Léo Delibes
Dancers _____ Level 1

EARTH WHISPER

Choreographer _____ Grant Aris
Composer _____ Adrián Berenguer
Dancers _____ Level 3

VALSE FANTASTIQUE (EXCERPT FROM RAYMONDA)

Choreographer _____ Veronika Sheremetieva
after Marius Petipa
Composer _____ Alexander Glazunov
Dancers _____ Level 2 Ladies

LE NOUVEAU CLASSIQUE

Choreographer _____ Paul Boyd
Composer _____ Alexander Glazunov
Dancers _____ Level 1, Level 2 Men & Level 3

Act II

FLAPPA DAPPA

Choreographer _____ Grant Aris
Composer _____ James P. Johnson & Cecil Mack
Dancers _____ Level 2

PERSONA

Choreographer _____ Amelia Waller
Composer _____ Patrick de Olivera
Dancers _____ Level 1

SWEET VIRTUE

Choreographer _____ Camilo Ramos
Composer _____ Alberto Ginastera
Dancers _____ Jette Parker Young Artists

STUDENT WORKS

Please refer to cast sheets.

INTIMATE DIALOGUES

Choreographer _____ Paul Boyd
Composer _____ Nicola Piovani
Dancers _____ Clark Pre-Professional Program

FINALE

Choreographer _____ Paul Boyd
Composer _____ Alexander Glazunov
Dancers _____ Upper School &
Clark Pre-Professional Program

Duration: Approximately 95 minutes including a 20-minute interval.

Every effort was made to ensure program details were correct at the time of printing, however, details are subject to change where necessary and without notice. Please check academy.queenslandballet.com.au for updates.

Queensland Ballet acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we train and perform. Long before we arrived on this land, it played host to the dance expression of our First Nations Peoples. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the valuable contribution they have made and continue to make to the cultural landscape of this country.

Staff and Production Credits

EXECUTIVE

Executive Director
Dilshani Weerasinghe
Artistic Director
Ivan Gil-Ortega

ACADEMY ARTISTIC TEAM

Director of Academy of Queensland Ballet
Christian Tatchev
Academy Ballet Master & Resident Choreographer
Paul Boyd
Academy Ballet Mistress
Zenia Tatcheva
Head of Lower School
Veronika Sheremetieva
Head of Upper School
Claire Phipps-Males
Pre-Professional Program Coordinator
Camilo Ramos
Guest Academy Program Coordinator
Guy Wheatstone
Foundation Program and Visiting Student Coordinator
Kym Stokes
Academy Teachers
Lisa Edwards
Paige Ristevski
John Sandurski
Associate Teachers
Grant Aris
Tabitha Buttsworth
Amelia Waller
Academy Pianists
Benjamin Drozdovskii
Michelle Kim
Mark Leung
Sunny Na
Catherine Yu
Feodora Zu Hohenlohe

ACADEMY BUSINESS TEAM

Director of Academy Business Operations
Kelly McBurnie
Enrolments Manager
Dr Madelyn Coupe
Education Support and Student Wellbeing Manager
Jacinta Eaves
Academy Administrator
Courtney Adams

PERFORMANCE HEALTH

Head of Performance Health
Michelle White
Academy Physiotherapists
Michelle Istra
Kate Martyn
Academy Strength Coach
Tony Lewis

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Production Manager
Ben Shaw
Stage Manager
Ben Mills
Assistant Stage Manager
Mak Purdy
Head Electrician / Lighting Desk Operator
Corrine Fish
Audio Operator
Fiona Butler
Head Mechanist
Declan Bell
Head of Costume
Laurn Jackson
Academy Costume Manager / Associate Designer
Kathryn Lee
Costume Performance Manager
Barb Kerr
Costume Workroom Manager
Kathi Lionheart
Costumier / Milliner & Costume Administration
Vicki Martin
Costumiers
Rebecca Farag
Isabelle Lacombe
Michelle Potts
Danielle Schache
Holly Watson
Theatre Dresser / Maintenance
Rebecca Farag
Danielle Schache
Ai Shaw
Art Finisher
Elsbeth Cameron

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

Cover Students of the Academy of Queensland Ballet.
Photography David Kelly.

To view our full staff list, please visit
academy.queenslandballet.com.au/about/faculty

THOMAS DIXON CENTRE

HOME OF Queensland Ballet

On Yuggera and Turrbal Country

From its beginnings in 1908 as a boot factory, the heritage-listed Thomas Dixon Centre has been transformed into a world-class performing arts destination, cultural precinct, and home of Queensland Ballet. It features a state-of-the-art theatre, stunning public art, dance studios, and two new dining destinations, Layla and Tom's Kitchen. With health and wellbeing at its heart, the Thomas Dixon Centre has become the first arts precinct in the world to achieve the International WELL Building Certificate.

The revitalisation of the Thomas Dixon Centre is an incredible story of passion, tenacity, and altruism. Queensland Ballet, a not-for-profit arts company, refurbished its heritage home, not only to house its own artists and arts workers for years to come, but to create a vibrant space for its neighbours, sector and wider community.

The Thomas Dixon Centre is an extraordinary space, where stories are shared, creativity flourishes, and connections between artists and audiences are forged.

Discover more about the Thomas Dixon Centre at thomasdixoncentre.com.au and see stories unfold.

 @thomasdixoncentre

 Thomas Dixon Centre

We are welcoming and accepting of people from diverse backgrounds and identities, and strive to create an accessible and inclusive environment for all.

The Academy of Queensland Ballet Partners



Queensland
Government



Kelvin Grove
State College
The Pursuit of Excellence With All Our Might



Part of Energy Queensland



Academy of Queensland Ballet



Queensland Ballet



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