Queensland Ballet

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR LI CUNXIN

Dangerous Liaisons

14 JUNE – 6 JULY, 2019
Regional Queensland Tour
Dangerous Liaisons

14 JUNE – 6 JULY, 2019
Regional Queensland Tour

Choreographer
Liam Scarlett

Composer
Camille Saint-Saëns

Music Arrangement
Martin Yates

Costume & Set Design
Tracy Grant Lord

Lighting Designer
Kendall Smith

Recorded Music Performed* by
Camerata —
Queensland’s Chamber Orchestra

Conducted by
Nigel Gaynor

Lighting Recreated by
Scott Chiverton

DANcERS
Principal Artists
Victor Estévez
Lucy Green
Laura Hidalgo
Yanela Piñera
Camilo Ramos

Senior Soloists
Alexander Idaszak
Kohei Iwamoto
Joel Woellner

Soloists
Vito Bernasconi
Mia Healthcote
Lina Kim
Georgia Swan
Neneka Yoshida

Company Artists
Pol Andres Thio
D’Arcy Brazier
Mali Comlekci
Luke Dimattina
Zhi Fang
Josephine Frick
Liam Geck
Chiara Gonzalez
Serena Green
Tamara Hanton
Alyssa Kelty
Daniel Kempson
Dylan Lackey
Jack Lister
Tonia Locker
Vanessa Morelli
Enko Nakajima
Libby-Rose
Niederer
Suguru Otsuka
Samuel Packer
David Power
Patricio Revé
Lou Spichtig
Isabella Swietlicki
Ari Thompson
Rian Thompson
Laura Tosar
Ze Wu
Sophie Zoricic

Company
Apprentices
Shaun Curtis
Noah Dunlop

Young Artists
Maggie Bryan
Lucy Christodoulou
Oscar Delbao
Jamiie Delmonte
Talia Fidra
Clayton Forsyth
Renee Freeman
Kaho Kato
John Paul Lowe
Edward Pope
Charlie Slater
Hayley Thompson

The performance lasts approximately two hours with one 20-minute interval.

* The performance will use recorded music from Camerata —
Queensland’s Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Nigel Gaynor.

Dangerous Liaisons is a co-production between Queensland Ballet and Texas Ballet Theater.

Casting available on the
Queensland Ballet website.
FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Bienvenue to this tantalizingly wicked tale of love, seduction and manipulation.

— It is a treat and privilege to be bringing you a new Liam Scarlett work, the re-telling of the original 18th century novel by Pierre Choderlos de Laclos, Les Liaisons Dangereuses, following the recent world premiere in Brisbane.

Dangerous Liaisons is a somewhat damning portrayal of the French aristocracy of the 1700s which at its time of release was considered absolutely scandalous.

Following our 2019 season theme, Move Boldly, this is certainly a bold story that we decided to take on under the creative guidance of internationally-acclaimed choreographer Liam Scarlett.

I know Liam has long wanted to create a production based on this story of incredibly complex and intertwined characters and it’s no secret he’s partial to literary classics.

He has such a talent for creating productions around a strong story line and is very influenced by the written word. He thrives on the challenge of creating a ballet from stories full of rich imagery and translating this to the stage without words.

Dangerous Liaisons is no exception as it is a story based entirely around letters that the characters send to one another. It’s always a pleasure to see Liam’s vision unfold through his beautiful choreography and enabled by the stunning set and costume designs of Tracy Grant Lord and under the incredible lighting of Kendall Smith.

Liam worked hand in hand with music arranger, Martin Yates, to create a unique ballet score for the production which is an unlikely yet delightful amalgamation of various known and unknown works by French composer Camille Saint-Saëns.

Whilst we’ve been so privileged to perform a number of Liam’s productions over the last few years this is the first time Liam has created on our Company and what a joy it is to see him at work.

He’s incredibly collaborative, he brings out the best in our dancers, and involves them in the character and story development.

Audiences will be captivated by this production as we unravel a story of seduction, revenge and betrayal by two main characters who will stop at nothing to get back at each other.

Each year our work is generously enabled by the ongoing support of the State and Federal Governments, Principal Partner, Suncorp, Major Partners JCDecaux, Sealy, Shell’s QGC business and Official Airline Partner Virgin Australia. We offer our sincere gratitude to our Partners and Supporters.

Beyond the mainstage performances, our expert team of Education Teaching Artists are delivering a range of magical activities throughout regional Queensland. Early years creative movement classes, community ballet workshops, our signature Ballet for Seniors and teacher professional development activities provide the most beautiful insight into our artform.

On behalf of our Board, staff and dancers, I would like to welcome you to this special tour performance of this bold ballet.

Li Cunxin
Artistic Director
Act 1

PROLOGUE — THE FUNERAL OF THE MARQUIS DE MERTEUIL
— Aristocrats gather to pay their respects to the late Marquis, and his widow, the Marquise de Merteuil. As the mourners disperse, she is deeply comforted by the Comte de Gercourt.

SCENE 1 — MARQUISE DE MERTEUIL’S SALON
Six months have passed and Merteuil is entertaining Madame de Volanges whose daughter, the young, virginal Cécile, has just been announced to be wed. Merteuil is horrified to find out her suitor is Comte de Gercourt. Her music teacher, Danceny, plays for her guests and the young musician soon catches Cécile’s eye, noticed only by Merteuil. The Vicomte de Valmont enters with his valet Azolan. Valmont takes great pleasure seeing his former mistress in such distress, yet agrees to help her seek revenge. The two concoct a malicious bet to corrupt the innocent Cécile, thus exacting Merteuil’s revenge. If Valmont succeeds in this then his prize will be one night again with his former lover, Merteuil.

SCENE 2 — MADAME DE ROSEMONDE’S COUNTRY CHÂTEAU
Valmont travels to the country to visit his aunt, Madame de Rosemonde. Valmont greets his aunt, and then suddenly spots her guest for the summer, Madame de Tourvel. Valmont is left alone with Tourvel, she rebuffs his advances, yet he promises he will write to her and demands that she reply.

SCENE 3 — VALMONT’S PRIVATE CHAMBERS
Émilie and other courtesans are entertaining Valmont as he composes the letter he promised to Tourvel. Once completed, he instructs Azolan to deliver the letter.

SCENE 4 — CÉCILE’S DÉBUTANTE PARTY
During Cécile’s débutante party, Merteuil and Valmont discuss their bet, and Merteuil teases Valmont’s obvious attraction to Tourvel, and so another bet is made. Meanwhile Cécile slips away and chances upon Danceny. Valmont and Merteuil decide to help the two secretly meet. Valmont approaches Tourvel, who leaves after hearing about Valmont’s reputation from Madame de Volanges. Cécile departs with Gercourt, leaving Danceny with Valmont and Merteuil as they coerce him into seeing her in private.

SCENE 5 — CÉCILE’S CHAMBERS
Valmont slips in to Cécile’s chambers to seduce the naïve, virtuous youth. He leaves her sleeping, with Merteuil waiting for confirmation that he has succeeded in corrupting the young woman.

INTERVAL

Act 2

PROLOGUE
— Letters of correspondence are exchanged regarding Valmont’s progress on both Cécile and Tourvel.

SCENE 1 — MERTEUIL’S SALON
Danceny is giving Cécile a music lesson, and finally alone they express their albeit innocent but awkward love. Merteuil enters with Madame de Volanges exposing the secret affair. The engagement to Gercourt is broken off, and Merteuil is left to comfort Danceny.

SCENE 2 — TOURVEL’S CHAMBERS
Valmont enters begging for Tourvel affections, so he can settle his bet with Merteuil, however it becomes obvious that Valmont has actually begun to love her and she softens into him also. He falls asleep and Tourvel writes to Merteuil, unaware of the bet.

SCENE 3 — MERTEUIL’S PRIVATE CHAMBERS
Merteuil has received Tourvel’s letter confessing her feelings for Valmont. He enters triumphantly in order to collect his prize. Merteuil mocks him for his true feelings for Tourvel, and tells him that he must break her heart or he is weak. Valmont retaliates. Fuming, he leaves to seek out Tourvel. Danceny enters as Valmont storms out, Merteuil plays victim and tells Danceny of Valmont’s wrongdoings with Cécile.

SCENE 4 — TOURVEL’S CHAMBERS
Valmont has come to Tourvel. He tells her he never truly loved her, breaking both their hearts. She is left alone, distraught. Danceny enters seeking revenge on Valmont.

SCENE 5 — MERTEUIL’S SALON
Merteuil is entertaining guests when Azolan, followed by a distraught Danceny, enters and announces that Valmont is dead. He carries all the letters given to him by the dying Valmont, and exposes every dark detail of Merteuil’s corruptive plans. The guests leave in disgust and Merteuil is left alone and humiliated clutching to the letters of her loved one.
CHARACTERS

Marquise Isabelle de Merteuil
A wealthy widow

Vicomte Sébastien de Valmont
Merteuil’s former lover

Azolan
Valmont’s Valet

Madame de Rosemonde
Valmont’s Aunt

Madame de Tourvel
Staying with Rosemonde

Madame de Volanges
Merteuil’s Cousin

Cécile Volanges
Volanges’ Daughter

Comte de Gercourt
Engaged to Cécile and former lover of Merteuil

Le Chevalier Raphael de Danceny
A music teacher

Victoire
Merteuil’s confidante

Émilie
A Courtesan

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Technical Director — Cameron Goeg
Stage Manager — Shaun O’Rourke
Assistant Stage Manager — Heather O’Keeffe
Head Mechanist — Don MacKenzie
Production Mechanist — Damien Richardson
Head Electrician — Skye Lilliss
Chief Followspot Operator/Electrician — Will Hughes
Followspot Operator/Electrician — Josh Skipp
Audio Operator — Russell Austen
Set Construction — Iceworks Design
Props Master — Jessica Varley
Head of Wardrobe — Noelene Hill
Deputy Head of Wardrobe — Lauryn Jackson
Principal Cutters — Anna Ilic, Erin Krosch
Cutters — Kathryn Lee, Peggy Moad, Sharon Clarke
Wardrobe Workroom & Art Finishing Coordinator — Zoe Griffiths
Senior Costumier — Isabelle Lacombe
Costumiers — Rebekah Ellis, Vicki Martin, Jayne Warrington, Margie Stafford, Frances Pyper, Anneliese Love-Linay, Elizabeth Ball, Emma Ikin, Karen Blinco, Cassiopeia Fatseas-Lacombe
Millinery — Vicki Martin
Wig & Makeup Stylist — Michael Green
Assistant Wig & Makeup Stylist — Bella Townshend, Georgina Ryland
Headpiece & Jewellery Maker — Suzie Rodgers
Shoe Coordinator — Amanda Newman
Men’s Tights Maker — Emma Shakes
Performance Wardrobe Manager — Erin Krosch
Costume Dresser/Maintenance — Elizabeth Ball, Isabelle Lacombe
Transport — Roadpro Event Services /Russell Austen

Cover: Principal Artist Laura Hidalgo and Senior Soloist Alexander Idaszak
Creative Direction Designfront Photography Juli Balla