

Queensland Ballet
Academy

Queensland Ballet
Academy Gala

11 - 13 AUGUST 2023
TALBOT THEATRE
THOMAS DIXON CENTRE



Every step an
emerging story
inspiring artistic
uplifting enriching spirited
exciting



From the Academy Director

Welcome to the 2023 Queensland Ballet Academy Gala, an annual showcase of our talented young and emerging dancers.

It is a delight to present our annual *Academy Gala* at the Talbot Theatre in Queensland Ballet's stunning home – the Thomas Dixon Centre. We are so fortunate to have access to this beautiful performance space, and grateful for the support of our parent Company who is passionate and dedicated to the future generation of talented artists.

Live performance is an integral part of our young dancers' development as professionals, and we are proud of the commitment and high work ethic they have demonstrated as we approached this season. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their work and dedication - not just for this season, but for their entire training year.

The program you are about to see is a mix of captivating classical and contemporary works. Some of these were created by our students, and others have been created especially for our young dancers, who benefit from the collaborative process between choreographer and dancer.

I must thank our team of passionate professionals and exceptional teaching staff who mentored and worked diligently with the students in the creation of our *Gala*. I would especially like to thank this year's choreographers: Louise Deleur, Paul Boyd and Grant Aris, as well as our stager for *Chaplin*, Amelia Waller. By creating and staging diverse and challenging works, these outstanding professionals are showcasing the strength and versatility of our dancers, and I appreciate their skills and their passion.

I would also like to thank German choreographer, and current Director of Leipzig Ballet, Mario Schröder, for once again allowing us to perform an excerpt from his masterpiece, *Chaplin*.

As always, our *Gala* is a highly collaborative event and my gratitude also goes to our talented Academy musicians, business team, costume and production teams, performance health team, and our wider Queensland Ballet family, who all contributed towards the creation of this season.

Thank you to the Education Minister Grace Grace MP, and our Academic partner, Kelvin Grove State College.

A heartfelt thank you to our donors and supporters, who empower us to train the next generation of young dancers and share the magic of our artform with as many people as possible.

Finally, a big thank you to the parents of our students, whose belief in the power of our art is a constant support for these young dancers.

Enjoy the performance!



Christian Tatchev
Academy Director

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.

Our Dancers

Pre-Professional Program

Alyssa Park
Annabelle McCoy
Asher Flynn-Kann
Ashlee Basford
Corina Poh
Felix Milewski
Gina Lee
Jack Jones
Jazmin Townsend
Jeannie Mok
Jenna Civin
Jorja Signitzer
Lily Paige
Maeve Rooney
Max Jones
Mia Paske
Paige Ristevski
Rin Kono
Rubi Hawkins
Samantha Grammer
Taya Barnard
Telia Townsend
Yasmin Ibrahim
Zara Ibrahim

Level 1

Brooke Tarry
Eli Southurst
Grace Ye
James Willis
Jenson Blight
Jessica Edwards
Jessica McAll
Lily Gogarty
Lucia Minju Song
Matthew Erlandson
Nicole Drynan
Remy D'Ornay
Ruby Day

Contemporary Course

Chloe Van Zanden
Eliza Davis
Hazel Stewart
Jessi Hough
Lucy Hobson
Nicola Anslow
Sophie Hewett
Strahan Cormican-Jones

Level 2

Arran O'Sullivan
Charlotte Falting
Ella Rose Gould
Emmanuel O'Kane
Eusebio Kamide
Juliana Prieto
Kyra Martynov
Leah Chapman

Madeline Hitchen
Maya Irimichi
Mimi Bostock
Monet Hilliard
Sienna Baensch
Sophie Kathage
Wil Hellstedt
Xavier Xue

Level 3

Beatrice Doe
Charlotte D'allura
Elijah-Jade Bowen
Erin Theone King
Kiara Lindsay
Lexie Park
Lucy Hu
Matilda Guerin
Molly Korb
Olivia Canny
Olivia Sztybel
Zi Sione

Level 4

Abby Grieve
Addison Englebrecht
Ari Stewart
Darcy Duane
David Windeyer
Giselle Ellis
Helena Souderi
Hugo Sutherland
Isla Smith
Joshua Durrand
Keira Foale

Moses Waters
Noah Aitken
Olivia Nason
Saebra Gallacher
Samantha O'Dowd
Sayuri Xian
Sophie Wenxin Ter
Yuna Song

Level 5

Aven Burgess
Barbara Illinova
Billi Stewart
Caitlin Buckle
Chloe Sharp
Daisy Aitken
Emelia Weise
Georgia-Rose Shapiro
Hannah Mok
Harper Wood
Inka Kenzler
Jude Males
Kai Burrows
Lowanna McNicol
Madison Small
Peregrine Taylor

Level 6

Ariana Coates
Claire Hirons
Ellyse Stanford
Grace Mattner
Iris Sutherland
Lillah Martin
Milan Arai
Olivia Davison



Program

Act I

Tchaikovsky Suite

"The *Tchaikovsky Suite* origins come from the idea to present a classical work with live music and after delving into the endless Tchaikovsky solo piano possibilities, I selected a suite of works that I felt complimented my creative ideas. The work is designed to showcase the talents, both technically and artistically of our Upper School students." – Paul Boyd

Choreographer
Paul Boyd

Composer
Pyotr Ilyich
Tchaikovsky

Pianist
Catherine Yu

Dancers
Level 1, Level 2
& Level 3

Costume Designer
Kathryn Lee

Powder

"Inspired by the beautiful score by Arvo Pärt, *Powder* is an abstract work with a desire to reach into the depths of one's soul to feel the simplicity of universal truths and our connection to earth." – Louise Deleur

Choreographer
Louise Deleur

Composer
Arvo Pärt

Dancers
Contemporary Course

Chaplin (excerpt)

"Mario Schröder's *Chaplin* explores the man behind the acclaimed character of *The Tramp*. The ballet journeys through the many stages of Charlie Chaplin's life from his humble beginnings, his huge success as a film star and later to his extradition from America due to his political values." – Amelia Waller

Choreographer
Mario Schröder
(staged by
Amelia Waller)

Composer
John Adams

Dancers
Pre-Professional
Program



Cover: Level 1 Dancers Ruby Day and Jenson Blight.
Photography David Kelly.

Program Page: Queensland Ballet. Jette Parker Young Artist Hana Nonaka Aillon,
Queensland Academy Gala 2022.
Photography David Kelly.

Act II

T5+1

“Several years ago, I created *T5+1* in collaboration with our male dancers to allow them to showcase their athleticism and physicality. I’m delighted to share the work again and see our young men, and women thrive in the process.” – Louise Deleur

Choreographer
Louise Deleur

Composer
Nebojsa Jovan
Zivkovic

Dancers
Level 1 and
Contemporary Course

Intertwine

Choreographers
Samantha
Grammer and
Jack Jones

Composer
Johann
Sebastian Bach

Dancers
Samantha Grammer
and Jack Jones –
Pre-Professional Program

Toil

“*Toil* is lightly inspired by the imagery surrounding the strength and spirit of the women who work the fields daily to feed their families and communities.” – Louise Deleur

Choreographer
Louise Deleur

Composer
Armand Amar

Dancers
Level 3

The Ritual

“This piece is inspired by the characteristics of a series of actions and rhythmical steps that arise from conventional habits, while consisting of a more traditional reoccurrence of movements in a ceremonial spirited atmosphere.” – Grant Aris

Choreographer
Grant Aris

Composer
Kimmo Pohjonen

Dancers
Level 2

Blue Wave

“An abstract work devised from developing partnering and improvisation skills with the theme of blue water.” – Louise Deleur

Choreographer
Louise Deleur

Composer
Federico Albanese
/ Miguel Marin
Pavon

Dancers
Contemporary
Course

Aureole

“Creating *Aureole* was an opportunity to challenge both myself and our Level 1 dancers in a style that I don’t usually work in. Initially inspired by lighting images, the work has taken several twists and turns throughout the creative process to develop into the work you will see.” – Louise Deleur

Choreographer
Louise Deleur

Composer
Yann Tiersen
Kerber (remixes)/
Byetone

Dancers
Level 1

Burranga (Brolga in Mununjali)

A proud descendent of the Mununjali (Beautesert) and Guugu Yimithirr (Hope Vale) Peoples, Level 3 student, Elijah-Jade’s solo work *Burranga*, relates to her culture and heritage and represents creativity and self-expression. With deep appreciation to Stephen Page for permission to use an excerpt from *Brolga*, composed by Elijah-Jade’s late Uncle David Page (former Bangarra Dance Theatre Music Director). Thank you also to Yolande Brown of the Bidjara Peoples for her outside eye in coaching Elijah-Jade.

Choreographer
Elijah-Jade
Bowen

Composer
David Page

Dancer
Elijah-Jade Bowen -
Level 3

Academy Défilé

“Translation – Grand Parade. Bringing our top eight levels together in a lavish presentation.” – Paul Boyd

Choreographer
Paul Boyd

Composer
Pyotr Ilyich
Tchaikovsky

Dancers
Level 6 - Pre-Professional
Program

Duration: Approximately one hour and 50 minutes, including a 20-minute interval.

This production is performed to recorded and live music.

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.

Our Supporters

Queensland Ballet Academy is generously supported by the Frazer Family Foundation, Ian & Cass George and Mr Trevor St Baker AO & Mrs Judith St Baker. In addition, our grateful thanks go to Dr Philip Bacon AO, Darren & Carmel Brown, John & Lynnlly Chalk, Dr Ben Duke & Mrs Cate Heyworth-Smith KC, Allan Green, McLaren Family and every supporter and Academy Soirée patron who has donated to Queensland Ballet Academy.

We are so deeply grateful to you for supporting Queensland Ballet 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.

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

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Celebrating Li

After 11 years as Artistic Director, Li Cunxin AO has announced his retirement at the end of our 2023 Season.

Many of you have asked us if you could leave a donation to honour Li. Amongst Li's numerous contributions to Queensland Ballet, he is incredibly proud of our Company's commitment to nurturing our young artists of the future. Unsurprisingly therefore, Li has requested that your donations are directed towards our Jette Parker Young Artist Program and Queensland Ballet Academy. To make a donation please visit celebratingli.com.au or use the QR code. Thank you for honouring Li in this way.



[Donate now](#)

Staff and Production Credits

EXECUTIVE

Artistic Director

Li Cunxin AO

Executive Director

Dilshani Weerasinghe

Assistant Artistic Director

Greg Horsman

Queensland Ballet Academy Faculty

ARTISTIC TEAM

Director of Queensland Ballet Academy

Christian Tatchev

Academy Ballet Master & Resident Choreographer

Paul Boyd

Head of Lower School

Veronika Sheremetieva

Head of Contemporary Dance & Resident Choreographer

Louise Deleur

Pre-Professional Program Coordinators

Camilo Ramos

Claire Phipps-Males

Guest Academy Program Coordinator

Guy Wheatstone

Foundation Program Coordinator

Kym Stokes

Academy Teachers

Tabitha Buttsworth

Jiayin Du

Lisa Edwards

Laura Hidalgo

Clare Morehen (maternity leave)

John Sandurski

Associate Teachers

Amelia Waller

Grant Aris

Academy Pianists

Gary Dionysius

Benjamin Drozdovskii

Michelle Kim

Mark Leung

Lucas Lynch

Brett Sturdy

Catherine Yu

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Gabrielle Johnston

Academy Manager

Kali Harris

Admissions and Wellbeing Managers

Nicola Pierrepont

Geoff Smith

Academy Coordinator

Jane Wilkinson

Academy Receptionist

Verity Barnes

Facilities Officers

Riley van der Werf

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Academy Physiotherapist

Louise Drysdale

Melissa Tattam

Grace Williams

Academy Strength Coach

Tony Lewis

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Lighting Programmer and Operator

Riley Silk

Head of Costume

Lauryn Jackson

Academy Costume Manager / Associate Designer

Kathryn Lee

Costume Workroom Manager

Kathi Lionheart

Costumiers

Alloquois Callaway

Isabelle Lacombe

Ella Lollback

Michelle Potts

Chiahui Tseng

Jayne Warrington

Costume Assistant

Giselle Lee

Costume Theatre Supervisor

Sarah Parker

Theatre Dresser / Maintenance

Giselle Lee

Chiahui Tseng

Art Finisher (*Tchaikovsky Suite*)

Maria-Rose Payne

Shoe Coordinator

Amanda Newman

THOMAS DIXON CENTRE

HOME OF Queensland Ballet

On Yuggera and Turrbal Country

From its beginnings in 1908 as a boot and shoe factory, the heritage-listed Thomas Dixon Centre has been transformed into a world-class performing arts destination and cultural precinct, abundant with stories and home of Queensland Ballet. It features a state-of-the-art theatre, stunning public art, community dance studios, and will soon unfold a beautiful café, and bars. The Thomas Dixon Centre is aiming to achieve the highest WELL accreditation score, with health and wellbeing at its heart.

The Talbot Theatre at the Thomas Dixon Centre is an extraordinary new performance space, where stories are shared, creativity flourishes, and connections between artists and audiences are forged.

The recent revitalisation of the Thomas Dixon Centre is an extraordinary story of passion, tenacity and altruism. Queensland Ballet, a not-for-profit arts company, chose to refurbish 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.

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



@thomasdixoncentre



Thomas Dixon Centre

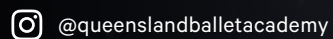
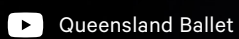
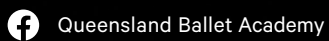
We are welcoming and accepting of people from diverse backgrounds and identities, and strive to create an accessible and inclusive environment for all.

To view our full staff list, please visit queenslandballet.com.au/discover/company/staff

Queensland Ballet Academy is proudly supported by:



EVENT PARTNER



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