

Queensland Ballet
Academy

QB25



Queensland Ballet Academy Gala

15 – 17 August 2025

Talbot Theatre, Thomas Dixon Centre



From the Academy Director

Welcome to the 2025 *Queensland Ballet Academy Gala*, our annual showcase presenting the next generation of professional dancers.

2025 marks our third consecutive year performing on the beautiful Talbot Theatre stage. We extend our deepest thanks to our parent Company for their unwavering support. We are grateful to be able to present the technical and artistic talent of this cohort against such a world-class backdrop, here at the Thomas Dixon Centre, the home of Queensland Ballet.

Every dancer you see on stage today has put in many hours of preparing to bring this season to life. I thank them for their passion, professionalism, and dedication both during the lead-up and throughout the Gala season. I also commend them for their hard work throughout the academic year as they balance their schooling and full-time dance training.

A program like this is only possible because of the contributions of our exceptional choreographers. As per previous years, you are about to see a variety of classical and contemporary works which have been created and/or staged exclusively for the *Queensland Ballet Academy Gala*. I thank Paul Boyd, Amelia Waller, Zenia Tatcheva, Camilo Ramos, and Grant Aris for creating such diverse works that showcase the strength and versatility of our dancers. I also congratulate the students whose choreographic works we are presenting in this program. It is always a pleasure to see the young dancers thriving in this area too.

Additionally, there are many people who have worked behind the scenes to help bring this show to life. I acknowledge and thank the Academy's outstanding teaching faculty, business team, costume and production teams—notably Kathryn Lee and Glenn Hughes for their beautiful costume and production designs respectively—and the Performance Health team for their expertise and commitment to preparing our young dancers for the stage. I also thank the wider Queensland Ballet team for their collaboration and ongoing support.

I would like to acknowledge all our partners and supporters. First, thank you to our academic partner, Kelvin Grove State College, and the Queensland Department of Education for ensuring that these young dancers receive a high-quality education in tandem to their dance studies, and of course, our donors and scholarship supporters, whose generosity allows these young artists to follow their passion and share our art form. Additionally, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the families and friends of our students for their unwavering commitment to nurturing our dancers' talents. A heartfelt thank you for your continued support.

Enjoy the performance!



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely reading 'Christian Tatchev'.

Christian Tatchev
Director of Queensland
Ballet Academy

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 queenslandballet.com.au for updates.

Queensland Ballet Academy 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 and present, and acknowledge the valuable contribution they have made and continue to make to the cultural landscape of this Country.

Our Dancers

PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

Arran O'Sullivan
Ava Eie
Emily Sprout
Gabriel Lowe
Glori Pembroke
Kyra Martynov
Leah Chapman
Lucia Min-Ju Song
Matthew Erlandson
Maya Irimichi
Monet Hilliard
Nicole Drynan
Saya Hibino
Sienna Baensch
Xavier Xué Barriga

LEVEL 1

Ava Smith
Avril Thompson
Beatrice Doe
Charlotte D'Allura
Elijah-Jade Bowen
Erin Theone King
Eusebio Kamide
Lucy Hu
Matilda Guerin
Mimi Bostock

Olivia Canny
Ophelia Grimshaw-Jones
Zi Sione

LEVEL 2

Abby Grieve
Ari Stewart
Charlize Portes-Green
David Windeyer
Esther Smith
Isla Smith
Lila Wilton
Noah Aitken
Olivia Nason
Reina Kuroda
Samantha O'Dowd
Sayuri Barriga
Sophie Wenxin Ter
Yuna Song

LEVEL 3

Aven Burgess
Barbara Ilinova
Billi Stewart
Caitlin Buckle
Chloe Sharp
Daisy Aitken
Emelia Weise
Ethan Baker-Dowdell

Finn Core-Kotevski
Finn Hobba
Hannah Mok
Harper Wood
Inka Kenzler
Jude Males
Kai Burrows
Kara O'Malley
Lowanna McNicol
Paton Still
Peregrine Taylor
Yeonwoo (Emma) Kim

LEVEL 4

Aylah Burr
Chloe Beck
Daye (Christina) In
Ellyse Stanford
Grace Mattner
Lailah Martin
Leila Bell
Milan Arai
Olivia Davison
Ruby Dahl

LEVEL 5

Adalmiina Wade
Escher Kenzler
Genevieve Schofield

Grace (Chun See) Ng
Hannah Frank
Liam Sullivan
Lucy Sadler
Max Lightbody
Milla Cuthbert
Olivia Vieira
Patrick Martin
Sarah Oh
Sylvie Martin
Victoria Vangnaitham
Woohyeon (Anna) In
Yutong Lin

LEVEL 6

Chanelle Krumins
Charlie Small
Charlize Fung
Ethan Sayed
Evan Yong
Indira O'Neill
Juliahna Baldwin
Lukas Goodridge
Madeleine Kluger
Olivia Morgan
Sophie Pryce



The Program

Act I

NATURE'S GATHERING

In keeping with composer Edvard Grieg's Norwegian heritage, my initial inspiration for *Nature's Gathering* came from research into the Norwegian mythological gods and goddesses.

It came upon me that in our ever fast-paced digital world that we currently inhabit, that the elements that these gods and goddesses represent, are maybe what we crave for in today's modern society.

The gods and goddesses of Nature, the Sea, the Sun, Peace, and the Night Sky and Moon became my inspiration. A gathering of all things miraculous, calming, soothing but powerful.... at sunrise they gather.

My heartfelt thanks to my creative team, Glenn Hughes for his evocative lighting design, Kathryn Lee for her exquisite costume designs and my choreographic assistant, Claire Phipps-Males for her keen and watchful eye.

Choreographer _____ Paul Boyd

Composer _____ Edvard Grieg

Dancers _____ Levels 1 – 3

Act II

DUDA

A vibrant dance piece inspired by a 1960s high school party. *Duda* bursts onto the stage with youthful energy, vintage charm, and a crackling undercurrent of rebellion.

Choreographer _____ Grant Aris

Composer _____ Ian Post

Dancers _____ Level 3

CLOSELY AWAY

A work inspired by reminders of someone far away, separated by geography, held together by memory, and the pull of reunion.

Choreographer _____ Grant Aris

Composer _____ Adrian Berenguer

Dancers _____ Level 2

TENDER MOMENTS

A demonstration of classical ballet elegance and technical precision, inspired and performed by our Pre-Professional Program dancers.

Choreographers _____ Zenia Tatcheva, Camilo Ramos

Composer _____ Franz Schubert

Dancers _____ Pre-Professional Program

Performed to recorded music by _____ Roger Cui

COLLUSION

Collusion explores the tension between outward beauty and underlying unrest, drawing inspiration from the concept of the 'gilded cage'. As individuals conspire to escape their surroundings, the dancers navigate illusion, mistrust, and confinement asking whether freedom is real or simply another, more deceptive form of captivity.

Choreographer _____ Amelia Waller

Composer _____ Ran Bagno

Dancers _____ Level 1

Student Works

LUMEN SERPENS

Choreographer ————— Matilda Guerin
Composer ————— Rewired by Wicked Cinema
Dancer ————— Matilda Guerin — Level 1

SPLINTER

Choreographer ————— David Windeyer
Composers ————— DaniHaDani and Maya Belsitzman
Dancer ————— David Windeyer — Level 2

I AM

Choreographer ————— Zi Sione
Composer ————— Dex 1200
Dancer ————— Zi Sione — Level 1

FADING EMBERS

Choreographer ————— Charlize Portes-Green
Composer ————— Romeo
Dancer ————— Charlize Portes-Green — Level 2

Academy Défilé

Grand Parade. Bringing our top seven training levels together in a lavish presentation.

Choreographer ————— Paul Boyd
Composer ————— Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Dancers ————— Pre-Professional Program
and Levels 1 – 6



Duration: Approximately 90 minutes including a 20-minute interval.

Lighting Design by Glenn Hughes.

Our Supporters

Queensland Ballet Academy is generously supported by the Frazer Family Foundation, Ian and Cass George, Mr Trevor St Baker AO and Mrs Judith St Baker, and Allan Green. In addition, our grateful thanks go to Dr Philip Bacon AO, 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 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 development@queenslandballet.com.au or visit queenslandballet.com.au/support

Scholarships, awards and bursaries

Ergon Energy & Energex Scholarship
Queensland Department of Education
Queensland Ballet Friends
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ADFAS Gold Coast
Paulette Carson Trust, managed by Perpetual Trustees
Ruth Lane Memorial Bursary
Prof Ashley Goldsworthy AO OBE KSS KM
Glen Holland
Allison Baden-Clay Scholarship
Chris and Kate May

Queensland Ballet Academy Partners



Part of Energy Queensland



Staff and Production Credits

EXECUTIVE

Artistic Director
Ivan Gil-Ortega
Executive Director
Dilshani Weerasinghe

ACADEMY ARTISTIC TEAM

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

ACADEMY BUSINESS TEAM

Academy Manager
Taylor Atley
Enrolments & Pathways Specialist
Dr Madelyn Coupe
Wellbeing Manager
Jacinta Eaves
Academy Receptionist
Hannah Carden
Facilities Officers
William Brettell
Riley van der Werf

PERFORMANCE HEALTH TEAM

Head of Performance Health
Michelle White
Academy Physiotherapists
Michelle Istria
Academy Strength Coach
Tony Lewis

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Director of Production Services
Shaun O'Rourke
Head of Production
Don Mackenzie
Stage Manager
Bella Wilkinson
Assistant Stage Manager
Tia-Hanee Cleary
Head Electrician / Lighting Coordinator
Riley Silk
Lighting Programmer
Morgan Cole-Jones
Head Mechanist
Declan Bell
Deputy Head Mechanist
Gabriel Richter
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 Assistant
Vicki Martin
Costumier / Assistant Cutter (Nature's Gathering)
Yasmin Rich
Costumiers
Karen Blinco
Bethany Cordwell
Naomi Huntsman
Michelle Potts
Ai Shaw
Chiahui Tseng
Theatre Dresser & Maintenance
Bethany Cordwell
Yasmin Rich
Chiahui Tseng
Art Finisher
Elsbeth Cameron

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

Cover Dancers Erin Theone King and David Windeyer.
Photography David Kelly.
03 Queensland Ballet Academy Défilé.
Photography David Kelly.
05 Queensland Ballet Academy dancers performing in Grant Aris' Above and Beyond in 2024.
Photography David Kelly.
06 Queensland Ballet Company Artist Ruby Day performing in Paul Boyd's Intimate Dialogues in 2024.
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 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, Tom's Kitchen, and Layla. With a WELL Platinum Certification, the Thomas Dixon Centre has health and wellbeing at its heart.

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

The 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.

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GIVING DAY - 9 SEPTEMBER 2025

Quadruple your impact this Giving Day.

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