

The Australian Ballet Society Inc.

Proudly supports The Australian Ballet and The Australian Ballet School

April 2021 – The Event Issue



It's time to dress up!

Amber Scott and Ako Kondo, Principal Artists of The Australian Ballet. Photography by Pierre Toussaint



Welcome to this event edition of our newsletter, full of opportunity to dive back into the world of ballet! We have not one but three events to start off our ballet year in style!

Our first event is, of course, our luncheon for David McAllister AM

By now you have received your invitation and many of you are clearly as excited as we are to be able to say thank you to David in the luxurious surroundings of The Metropolis at Southgate on **Wednesday 19 May, 12 pm–3pm**. We can confirm that Steven Heathcote AM and Elizabeth Toohey will share some stories and thoughts about David, his dancing career, and his time as the Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet. We also have some extremely exciting items to bid on in our silent auction!! Whilst we cannot reveal all our secrets here, rest assured that if you have ever wanted to be up close and personal with a dancer or a musician, want to sit in that 'special' seat at a performance, dream of being a dancer or just want to learn how a dancer prepares and maintains their body, then there may be something there just for you. Whilst the RSVP date may have passed by the time you receive this newsletter, do not worry. Just give us a call and we will weave some magic to ensure that you do not miss out.! You can also email the attached RSVP slip promptly. All tickets will be emailed or posted along with parking instructions; we will of course have a guest list at the door. We can't wait to see you there!

Event Number Two: Morning Melodies Studio Dress Rehearsal

We are incredibly grateful to Lisa Pavane, Director of The Australian Ballet School for offering us strictly limited tickets to a dress rehearsal of the Australian Ballet Schools performance of the *Morning Melodies* repertoire . This year the performance will feature students from Level 7, Level 8 & Post Graduate Year of The Australian Ballet School.

Featuring

- *Paquita*
- *White Nights*
by Stephen Baynes
(new work)
- *Little Chaos*
by Simon Dow
(new work)
- 'Waltz of the Hours'
from *Coppélia*



Image courtesy of The Australian Ballet School

Performed in Studio 7 & 8 on Level 5 of the Ballet Centre, 2 Kavanagh Street, Southbank
Seating in the Studio is strictly limited, bookings are essential, closing 11 May 2021

Tickets: \$25.00

MEMBERS ONLY FUNCTION—Email or send in



Morning Melodies Studio Dress Rehearsal

13th May 2021 1.30 pm

Number of tickets:

Name

Address PostCode.....

EmailTelephone.....

Membership No

Payment CH () MC () VISA () \$

No: / ____ / ____ / ____ / ____ /

Exp Date: __ / __ Signature

Tickets will not be issued— A guest list will be held at the door for COVID purposes

If you miss out on the dress rehearsal tickets, you can still access tickets for Morning Melodies to the performances as listed below.
visit The Australian Ballet School website.

Event Three: Our first dress rehearsal! New York Dialects, A Triple Bill

“Serenade”, “The Four Temperants” (Balanchine) and “Watermark” (Pam Tanowitz)

We are all looking forward to attending a dress rehearsal of *New York Dialects* on Wednesday 2nd June at 1pm and 7 pm. Details of how to purchase tickets are attached. Accessing tickets will be different this year as we need to follow government rules re contact tracing in order to protect ourselves and the dancers. You will find the application form for tickets attached along with details as to how tickets will be issued this year. You will notice that tickets will be issued electronically, but do not stress! Representatives from the Australian Ballet Society will be at each rehearsal to assist and ensure that you all get into the performance on time and ready to immerse yourself into the beautiful world of Balanchine and share the magic of a new work by Pam Tanowitz.

Annual General Meeting

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting on **Thursday 29th April opening at 6.30pm** at the Ballet Centre and via zoom. Voting forms and RSVP details were included in the March newsletter and the zoom link will be available to those that have sent in their RSVP that are unable to attend in person. This is an important meeting where you can hear first hand our plans for 2021 and recap on the year that was. Our President’s report is included in this newsletter. Please call the office to advise if you can attend or if you will be accessing the meeting via zoom.

Telstra Ballet Dancer Awards

We are delighted to share the news that Nathan Brook, a soloist with The Australian Ballet took out both the Rising Star Award and the People’s Choice Award in the Telstra Ballet Dancer Awards announced after the opening night performance of *New York Dialects* in Sydney. The awards have identified the cream of Australia’s dancing crop for nearly two decades, and together have a total prize value of \$40,000. There were 240,000 votes cast for the people’s prize, the highest number in the history of the award. Congratulations to all nominees and especially to Nathan. We will watch his progress with interest over the years to come.

Li Cunxin

As you are aware former Houston Ballet star and later the author of a phenomenally successful memoir, *Mao’s Last Dancer*, Li Cunxin retired from The Australian Ballet after a career as one of its most respected principal dancers in 1999 and went on to become the Artistic Director of the Queensland Ballet after a successful career in finance. You might be interested in viewing two programmes about Li and his family, both which can be accessed on iView (ABC television) at <https://iview.abc.net.au/video/NC2102Q009S00> One was a recent episode of Australian Story and the other sees Anh Do paint a portrait of Li. It is always wonderful to see what one of our favourite dancers are doing. Definitely worth watching!

Newsletter: The Environment and use of time

Don’t forget that you can receive your newsletter online and help save the environment at the same time! Please let us know in the office if you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email rather than in the mail in the future.

We can’t wait to see you at one of our forthcoming events.

You live as long as you dance.

Rudolf Nureyev

D R E S S R E H E A R S A L
NEW YORK DIALECTS A Triple Bill
WEDNESDAY 2 JUNE 2021 AT 1PM & 7PM

Performed by The Australian Ballet at The State Theatre

ALL TICKETS ARE DIGITAL TICKETS AND WILL BE SCANNED UPON ENTRY

Seating in a specific area is not guaranteed

Members are reminded of the conditions which must be met to fulfill theatre requirements as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MEMBERS MUST REMAIN IN THEIR ALLOCATED SEAT THROUGHOUT THE REHEARSAL. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU DO NOT MOVE TO OCCUPY VACANT AREAS IN THE THEATRE

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D R E S S R E H E A R S A L
NEW YORK DIALECTS A Triple Bill

WEDNESDAY 2 JUNE 2021 AT 1PM & 7PM

PLEASE FILL IN ALL DETAILS TO AID EFFICIENT TICKET APPLICATION AND RETURN PRIOR TO 21 MAY 2021, TICKETS WILL BE ALLOCATED IN ORDER OF RECEIPT

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ P/CODE _____ Phone _____

TICKET TYPE

ADULT tickets@ \$65.00

SENIORS tickets@ \$60.00
Seniors Number

STUDENT Under 19 tickets@ \$45.00

PENSIONER tickets@ \$45.00
Pension Number

I consent to my contact information being passed on to The Australian Ballet, who will use this information to process my Dress Rehearsal ticket booking and issue me with my digital tickets at the e-mail address I have specified above.
**Please contact the Office if you do not have e-mail access

TOTAL TICKETS REQUESTED

BALLET SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP NUMBER
MUST BE QUOTED FOR EACH TICKET

.....
.....
.....

SOCIETY MEMBER ALSO SUBSCRIBING TO THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET SEASONS

tickets@ \$50.00
Subscription Series Number

PAYMENT CHEQUE MC VISA

Amount \$ Expiry Date : _ _ / _ _

Card No: _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ / _ _ _ _ /

Name on Card

Signature.....

Please indicate session 1 PM

7 PM

The Australian Ballet – a change to ticketing

From January 2021, The Australian Ballet no longer issues physical tickets to any performances, **including dress rehearsals**. This requirement has been set by the theatres to more effectively manage audience safety and attendance as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Going forward, your tickets will be e-mailed to you as digital tickets, which can be presented on a smart phone at the venue. All tickets will be scanned upon entry to the theatre.

Please familiarise yourself with the following process for dress rehearsal tickets:

1. To book your dress rehearsal tickets, please complete and return your booking form to The Australian Ballet Society ensuring you have provided all details **including your e-mail address**. It is essential to include your e-mail address as it will be used to send your tickets to you. Alternatively, you can phone The Australian Ballet Society Office on (03) 9669 2591 to complete your booking. The Australian Ballet Society will process your booking on receipt.

Please note, dress rehearsal ticket bookings will close on 21st May 2021, before the dress rehearsal. Please ensure you allow enough time to reach the Society office by this date.

2. Approximately one week before the dress rehearsal, The Australian Ballet Society will provide your booking information (excluding payment details) to The Australian Ballet who will process your dress rehearsal ticket order.
3. Within 48 hours of the dress rehearsal, you will receive your dress rehearsal tickets from The Australian Ballet via e-mail to the e-mail address you specified in your original booking.
4. On the day of the dress rehearsal, you will need to have your tickets ready on your phone to present to theatre staff when you arrive at the venue.

Frequently asked questions

How and when will I receive my dress rehearsal tickets?

The person making the booking will be e-mailed *all* tickets on their booking to the e-mail address specified on the booking form within 48 hours of the dress rehearsal. For example, if you book three tickets for yourself and two guests, you will receive all three tickets. You can present all three tickets on the day on your phone as you and your guests enter the theatre, or you can forward your e-mail containing the digital tickets to your guests so they have their own copies.

What if I don't receive my tickets via e-mail?

You will receive your digital tickets via e-mail within 48 hours of the dress rehearsal. If you have not received your tickets via e-mail 24 hours prior to the dress rehearsal performance, please phone The Australian Ballet Society Office on (03) 9669 2591.

I do not have a mobile phone where I can access my emails

If you do not have a mobile phone with e-mail access, you can print your tickets at home and bring these with you to the theatre. If you are also unable to print your tickets, please contact The Australian Ballet Society Office.

I do not have an e-mail address

If you are unable to receive your tickets via e-mail, please phone The Australian Ballet Society Office on (03) 9669 2591.

Will there still be a representative at the theatre on the day of the Dress Rehearsal?

Yes, The Australian Ballet Society will have a desk set up next to the State Theatre Box Office from 45 minutes prior to the dress rehearsal for ticket enquiries

If you have any other questions, please phone The Australian Ballet Society Office (03) 9669 2591. or email office@australianballetsociety.com

An Invitation



*Celebration Luncheon
In Honour of
David McAllister AM*

The Australian Ballet Society

Proudly supporting The Australian Ballet and The Australian Ballet School

*Invite you to a Special Celebration Luncheon in Honour of
David McAllister AM*

Wednesday 19 May 2021

12 pm - 3.00 pm

Metropolis at Southgate

Level 4 Southgate Shopping Precinct, 3 Southgate Ave, Southgate

Enjoy an exceptional luncheon served with a selection of beverages whilst enjoying the sweeping views of our wonderful city

Special Guest Speakers

Steven Heathcote AM

Elizabeth Toohey

Cost \$150 per person

RSVP 23 April 2021

Image courtesy of Justin Ridler

BOOK NOW - FINAL WEEKS

RSVP

Celebration Luncheon In Honour of David McAllister AM

Title _____ Surname _____ Name _____

Address _____ Email _____

Number of Tickets _____

Please provide all names for seating allocation

Please indicate if any group seating preferences (Tables of 10-12 max)

Special Dietary/Access requirements

Payment: Cheque, Visa, Mastercard

No. ____/____/____/____ Exp. ____/____ \$ _____

Signature _____

Please return by 23 April 2021

Complete and **email** to office@australianballetsociety.com or **mail** to

The Australian Ballet Society Inc

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ABN 64 740 345 188

Presidents Annual Report 2020

As we emerge from a very difficult COVID 2020 year, I would like to commend, congratulate, and thank all those who through their love, dedication and passion for both The Australian Ballet Company and The Australian Ballet School have soldiered (danced on).

This includes the members of The Australian Ballet Society Committee who have freely given their time to attend our monthly meetings, fold, envelope and send regular newsletters prepared by our wonderful and extremely competent new Administration Officer, Anastasia Itsines. Congratulations Sara Reece for taking over the role of writing the newsletter from Josie Woodgate OAM who wrote the monthly "Updates" for 27 years. Thank you, Josie, for your incredible contribution over the years keeping our members informed.

Many thanks to our former super competent Administrator Judith Rhodes and her assistant Jenny Chynoweth, whom we thank most sincerely for their comprehensive service over many years to the Society and the extra hours of volunteering. Retiring in the COVID year has not been the most ideal way we would have liked to celebrate the contribution you made to the Society. Thank You Judith and Jenny.

2020 has been very difficult with our functions on hold for our fundraising activities. The Australian Ballet Society Fund Pty Ltd was established in 1996 to enable the Society to receive tax exempt donations from members and friends to support student's scholarships and special projects. The generosity of Society Members contributing to this fund is greatly appreciated. Special thanks for their input over the year are given to Directors Jeanette Levy (Chair), Marlene Kavanagh, Catriona Bruce, Julie Shelton and Josie Woodgate OAM.

Sincere thanks are extended to all members of the Committee for their work throughout the difficult COVID year, attending online Zoom meetings which we would never have imagined, your commitment is extraordinary. A special mention of Hon Treasurer, Constance Pennell, Hon Secretary, Ann McKie, Vice Presidents, Norma Drew and Ruth Triggs, Immediate past President, Josie Woodgate OAM, Glenda Reade, Co-ordinator of the Trading Table, who despite COVID continued to plan ready for restrictions to be lifted and Jeanette Levy who assists in the office.

We were able to have one dress rehearsal in March last year, "Volt", it was a brilliant performance and a pivotal moment in the pandemic as David McAllister announced it was the last performance for the time being, and that lasted all year! Dancers continued to rehearse from home, as we enjoyed "At Home with Ballet TV". The Australian Ballet School worked hard to sustain courage and hope in their students with the students practicing each day from home. We thank the school led by Director Lisa Pavanne, for their continued support.

Thank you to Committee member Tomas Parish for taking us into the virtual world and running a set of virtual series that our members could enjoy from home. We had some wonderful guests which we thank for keeping us involved in the ballet world virtually during 2020: Lisa Pavane, Director, The Australian Ballet School; Graham Murphy, AO, Choreographer; Libby Christie, Executive Director, The Australian Ballet; Nicolette Fraillon, Music Director and Chief Conductor of The Australian Ballet and Artistic Director of Orchestra Victoria; Mason Lovegrove, Coryphée, The Australian Ballet; hosts Brett Chynoweth, Principal Artist, The Australian Ballet; Andrew Wright, ex-dancer and Philanthropy Manager Vic, Tas, WA, The Australian Ballet; Callum Linnane, Soloist, The Australian Ballet and Margaret Wilson, former teacher with The Australian Ballet School. Tomas also took us into the Instagram world in 2020!

Our Society committee had the following retirements in 2020 and we thank them for all their years of commitment: Josie Woodgate OAM, Patsy Martin, Joy Cassidy, Terri Fitzsimons and Donna Cusack. New committee secondment in 2020 was Tomas Parrish.

We have missed seeing you at our fundraising events and performances which normally help keep us close to our wonderful dancers and their staff. The morale of all within many years of The Australian Ballet organization has been amazing and goes well beyond my words of praise and admiration.

The Ballet Society is most grateful for the generous support provided by the former Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet, David McAllister AM, our new Artistic Director, David Hallberg, all the technical and administration staff with special thanks to Sally Underwood, Chief Financial Officer and Director of Operations, Tracey Hosier for keeping the building and all within these hallowed walls safe. A special thanks to Kenneth Watkins AM, Director of Philanthropy and his extraordinary team. The Ballet Society extends its appreciation to our Patron, Lady Southey for her support.

A Thank You to all the Members of the Ballet Society, your membership and donations of support is incredible, it has enabled the voluntary committee to financially support The Australian Ballet and The Australian Ballet School. Over the years an amount of over \$7 million has been directed to The Australian Ballet and The Australian Ballet School in the last 55 years. We all have reason to be proud of The Ballet Society's accomplishments.

Keep dancing, stay safe, stay healthy and I look forward to seeing you soon.



Marilyn Jacka

President