

NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET

For immediate release Tuesday 30 May 2017



The Australian Ballet's Principal Artist, Kevin Jackson. Photo by Justin Ridler.

The Australian Ballet recognises achievements both on and off the stage in 2016 Annual Report.

The Australian Ballet released its 2016 Annual Report today following its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Sydney. In recognition of the company's status as Australia's national ballet company, the AGM was held outside Melbourne for the first time in the company's 55-year history.

Commenting on the company's 2016 results, Executive Director Libby Christie described 2016 as an exciting year for The Australian Ballet. It was a year in which the company achieved significant success both on and off the stage and continued its commitment to "care for tradition and dare to be different."

In its second year of the company's current strategic plan, 2016 saw The Australian Ballet connecting more Australians with the art form and the company's performances than ever before. The company staged 302 performances and 21 ballets across Queensland, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and the United Kingdom, with a total of 345,523 attendees worldwide. The 2016 repertoire featured two world premieres and a spectacularly moving tribute to ballet legend, *Nijinsky*. In a season of "firsts," the company also hosted Houston Ballet, which performed in Australia for the first time.

As in previous years, The Australian Ballet's activities extended well beyond the major theatres and into many communities around Australia. The company's 2016 Regional Tour performed a full-length ballet, *Giselle* to 14,257 people across regional Australia. In a new three-year partnership with Destination NSW and the Penrith City Council, it also presented a free outdoor performance to 6,119 people in Western Sydney with *Ballet Under the Stars Gala*.

The Australian Ballet's education program was active in schools across the country, presenting workshops and performances for 26,142 school students, teachers and

community members in each Australian state and territory. The company's *Step Inside* audience engagement activities reached a further 28,678 people.

Continuing digital initiatives to grow and deepen audience engagement, The Australian Ballet substantially increased virtual audiences in 2016. Over 135 million viewers were engaged in The Australian Ballet's global digital collaboration, *World Ballet Day*. This 20-hour transmission of behind-the-scenes footage was the longest live broadcast ever through Facebook LIVE. Audiences in Europe and USA were also given the opportunity to experience cinema screenings of two full-length productions unique to The Australian Ballet, Alexei Ratmansky's *Cinderella* and David McAllister's *The Sleeping Beauty*.

On the company's financial results, Libby Christie said "The Australian Ballet's large community of philanthropic patrons is pivotal to the company's financial sustainability as the costs associated with staging and performing our artistic program are significant and growing."

The performance deficit (core ballet operation costs less box office and other artistic income) of \$18.6 million was mostly, but not entirely, offset by income contributed from the company's commercial activities, government grants and fund raising from corporate partners and philanthropic patrons. This gave rise to an operating deficit for The Australian Ballet of \$0.6 million (before amortisation and depreciation).

The Australian Ballet Group reported a total surplus from operations and investment activities of \$4.1 million for 2016, after allowing for investment gains on endowed and donor funds, special purpose donations, and other donations and bequests. These amounts are generally not available to fund the operations of the company, and at donor request are capital preserved or are made available to fund limited, prescribed activities.

NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET

Orchestra Victoria, The Australian Ballet's wholly-owned subsidiary, also reported a successful 2016. Last year the orchestra performed to a total of 177,042 people, ranging from performances with Opera Australia, The Australian Ballet, and Victorian Opera, as well as playing music from Broadway to audiences on the banks of the Murray River in Cobram. The orchestra's regional concerts were attended by 3,849 people across Victoria and a further 298 regional music students, teachers and

musicians participated in Orchestra Victoria's education and community workshops.

The Australian Ballet's 2016 Annual Report is available to download from 1pm, Tuesday 30 May 2017.

<https://australianballet.com.au/corporate/annual-report>

For all media enquiries, including interviews and images, please contact: Kate Lillian Muir, PR Manager

P: 03 9669 2778 E: katem@australianballet.com.au



The
Australian
Ballet

Principal
Partner

