

The Australian Ballet revives the classic family favourite *Coppélia* – at the Palais Theatre from 23 September 2016



Soloist Dimity Azoury. Photography Justin Ridler

The Australian Ballet will perform a special Melbourne season of *Coppélia* at the **Palais Theatre** from **23 September to 1 October**, before touring to **Sydney Opera House** for a festive-season run from **2 to 21 December**.

Coppélia has an important place in The Australian Ballet's history. It was performed during the company's inaugural season in 1962. The ballet was revived in 1979 in a new production by The Australian Ballet's founding Artistic Director Dame Peggy van Praagh and the renowned theatre director George Ogilvie.

The ballet's return in 2010 was a fitting tribute to the late van Praagh; it paid tribute to her extraordinary talents and proved the work as fresh as ever 30 years after its creation. The Australian Ballet is thrilled to bring it back to captivate a new generation of ballet lovers, in the majestic setting of the Palais Theatre. The company first performed on the Palais stage in 1964 and has since presented eleven world premieres in the theatre, including the original premiere of van Praagh's *Coppélia*.

Coppélia's magic is enhanced by gorgeous sets and costumes designed by the late Kristian Fredrikson, which have been lovingly restored for this season. The internationally renowned Fredrikson conjures a world of magic, mystery and make-believe, transporting audiences out of the everyday and into a world of pure fantasy.

'We are delighted to bring back this production, which has long been considered a jewel of The Australian Ballet's repertoire,' said Artistic Director David McAllister.

'We are especially pleased to have George Ogilvie working with our artists in the studio once again. Together with Dame Peggy van Praagh, he created a rich and theatrical production layered with warmth, depth and humour. It is wonderful to reignite the creative spark of their original for a whole new generation of dancers and to see him share the ballet's intensity and intrigue with our younger artists. I can't think of a more joyous way to complete what has been another action-packed year for The Australian Ballet'.

In the classic tale, Dr Coppelius, an eccentric toy maker, dreams of bringing his mechanical "daughter" to life. Meanwhile, in the village, Swanilda and Franz are in love. But a beautiful stranger appears in town, and Franz is fascinated. Swanilda must rescue Franz from the magician's sinister lair before it's too late.

Filled with masquerade, romance and high jinks, this is the funniest, sunniest ballet you'll see all year.

CRITICS

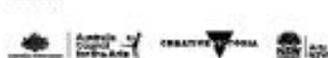
'Kristian Fredrikson's costumes and sets are sumptuous, the dancing is neat and engaging, and children in particular will enjoy the story.' *THE AGE*

For all media enquiries, including interviews and images, please contact:

Gabrielle Wilson, Senior Publicist **M:** 0447 749 618 **E:** gabriellew@australianballet.com.au

Elise Tobin, Publicist **P:** 03 9669 2771 **M:** 0419 375 751 **E:** eliset@australianballet.com.au

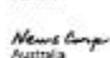
Government
Partners



Supporting
Partner



Media
Partner



Lead
Partners



Principal
Partner



CREDITS***Coppélia* (1979)**

Original choreography Arthur Saint-Léon, *revised by* Marius Petipa and Enrico Cecchetti

Reproduced with original choreography by Peggy van Praagh

Production devised and directed by George Ogilvie

Music Léo Delibes

Costume and set design Kristian Fredrikson

Original lighting design William Akers

DATES**MELBOURNE**

23 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER

Palais Theatre

with Orchestra Victoria

SYDNEY

2 DECEMBER – 21 DECEMBER

Joan Sutherland Theatre

Sydney Opera House

with Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra

BOOKINGS

For tickets please visit:

www.australianballet.com.au

P: 1300 369 741

SPECIAL EVENTS

www.australianballet.com.au/step-inside

Post-performance Q&A

Coppélia audiences are invited to stay behind after the show for a special Q&A with Artistic Director David McAllister and a panel of artistic staff and dancers.

Melbourne Monday 26 September

Sydney Monday 12 December

Free

Once Upon a Time: Coppélia

Ballet lovers of all ages can enjoy this special one-hour version of *Coppélia*, performed to live music and narrated by one of the characters. A fun and interactive performance that's perfect for children.

Melbourne Friday 30 September

Sydney Tuesday 20 December

12:30pm – 1:30pm

Tickets \$40–\$85

McAllister in Conversation

Artistic Director David McAllister hosts an intimate talk with a luminary from the ballet world. Includes a glass of sparkling wine or soft drink

Sydney Saturday 3 December

5pm – 5.45pm

Tickets \$25

Behind the Scenes

Sydney audiences can experience a unique behind-the-scenes look at the life of a dancer. Ticket buyers can watch the company take their daily morning class, and then see two principal artists in an intimate coaching session as they prepare for an upcoming performance.

Sydney Tuesday 6 December

11.30am – 12.30pm

Tickets \$19–\$29

Pre-performance Music Talk

Music Director and Chief Conductor Nicolette Fraillon gives you a fascinating insight into the score of *Coppélia*. Learn about the composer's life, the historical context of the music and what it's like to conduct and play it.

Sydney Wednesday 7 December

Free

For all media enquiries, including interviews and images, please contact:

Gabrielle Wilson, Senior Publicist **M:** 0447 749 618 **E:** gabriellew@australianballet.com.au

Elise Tobin, Publicist **P:** 03 9669 2771 **M:** 0419 375 751 **E:** eliset@australianballet.com.au

