

# NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET

For immediate release Tuesday 7 February 2017



Edward Smith and Chantelle van der Hoek. Photo credit: Jeff Busby

## Clara, The Sugar Plum Fairy and the Mouse King come to life as The Australian Ballet announces new dates for Storytime Ballet: *The Nutcracker*, the perfect ballet for children

Following its highly successful inaugural season in 2015-2016, The Australian Ballet's **Storytime Ballet** is back with a brand-new production of *The Nutcracker*. Created especially for children aged three years old and up, Storytime Ballet: *The Nutcracker* will tour to **Adelaide**, **Sydney** and around **Victoria** in **April 2017**.

The Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet, **David McAllister**, said, "After the success of the first season of Storytime Ballet in 2015, it's wonderful to be able to bring another production to our youngest ballet fans. *The Nutcracker* is one of the world's most-loved story ballets and the perfect introduction to ballet for children, as they follow this classic Christmas tale of Clara and her adventures.

"The production opened in 2016 and will be touring into 2017. We're delighted to bring the production to more people and theatres around Australia, giving families the chance to experience world class ballet – designed just for them to enjoy!" Mr McAllister said.

Supported by **Principal Partner Telstra**, The Australian Ballet's Storytime Ballet series began in 2015 and includes the company's first mainstage productions designed especially for children. The first season was greeted with critical acclaim and many sold-out performances; kids as well as parents have responded warmly to this special program, which was created with children in mind at every stage of the creative process.

Telstra General Manager of Loyalty and Partnerships Fady Taouk said Telstra is proud of its partnership with The Australian Ballet and excited that Storytime Ballet is again taking the classical art form to a new generation, one that grew up with smart phones in their hands.

"For over three decades Telstra and The Australian Ballet have collaborated to bring audiences closer to the wonder of ballet. This year we are pleased to offer an exclusive pre-sale through Telstra Thanks® for Telstra customers to purchase tickets before they go on sale to the general public."

With its performance duration of just under an hour, designed to suit kids under the age of eleven, this live and interactive production features a narrator to guide the audience through the ballet. Children are encouraged to come dressed in their favourite ballet-inspired outfits and can interact with the performers on stage.

The Storytime Ballet: *The Nutcracker* is a large-scale ballet packed with brand-new designs (by Australian designer Krystal Giddings), dazzling dancing, sparkling tutus and enchanting music. Children follow the well-known story of Clara and a marvellous Christmas party that turns into a magical adventure. Watch as the Nutcracker becomes more than just a doll and meet The Sugar Plum Fairy and the Mouse King.

### Storytime Ballet: *The Nutcracker* tour details

**Frankston**, Frankston Arts Centre 1 to 3 April  
**Moonee Ponds**, The Clocktower Centre 7 to 8 April  
**Geelong**, Geelong Performing Arts Centre 11 to 13 April  
**Sydney**, Enmore Theatre 18 April  
**Chatswood**, The Concourse Theatre 21 to 22 April  
**Adelaide**, Her Majesty's Theatre 27 to 30 April

Telstra Thanks is offering an exclusive pre-sale for Telstra customers, from 10:00am AEDT, Tuesday 7 February to Tuesday 14 February at [telstra.com/ballet](http://telstra.com/ballet) Tickets go on sale to the public on **Tuesday 14 February**, 10am AEDT visit [australianballet.com.au](http://australianballet.com.au)

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

Elise Tobin, Publicist P: 03 9669 2771 M: 0419 375 751 E: [eliset@australianballet.com.au](mailto:eliset@australianballet.com.au)  
Angelica Olszak, Publicity Coordinator P: 03 9669 2529 E: [angelicao@australianballet.com.au](mailto:angelicao@australianballet.com.au)

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