

# NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET

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The Australian Ballet's *The Sleeping Beauty*. Photo Justin Ridler

## The Australian Ballet's most lavish production, David McAllister's *The Sleeping Beauty* returns for a special encore season

Reawakening a world of courtly love, charming fairies and a glittering masked ball, The Australian Ballet's dazzling production of *The Sleeping Beauty* tours to Melbourne and Sydney in 2017. Spectacularly reimagined by Artistic Director **David McAllister**, this extraordinary production returns to the stage following widespread critical acclaim and sell-out debut seasons in 2015. *The Sleeping Beauty* opens at **Arts Centre Melbourne, State Theatre** from **16 to 27 June**, and then in **Sydney** at the **Capitol Theatre** from **11 to 25 November**.

Accompanied by **Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's** enchanting score and dressed in exquisite costumes by internationally renowned designer **Gabriela Tylesova**, a cast of royals and courtiers, fairies and wood nymphs, bluebirds and storybook characters bring new life to a classic story.

David McAllister's interpretation remains faithful to the spirit of the original choreography of 19th century master Marius Petipa. Audiences will be delighted by the famously challenging balances of Princess Aurora's Rose Adage, her romantic Wedding Grand Pas de deux with the Prince and the lively variations of the couple's storybook friends.

Theatre designer Gabriela Tylesova has captivated audiences around the world with her richly imaginative sets and costumes, and has been honoured with multiple Helpmann and Green Room Awards. Her designs for *The Sleeping Beauty* evoke the splendour of Louis XIV's court with breathtakingly opulent gilded sets and hundreds of colourful costumes, made with the attention to detail of haute couture. Garments of satin, tulle and silk are adorned with

beads and faux fur, sequins and braid, crystals and cut-out lace.

In collaboration with Marius Petipa, Tchaikovsky composed *The Sleeping Beauty* in an inspired 40 days. His iconic score propels the action while also mirroring the inner workings of central characters, a pioneering technique which adds layers of complexity to the story. His orchestration and unusual instrumental combinations were ground breaking in their time and inspired other great composers in years to come.

This production is the first full-length work by The Australian Ballet's Artistic Director David McAllister, for whom creating *The Sleeping Beauty* in 2015 was a crowning moment in his career. In 2017 McAllister enters his 16th year as Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet, following an 18-year career as a dancer in the company.

This production is the most ambitious ever staged by The Australian Ballet. More than 2,000 people contributed upwards of 70% of the total production costs during a landmark fundraising campaign, without which the new production would not have been possible.

*The Sleeping Beauty* has already been enjoyed by over 65,000 people, with sell-out seasons in Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney and Perth following the world premiere in 2015.

**For all media enquiries, including interviews and images, please contact:** Elise Tobin, Publicist  
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# NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET

## The Sleeping Beauty

Doomed from infancy to fatally prick her finger on her 16th birthday, Princess Aurora is saved from the curse of spiteful Carabosse by her champion the Lilac Fairy, who lulls the kingdom into a deep slumber. When the lonely Prince Désiré learns of Aurora's fate, he comes to her rescue with a redemptive kiss of true love. The couple celebrate their wedding and coronation in the light and bustle of the revived palace, with a masked ball attended by fairies, bluebirds and familiar friends from the pages of Grimm's fairy tales.

### MELBOURNE

16 JUNE – 27 JUNE

Arts Centre Melbourne State Theatre

### SYDNEY

11 NOVEMBER – 25 NOVEMBER

Capitol Theatre

### BOOKINGS

[australianballet.com.au](http://australianballet.com.au)

*Choreography* Marius Petipa

*Production and additional choreography* David McAllister

*Music* Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

*Costume and set design* Gabriela Tylesova

*Design Associate* Kat Chan

*Dramaturge* Lucas Jervies

*Lighting design* Jon Buswell

*With* Orchestra Victoria in Melbourne

*With* Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra in Sydney

## STEP INSIDE the Ballet

The Australian Ballet's much-loved Step Inside program gives a rare look behind the curtain.

### Boys Day

In this boys-only class, taught by one of our male dancers, learn moves and techniques, have the chance to ask questions afterwards and even watch company class. An unforgettable day of fun and dancing, just for the boys.

**Melbourne**, Arts Centre Melbourne

Saturday 17 June, 10am – 12.30pm, \$29

**Sydney**

Saturday 11 November, 10am – 12.30pm, \$29

### Post Performance Q&A

*The Sleeping Beauty* 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**, Arts Centre Melbourne

Monday 19 June, Free

**Sydney**, Capitol Theatre

Monday 20 November, Free

### Music Talk

Music Director and Chief Conductor Nicolette Fraillon gives a fascinating insight to the Tchaikovsky score you're about to hear in these free pre-performance talks. Learn about the composer's life, the historical context of the music and what it's like to conduct and play.

**Melbourne**, Arts Centre Melbourne

Wednesday 21 June, 12pm – 1pm, Free

**Sydney**, Capitol Theatre

Wednesday 22 November, 12pm – 1pm, Free

### McAllister in Conversation

Artistic Director David McAllister hosts an intimate talk with a luminary from the ballet world.

**Melbourne**, Arts Centre Melbourne

Saturday 24 June, 5pm – 5.45pm, \$25

**Sydney**, Capitol Theatre

Saturday 18 November, 5pm – 5.45pm, \$25

### Meet the Musicians

In this free conversation series, Chief Conductor and Music Director Nicolette Fraillon interviews musicians from the orchestra. Hear outstanding artists talk about their passion, and the dedication that drives them, in these fascinating talks.

**Melbourne**, Arts Centre Melbourne

Saturday 24 June, 6pm – 7pm, Free

**Sydney**, Capitol Theatre

Saturday 25 November, 6pm – 7pm, Free

### Once Upon a Time: The Sleeping Beauty

*Once Upon a Time: The Sleeping Beauty* is a magical experience that will make you gasp, dream and laugh! This special one-hour version of a storybook ballet is performed live on stage and narrated by one of the central characters. Perfect for children, it's fun, interactive and will have everyone out of their seats, twirling for joy. Come dressed in your favourite ballet-inspired or fairytale outfits. This performance will be fully orchestrated with Orchestra Victoria in Melbourne and the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra in Sydney.

**Melbourne**, Arts Centre Melbourne

Tuesday 27 June, 12.30pm (60 minuets)

**Sydney**, Capitol Theatre

Wednesday 15 November, 12:30pm (60 minuets)

All special events and talks presented with the ballet can be booked through [australianballet.com.au/step-inside](http://australianballet.com.au/step-inside)

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