

NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET

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The Australian Ballet Board announces retirement of Jim Cousins AO

The Australian Ballet has today announced that long-term Director **Jim Cousins AO** has retired from the Board following his decision not to seek a further term.

Jim Cousins was appointed a Director of The Australian Ballet on 25 June 2009 and served as Chair of the Board from July 2013 until November 2015. During this period, he served as a member of the Audit Committee, Foundation Board, Nomination & Remuneration Committee and as Chair of Infrastructure Committee.

Mr Cousins' significant contribution to the ongoing development and success of The Australian Ballet is evident in a number of significant initiatives he led during his term. In his capacity as Chair of the Infrastructure Committee, Mr Cousins oversaw the successful development of The Australian Ballet's Production Centre which opened in 2013. During his term as Board Chair, The Australian Ballet acquired Orchestra Victoria as a wholly owned subsidiary. As Chair of The Australian Ballet he also led two successful international tours to the USA (Los Angeles and Berkeley) and China (Beijing and Shanghai).

Chairman, Craig Dunn said "On behalf of the Board of The Australian Ballet, I would like to thank Jim Cousins for his outstanding contribution to the success and continued growth of the company. Jim's service to

The Australian Ballet and contribution to the cultural life of Australia through his lengthy tenure as Director and as Chair of Australia's national ballet company has been invaluable. Jim and his wife Libby have been tireless supporters and promoters of our artform and our dancers, regularly travelling around Australia and internationally with the company. We look forward to continuing this special relationship with such close friends of the ballet family".

Jim Cousins AO said "Our achievements during my time with the Ballet have been far and many. I am particularly proud of our achievements in infrastructure and the creation of the Ballet's state-of-the-art Production Centre, the biggest infrastructure project undertaken by the company in more than two decades. I am also pleased that The Australian Ballet acquired Orchestra Victoria in 2014, ensuring the ongoing provision of high quality pit services for opera and ballet in Victoria. I am leaving the company in a very strong position, both artistically and financially. It has been an honour to serve The Australian Ballet as Director and Chair and I have no doubt the years ahead will bring further success".

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