Do you remember your first performance?
As for so many of you, it was my mother who introduced me to the ballet and helped to create special lifelong memories. Now, as a new grandparent, I have the chance to give the same gift of ballet to my grandchildren at a time when their imagination is most vibrant and creative.

For many years, The Australian Ballet considered how best to grow its education programs and provide greater access for children and families. After careful review, and with the dedication and support of the Board, our company will create its first ballet production for children.

Drawing on the full talents of the company, we will create and stage ballet productions designed specially for children aged three and up. We will tour around the country to smaller suburban theatres as well as larger performing arts venues to inspire more children than ever before with the magic of ballet. Productions will run for 50 minutes and will be performed by a small ensemble of 11 dancers and one narrator.

After our successful Year of Beauty, I am thrilled to announce that our first ballet for children will be the fairytale classic *The Sleeping Beauty*, a reimagining of our 1984 production.

I invite you to take an important role in creating unforgettable experiences for children. Together, we will not only form the next generation of arts enthusiasts; we will take our children into a sphere of wonder, beauty and enchantment.

Libby Christie
Executive Director
The Australian Ballet
Theatres are amazing places for children: the lights, the smell, the sparkling surfaces and the plush seats all create a sense of being transported into an enchanting little kingdom before the curtain rises.

At my first ballet, I was captivated by the music and costumes. Afterwards, like so many children, I could not stop dancing down the hallway at home. By the age of ten, ballet was much more than a hobby.

Now, as I transition to life beyond the stage, I reflect on my performances and all the children who watched them. Children are naturally perceptive and inquisitive, and knowing they are watching us adds an extra layer to our performance and the magic of the storytelling. It was important for me to portray the character as best I could, and then allow the child's imagination do the rest. And regardless of the size of the theatre I wanted each child to feel special, to feel that I was dancing just for them!

The vision of The Australian Ballet for this project is not to redefine ballet, but to present the narrative beautifully, simply and in a way that will inspire children — some of whom, perhaps, will become the dancers of tomorrow.

**Madeleine Eastoe**
Former Principal Artist of The Australian Ballet
OUR VISION

To create traditional story ballets for young audiences from 3 – 11 years.
(pilot production of The Sleeping Beauty)

ABOUT
• Approx. 50-minute production
• 2 – 3 shows per day, coinciding with school holidays
• 11 dancers and one narrator (a professional actor)
• Costumes from our mainstage productions with adapted sets and recorded music

PRODUCTIONS
The Sleeping Beauty
Great care and attention is needed to adapt a full-length ballet into a meaningful 50-minute production. We will adapt Hugh Colman’s costume and set design for Maina Gielgud’s 1984 production. Hugh is joining us to repurpose the costumes and build a new set suitable for theatres of all shapes and sizes.

The Sleeping Beauty will tour for our first year, while we build two further productions.

TIMELINE
The inaugural tour will run from December 2015 to January 2016 in inner and outer metropolitan destinations in Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. We will aim to expand our tour to more cities in future years.
The creation of ballets especially for young audiences is one of the most exciting projects I have been involved with in my 23 years at The Australian Ballet. Once established, these productions will give children aged three and up the opportunity to engage with ballets designed specially for their interests and attention span.

We aspire to make our art form available to all Australians. As the nation’s flagship dance company, we also want to champion dance for the young people (over 400,000 of them!) who participate in dance-related activities every week.

With your help, through seed funding, we can create the productions and tour them nationally, capturing children’s imaginations and inspiring their creativity. We will leave them with a memory so powerful they’ll be dancing down hallways across the country for months.

I invite you to play a part in creating magical experiences for the next generation of dancers and audiences, and to make a gift today.

Kenneth Watkins  
Director of Philanthropy  
The Australian Ballet
MAKE YOUR GIFT

1. HOW TO DONATE

BY MAIL
Post your completed form in the pre-paid envelope provided or in your own envelope to
The Australian Ballet Philanthropy department, Reply Paid 79407, Southbank VIC 3006

BY PHONE
Lisa Bolte, Patrons Manager VIC & TAS 03 9669 2735
Jane Diamond, Patrons Manager NSW & ACT 02 9253 5316
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australianballet.com.au/donate

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I would like to give a Fairy Godparent’s Gift of:
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☐ Magic $15,000-$19,999
☐ Beauty $10,000-$14,999
☐ Inspiration $5,000-$9,999
☐ Wonderment $1,000-$4,999

I would like to provide a gift of Friendship:
☐ $600  ☐ $450  ☐ $300  ☐ $100  ☐ Other amount $ __________________________

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4. DONATION METHOD
☐ Cheque payable to The Australian Ballet OR  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ VISA
Card number ___________________________________________________________
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