

## The Australian Ballet officially launches free outdoor event Ballet Under The Stars in Western Sydney, including special excerpt performance from the sold-out Sydney season of *Swan Lake*



The Australian Ballet in Stephen Baynes' *Swan Lake*. Photo Daniel Boud

The Australian Ballet today officially launched its annual outdoor community program, **Ballet Under the Stars**, which will be presented exclusively in Western Sydney over the next three years. This free event will be held at the **Sydney International Regatta Centre in Penrith, on Saturday 5 November 2016**, and will include a special excerpt performance from the sold-out Sydney season of Stephen Baynes' *Swan Lake*.

Speaking at the announcement today, **NSW Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events Stuart Ayres** said the event has been secured for Western Sydney for the next three years through the NSW Government's tourism and major events agency Destination NSW.

"Performed against the backdrop of Penrith Lakes and the surrounding parklands, Ballet Under the Stars will be a spectacular cultural event that will attract visitors and showcase the Penrith region," Mr Ayres said.

"This community performance is a major highlight of The Australian Ballet's annual calendar and will be a major drawcard for visitors who are expected to inject over \$1.3 million into the local visitor economy during the next three years."

Executive Director of The Australian Ballet, Libby Christie said, "Our free community outdoor performance is a highlight of the company's yearly program, enabling people of all ages to experience world-class ballet, some for the first time. As Australia's national ballet company, we are committed to reaching audiences all around Australia and giving them the opportunity to experience the transformative power of ballet."

The performance will include highlights from the Company's repertoire, including performance of Act II from the recently sold-out Sydney season of Stephen Baynes' *Swan Lake*.

"This event provides people of all ages with a high-quality arts experience and for some, their first opportunity to access a world-class ballet performance," Ms Christie added.

The Australian Ballet exists with a purpose and mission to inspire, delight and challenge audiences through the power of its performances, as well as a commitment to reaching audiences across all parts of Australia and the world. This will be the Company's 39<sup>th</sup> outdoor performance in its 53 year history.

### EVENT INFORMATION

Ballet Under The Stars is a **free** event for everyone.

**Pre-registration** will help to secure fast entry. It is advised that this be done prior to the event, however guests will be able to use facilities at the gate to enter.

### Gates open at 4pm for a 7:30pm performance.

No glass, bottles, cans, packaged and commercial takeaway food, audio, visual, recording equipment can be brought into the venue. Bag searches will take place at the gates where prohibited items will be confiscated. Food and beverages are available for purchase. Check [australianballet.com.au](http://australianballet.com.au) from 3pm on the day for wet weather updates.

### PRE-REGISTRATION

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

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

Prue Vercoe, Public Relations Manager, P: 03 9669 2778 M: 0428 135 546 E: [pruev@australianballet.com.au](mailto:pruev@australianballet.com.au)

Gabrielle Wilson, Senior Publicist M: 0447 749 618 E: [gabriellew@australianballet.com.au](mailto:gabriellew@australianballet.com.au)

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

Strategic  
Partners



Major  
Partner



Media  
Partner



Principal  
Partner



The  
Australian  
Ballet

