

Following the success of its inaugural Storytime Ballet season, The Australian Ballet announces performances in Parramatta, Gosford, Chatswood and Adelaide



Storytime Ballet: *The Sleeping Beauty*. The Australian Ballet Photo Jeff Busby

On the back of the highly successful first performances across three states, The Australian Ballet's **Storytime Ballet: *The Sleeping Beauty***, the company's first mainstage production designed specifically for children, will now also tour to **Parramatta, Gosford, Chatswood and Adelaide in April and May 2016**.

Supported by **Principal Partner Telstra**, the series was created by the company in response to the growing popularity of its children's programs. Children, as well as parents, have responded warmly to this special fairytale ballet, which was created with children in mind at every stage of the creative process.

The Storytime Ballet series is targeted at **children aged three years old and up**. Live and interactive, the production features a narrator to guide children through the ballet story. The ballet is under an hour in length to suit young attention spans. Children also have the chance to try beautiful ballet costumes and to interact with the production by using glowing fairy wands. Little people are also encouraged to come dressed in their favourite ballet inspired outfits.

Touring to critical acclaim, The Storytime Ballet: *The Sleeping Beauty* opened in **Melbourne in December 2015**, followed by a sell-out season at **Sydney Opera House**. The tour continued with a string of successful shows at Chatswood, Wollongong, Penrith, and Canberra, where it has continued to win the hearts of young and old alike.

Performances are scheduled this autumn across regional Queensland, with visits already planned for **the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Logan and Caloundra**. With 80 performances at ten venues already announced, today's extension of the tour program news will add another 25 performances at four venues to the national tour, including a visit to South Australia for the first time.

The Australian Ballet's Executive Director **Libby Christie**, said the project has had an overwhelmingly positive response in every state it's visited. 'From previous experiences, we knew there was a strong demand for children's programming but our expectations have been surpassed. We have been delighted to see the enthusiasm and joy that this special ballet program has bought to children across Australia already.'

'We know that ballet is loved by children around the country. Over 420,000 children take part in dance events nationally every week. However, this is the first time the Company has toured a children-focused ballet of this scale and quality. We hope to nurture our next generation of ballet lovers and who knows, even Principal Artists,' said Ms Christie.

The Storytime Ballet: *The Sleeping Beauty* is a large-scale, elegant ballet, packed with dazzling dancing, sparkling tutus and enchanting Tchaikovsky music. Children follow the well-known story of a sleeping princess and a prince searching for his true love. They will watch as Princess Aurora wanders the woods and meets her friends Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, and the Big Bad Wolf. Storytime Ballet is sure to become an annual family favourite at each location. Expect little ones to be dancing down the hallway with almost-perfect pirouettes, long after the curtain comes down.

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

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Storytime Ballet: *The Sleeping Beauty*
New tour dates announced

Riverside Theatre, Parramatta
Sydney, NSW
12 - 13 April 2016

Laycock St theatre
Gosford, NSW
18- 19 April 2016

Chatswood Theatre
Chatswood, NSW
22-23 April 2016

Noarlunga Hopgood theatre
Adelaide, South Australia
27 April 2016

Adelaide Festival Theatre
Adelaide, South Australia
30 April - 1 May 2016

Storytime Ballet Tour Dates This Season

The Arts Centre
Gold Coast, QLD
29 - 30 March 2016

Brisbane Powerhouse
Brisbane, QLD
1 - 2 April 2016

The Events Centre
Caloundra, QLD
5 April 2016

Logan Entertainment Centre
Logan, QLD
7 - 8 April, 2016

Telstra THANKS is offering an exclusive pre-sale for Telstra customers, at **10am AEDT from Tuesday 2-Tuesday 9 February 2016** at telstra.com/ausballet

Tickets go on sale to the public at **10am AEDT on Tuesday 9 February**, visit australianballet.com.au/kids

WHAT THE CRITICS SAID:

'As expected the audience was filled mostly with little girls in glittering costumes, waving flashing wands ... It was like the pre-school version of the anticipation before a Taylor Swift concert. The feeling was palpable. Restless feet and jumping bodies bounded on their seats.'

- *Time Out Sydney*

'Best kids show I've ever been to - and believe me, I've been to a *lot* - including the Wiggles, Baby Proms, Hi-Five, Playschool... If you have a baby ballerina, and you're close to one of the remaining performance venues, take your little ballerina to see this - I promise you will not be disappointed.'

- *Weekend Notes*

'WITH beautiful music, sparkly tutus and ballerinas in full flight, a new generation is set to fall in love with ballet when *Storytime Ballet: The Sleeping Beauty* twirls into town.'

- *The Sunday Telegraph*

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