

Exclusive for Adelaide audiences**- The Australian Ballet Gala Spectacular 2017 opens in October at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre**

Principal Artist Amber Scott. Photo Justin Ridler

The Australian Ballet announces its return to Adelaide with a captivating gala at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre. *The Australian Ballet Gala Spectacular 2017* will be presented over three special performances between Friday 27 October and Saturday 28 October 2017.

Designed to thrill ballet fans of all ages, *The Australian Ballet's Gala Spectacular 2017* will feature selections from a number of iconic works designed to show off the extraordinary talent of the company's dancers. This special 2017 season will offer Adelaide a unique opportunity to experience the beauty and wonder of some of The Australian Ballet's best loved heritage works plus the glorious, critically acclaimed *Suite en blanc*.

Artistic Director David McAllister said, "Performing in Adelaide is one of the highlights of the company's yearly program. We are delighted that we have been given the chance to bring our dancers back to South Australia in 2017 with this special program which is exclusive to Adelaide. To be able to showcase some of the company's most iconic works in an arena-style venue is extremely exciting for us; it's something our Adelaide audiences will not want to miss."

The gala program containing sumptuous divertissements from *Don Quixote*, *Spartacus*, *Cinderella*, *The Sleeping Beauty* and some other surprises, will be crowned by Serge Lifar's classic *Suite en blanc* which has become a signature ballet for the company since it was staged by Lifar himself in 1981, featuring the entire ensemble.

This performance marks the first time The Australian Ballet will perform at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre in an arena-style performance. The company will perform this Gala Spectacular at the Entertainment Centre due to the closure of the Adelaide Festival Centre for major renovations in 2017.

The Australian Ballet's Gala Spectacular 2017 has been generously supported by the Government of South Australia. The company has a long history with Adelaide audiences; it first performed in Adelaide in 1962 and in 2016 staged two popular productions including Stephen Baynes' *Swan Lake* and John Neumeier's acclaimed *Nijinsky*.

Executive Director Libby Christie said, "The demand for the company to tour to Adelaide has increased over the past few years. With the Adelaide Festival Centre's closure for renovations next year, our 2017 season was in doubt but thanks to the support of the Government of South Australia, we will be able to present this wonderful program for our devoted South Australian audiences. We are delighted that this partnership with the SA Government has enabled us to transform a problem into a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our SA audience".

DATES**Adelaide**

27 October 2017 (7.30pm)

28 October 2017 (1.30pm and 7.30pm)

Adelaide Entertainment Centre, Hindmarsh.

With Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

The full program for *The Australian Ballet Gala Spectacular 2017* will be released in June 2017. For more information please visit australianballet.com.au. Tickets go on sale on Friday 16 December 2016 at 2pm.

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