

# NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET

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Photo Credit: Kate Longley

## Rising stars and new recruits shine for The Australian Ballet's year of wonderment

The dancers of The Australian Ballet are back in the studio following their summer break. Joining the dancers at the barre will be eight new additions to the company, bringing the company's permanent ensemble size to 77 dancers. Nine dancers from within the ranks of the company will start the year in new positions having been promoted at the end of the 2016 season.

### Promotions

The Australian Ballet's Artistic Director David McAllister is pleased to announce eight promotions within the company, which take effect this week.

The five ranks in The Australian Ballet are principal artist, senior artist, soloist, coryphée and corps de ballet.

The 2016 Telstra Ballet Dancer Award winner **Callum Linnane** and **Brodie James**, a 2016 nominee for the award, have been promoted to the rank of coryphée, along with **Jake Mangakahia**.

**Cristiano Martino**, **Sharni Spencer** and **Valerie Tereshchenko** have been promoted to the rank of soloist, alongside 2016 Telstra Ballet Dancer Award nominees **Nicola Curry** and **Jade Wood**.

### New and returning dancers

In 2017, five graduates from The Australian Ballet School join the company as members of its entry rank, the corps de ballet: **Daniel Idaszak**, **Yuumi Yamada**, **Alexandra Moore** and **Yichuan Wang**.

**Saranja Crowe**, a regular participant in the company's Storytime Ballet and Regional Tour programs, will also join the corps de ballet, as will **Timothy Coleman**, formerly of Singapore Dance Theatre, who danced with the company in its 2016 seasons of *Nijinsky* and *Coppélia*.

### Departures

At the end of 2016, The Australian Ballet said farewell to four exceptionally talented dancers.

Senior Artist **Miwako Kubota** has hung up her pointe shoes after an extraordinary 18-year career with The Australian Ballet.

Senior Artist **Natasha Kusch** will continue to delight audiences as she spreads her wings abroad.

**Rudy Hawkes** has retired after an exceptional eleven-year career with the company capturing hearts and imaginations with his wonderful partnering and dancing.

**Jacob Sofer** is hanging up his ballet flats to concentrate on his dance-wear brand Keto.

### Looking Ahead

The Australian Ballet begins its 2017 season in Brisbane with David McAllister's *The Sleeping Beauty* in February; the production will tour to Melbourne in June and Sydney in November.

In March, The Australian Ballet's contemporary triple bill *Faster* will open in Melbourne before touring to Sydney in April.

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

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*Nutcracker – The Story of Clara*, Graeme Murphy's acclaimed reimagining of *The Nutcracker*, will be performed in Sydney and Melbourne throughout May and June, while the mixed bill program *Symphony in C* will be presented as a Melbourne-exclusive season from 24 August to 2 September. The company will also travel to Adelaide in October for a gala spectacular season created especially for South Australian audiences.

The spectacular and much awaited finale of The Australian Ballet's year of wonderment is Christopher Wheeldon's magical blockbuster *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*®, which will tour to Melbourne in September and Sydney in December.

**Tickets to The Australian Ballet's 2017 season are available at [australianballet.com.au](http://australianballet.com.au). Tickets for all productions go on sale on 2 February 2017.**

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