

19 January 2010

The Australian Ballet begins the year on a high

Artistic Director David McAllister announces eight promotions

Beginning the year on a high, Artistic Director David McAllister announced eight exciting promotions within the company's ranks.

Most notably, **Miwako Kubota**, **Daniel Gaudiello** and **Kevin Jackson** will become Senior Artists from tomorrow when they return to work and start rehearsals for the Australian premiere season of Graeme Murphy's *The Silver Rose*.

These three dancers had an outstanding year in 2009, both critically and artistically.

David McAllister commented on Daniel, Kevin and Miwako's achievements: "It has been a joy to see these talented dancers blossom over the past year as they've taken on a variety of feature roles, maturing as both dancers and artists."

"Miwako, Kevin and Daniel are part of a huge wave of talent in The Australian Ballet that looks set to thrill us on stage for many years to come."

Kevin and Daniel joined the company in 2003 and 2004 respectively. They have both been crowned as winners of the prestigious Telstra Ballet Dancer Award in back-to-back years – Daniel in 2008 and Kevin in 2009.

Miwako joined The Australian Ballet in 1999, was promoted to Soloist in 2007 and has performed a number of principal roles.

Other promotions include: **Reiko Hombo** and **Ty King-Wall** to Soloist as well as **Kismet Bourne**, **Natasha Kusen** and **Dana Stephensen** to Coryphée.

In addition to these exciting promotions, for the first time in six years more males than females have been accepted into the company's rank of Corps de Ballet.

Victor Esguerra, **Jessica Fyfe**, **Calvin Hannaford**, **Jack Hersee**, **Ako Kondo** and **Ben Stuart-Carberry** – all from The Australian Ballet School – will enter the Corps de Ballet in 2010. Joining them will be **Ingrid Gow** from the Royal New Zealand Ballet.

While The Australian Ballet welcomes these new dancers and celebrates its rising stars we also say goodbye to some dancers. Much-loved Senior Artist **Remi Wörtmeyer** spreads his wings and heads for Europe, having secured a contract with Het National Ballet in Amsterdam.

Corps de Ballet members **Jacinta Christos**, **Annie Carroll** and **Gabriella Raetz** also leave the company with warm wishes from everyone as they pursue new horizons.

In what is already shaping up to be a busy year for the company, 2010 will keep all dancers in the company on their toes.

Presenting 164 performances of 16 ballets across six programmes, the year features a mix of brand new and milestone works that honour The Australian Ballet's rich history. 2010 marks the beginning of a three-year countdown to the company's 50th birthday in 2012.

- ends -

australianballet.com.au
behindballet.com

2 Kavanagh Street Southbank Victoria 3006 Australia
Telephone: (03) 9669 2700 Facsimile: (03) 9686 7081

Government Partners



ARTS
VICTORIA



Communities
arts nsw



The
Australian
Ballet

Principal Sponsor

