

Thursday 6 May 2010

***Bodytorque.á la mode*: The fashion of ballet to come**

Encouraging the next generation of artists

The Australian Ballet's commitment to discovering new artists continues in 2010 as the seventh installment of *Bodytorque* partners steps with seamstress's in *Bodytorque.á la mode*.

Ballet and fashion have long influenced each other. For nearly a century, high-end fashion designers have created costumes for ballet companies around the world (Chanel being one of the first) but the last decade has seen an explosion in these sorts of collaborations.

Karl Lagerfeld, Giles Deacon, Toni Maticevski, Narciso Rodriguez, Christian Lacroix, Marc Jacobs, Akira Isogawa and Versace have all designed for dance.

Opening at the Sydney Theatre on 27 May,

Bodytorque.á la mode celebrates this very chic partnership by pairing five emerging choreographers with emerging designers.

In 2010, former *Bodytorque*ers and senior members of The Australian Ballet **Robert Curran** and **Daniel Gaudiello** will be joined by former Principal Artist **Damien Welch** for his second *Bodytorque* ballet, while corps de ballet member **Alice Topp** will make her choreographic debut. **Timothy Brown**, a contemporary dancer and choreographer hailing from Expressions Dance Company, will also join the line up.

These five choreographers will partner with emerging fashion designers to create inventive and explosive new works that manipulate the fashion of dance.

Bodytorque is a front-row view of the future of Australian dance. For seven years now, dancers from The Australian Ballet and beyond have been given the opportunity to create new works on the country's most exciting young dancers.

For some, the process has been the stepping stone to even bigger things – *Bodytorque* poster boy Tim Harbour has since choreographed for Cirque Vie and Christopher Wheeldon's New York-based Morphoses. In 2010 he will make his mainstage debut with The Australian Ballet when he presents *Halycon* as part of the *Edge of night* season.

Bodytorque emerged in 2003 when Artistic Director David McAllister attended a first-of-its-kind conference which gathered together artistic directors from around the world. The directors agreed that developing new and intelligent works and choreographers in the classical ballet technique was the most important issue facing the art form.

McAllister's response was to create *Bodytorque*. The first instalment kicked off in 2004 when *Bodytorque.Women on Men* offered three emerging female choreographers the opportunity to create new works exclusively for The Australian Ballet's male dancers.

2005's *Bodytorque.Two* explored the pas de deux, with five fresh choreographers creating imaginative duets for some of Australia's leading dancers. 2006's *Bodytorque.Face the Music* saw emerging choreographers and composers working together to create entirely new works.

Bodytorque.Generations in 2007 teamed new work with a return performance of Stephen Baynes' achingly beautiful *Unspoken Dialogues* while in 2008 the theme of *Bodytorque.To the Pointe* explored the enduring influence of the pointe shoe. 2009 saw *Bodytorque.2.2* explore the concept of partnerships.

If you're a dance devotee, a fashion fiend, or just love the thrill of the new, *Bodytorque.á la mode* is the place to get your fix in 2010.

DATES

Sydney

27 – 30 May (5 performances)

Sydney Theatre at Walsh Bay

**Bookings: sydneytheatre.org.au
or 02 9250 1999**

"A very smart, very sexy group of young dancers"
Daily Telegraph, 2009

(Please see overleaf for more details on the 2010 line up)

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Title: *Nocturnal Phantasm*

Choreographer: Timothy Brown

Designer: Bridie O'Leary

In *Nocturnal Phantasm* Timothy Brown and Bridie O'Leary explore the bizarre world of Marchesa Casati, one of the most astonishing and scandalous women of the 20th century.

Timothy graduated from The Australian Ballet School in 2000 and joined Queensland Ballet in 2001. In mid-2008 he began work for Expressions Dance Company as dancer and choreographer.

Bridie O'Leary studied Fashion Design at RMIT while working for milliner Richard Nylon. She has lectured at the National Gallery of Victoria and Bendigo Art Gallery on fashion history. Currently Bridie is a freelance fashion illustrator.

Title: *Fold*

Choreographer: Robert Curran

Designer: Ryan Euinton

Skin is the subject of Robert Curran and Ryan Euinton's *Fold*. Skin protects us from the elements, distinguishes one from another and serves as a canvas for our own decorations.

Robert Curran joined The Australian Ballet in 1996 and was promoted to Principal Artist in 2002. He has toured extensively overseas with The Australian Ballet, and a burgeoning interest in choreography has seen him create three works for the company's *Bodytorque* programme.

Ryan Euinton graduated from RMIT with Honours in a Bachelor of Design (Fashion) in 2007 and in 2008 he travelled to California on an internship. Also in 2008 the National Gallery of Victoria commissioned Ryan for their *Remaking Fashion* exhibition. He is currently working on a pre-Masters project at Central St Martins, London.

Title: *South of Eden*

Choreographer: Daniel Gaudiello

Designer: Melanie Bower

South of Eden is inspired by a documentary feature Daniel Gaudiello saw on television exploring the situation of female escorts living in a hotel environment.

Brisbane-born Daniel Gaudiello joined The Australian Ballet in 2004 and in early 2007 participated in classes with some of the world's finest ballet companies overseas. Daniel made his choreographic

debut with a piece called *Notte in Bianco* for *Bodytorque.To the Pointe* in 2009.

Before studying fashion at RMIT, Melanie Bower completed a Bachelor of Fine Art and attended classes in fashion design and styling at Central St Martins in London. She has been invited to show at L'Oreal Melbourne Fashion Festival, Melbourne Spring Fashion Week and Brisbane's Mercedes-Benz Fashion Festival.

Title: *Trace*

Choreographer: Alice Topp

Designers: Chrystal Dunn and Georgia Lazzaro

Trace explores the relationship between dance and design. For her choreographic debut, Alice Topp hopes the movement will be inspired by the garments; therefore the garments are given their own life force and sense of energy through the choreography.

Alice was born and raised in Bendigo. After two and a half years with Royal New Zealand Ballet, she joined The Australian Ballet in 2007. Alice makes her choreographic debut with *Trace* and is the only female choreographer in *Bodytorque.à la mode*.

Crystal Dunn and Georgia Lazzaro graduated together with first class honours from RMIT with a Bachelor of Arts in Fashion Design. Georgia has just undertaken an internship with Narciso Rodriguez and Calvin Klein as the inaugural recipient of the Australians in New York Fashion Foundation scholarship. Crystal is currently working at visionary Melbourne fashion label MATERIALBYPRODUCT.

Title: *Birthday Suit*

Choreographer: Damien Welch

Designer: Georgia Clark

In *Birthday Suit* Damien Welch and Georgia Clarke explore how clothes affect our personalities and how our personalities affect our clothes.

In 1992 Damien joined The Australian Ballet, and was promoted Principal Artist in 1998. After a stretch with Nederlands Dans Theater I from 2000 to 2002, Damien returned to The Australian Ballet and in 2009 he retired.

Since completing her formal training at RMIT and Central St Martins, London Georgia Clark has pursued her passion for design and styling at Rose Chong Costumes, Laurel Frank and Stage One Productions. She has also completed an internship with MATERIALBYPRODUCT. - ends -

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