

23 April 2009

Bodytorque 2.2

Inventive and explosive new works manipulate the ballet tradition



Alice Topp. Photo Tim Richardson

The Australian Ballet continues its commitment to unearthing new artistic talent in *Bodytorque 2.2*.

The sixth chapter in this highly successful choreographic discovery programme opens 27 May 2009 at the Sydney Theatre.

Bodytorque 2.2 offers five emerging choreographers the chance to creatively collaborate with artists of The Australian Ballet.

The *Bodytorque* series presents the newest and most exciting choreographic talent in Australia, each year with a fresh theme.

In 2009, *Bodytorque 2.2* is about partnership, those myriad pairings at the heart of dance: whether it's two dancers entwined on stage in a pas de deux, a muse and maker creating as one, or the relationship between dance and its great friend - sound.

Bodytorque has evolved from a choreographic workshop to become one of the high points on Australia's dance calendar. Up-close and personal, it's the most intimate way to see the emerging talent of The Australian Ballet.

Returning with a new ballet in 2009 is Principal Artist **Robert Curran**, who presented acclaimed works in 2007 and 2008.

He joins The Australian Ballet's **Damien Welch**, **Remi Wörtmeyer** and the 2008 Telstra Ballet Dancer Award winner **Kevin Jackson**. These artists are stepping out as choreographers for the very first time.

Also on the programme is **Reed Luplau**, a former artist of Sydney Dance Company.

Building on the excitement of *Bodytorque*'s continued success, this is a programme no fan of dance can miss!

(continues overleaf with details on choreographers and their works)

Sydney 27 - 30 May (5 performances)
Sydney Theatre, 22 Hickson Road Walsh Bay
Bookings: sydneytheatre.org.au
or 02 9250 1999

For media enquiries:
Donna Cusack 0409 359 174



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The choreographers and their works:

Robert Curran *Veiled in Flesh*

Robert Curran has been a Principal Artist with The Australian Ballet since 2002. As a dancer who loves both the technical achievements of partnering and the emotion of portraying stories and feelings, Robert made the natural step to choreography in 2007. He debuted with *Promenade* for *Bodytorque.Generations*, followed by *amusemeant* for *Bodytorque. To the Pointe*.

Veiled in Flesh was influenced by Michael Ondaatje's book *In the Skin of a Lion*, who wrote of how feelings between people can be "veiled in flesh". Robert explores an idea that goes back to the Bible in John 1:14 where sensations that are experienced through touch are the best, or perhaps the only, way to communicate.

Damien Welch *Chemical Trigger*

Damien Welch joined The Australian Ballet in 1992, and was promoted to Principal Artist in 1998. After a stretch with Nederlands Dans Theater I, beginning in 2000, Damien returned to The Australian Ballet in 2002. Damien has performed works by many famous choreographers, has danced in hundreds of ballets and has been an inspiring muse over the years.

Bodytorque 2.2 marks a fitting choreographic debut for Damien who has ultimate creative control by also composing his own score for *Chemical Trigger*. In this work the emotions of guilt, sorrow and anger are investigated as themes rather than literal interpretations.

Remi Wörtmeyer *Fade Not*

Remi began dancing in Adelaide and joined The Australian Ballet in 2002. In 2003 Remi spent time on scholarship with London's Royal Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, La Scala Ballet and Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, and in 2005 with American Ballet Theatre. In 2008 he travelled to Manhattan to learn Jerome Robbins' *A Suite Of Dances* with the New York City Ballet.

With all of Remi's international travel it's no surprise the heart of *Fade Not* was created in London on The Australian Ballet's 2008 tour. Remi has involved a team of creatives with a libretto, a composed score, and a soprano on stage for *Fade Not*.

Kevin Jackson *Enter Closer*

Born in Perth, Kevin joined The Australian Ballet in 2003. He was promoted to Soloist at the beginning of 2007 and was the recipient of the Telstra Ballet Dancer Award in 2008. Kevin enjoys the technique and artistry demanded by many different kinds of works but holds the story ballet near to his heart.

Making his choreographic debut in *Bodytorque 2.2*, Kevin's idea for *Enter Closer* is to explore the middle ground between abstraction and narrative using common experiences as a starting point. The work involves a collaboration with former dancer of The Australian Ballet, Simone Pulga, who composed the score. Kevin has previously worked on *Bodytorque* as a dancer. Now on the other side of the fence he has seen *Bodytorque* as an amazing opportunity to learn and experiment.

Reed Luplau *Bleecker*

Born in Perth, Reed was accepted into The Australian Ballet School in 2002 and joined the Sydney Dance Company in 2005. He was commissioned by Sydney Dance Company to choreograph two short works *Misguided* (2007) and *Go!* for the *Overture* series (2008). In early 2009, Reed joined Aszure Barton & Artists to create a new work in New York City and Santa Barbara, before coming home to create *Bleecker* for The Australian Ballet. Influenced by his time in New York, *Bleecker* is a journey of self discovery, set in a time of loss and vulnerability. *Bleecker* is open for interpretation – exploring unique individual paths crossing after midnight.

What the critics say about *Bodytorque*:

"An evening of dance like no other." *Sydney Morning Herald*

"Very good news indeed for the future of choreography." *The Australian*

(ends)

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