

15 October 2009



## Concord: Around the world in three ballets

A Russian, a Spaniard and an Englishman walk up to a barre ...

The Australian Ballet unites three of the most exciting choreographers in the world today to present **Concord**.

This dynamic and stylistically diverse triple bill soars into the Sydney Opera House on 11 November.

Stunning new ballets by British sensation Wayne McGregor and Russia's Alexei Ratmansky are staged alongside the welcome return of Nacho Duato's Spanish masterpiece *Por vos muero*.

Artistic Director David McAllister said, "The Australian Ballet has always had a commitment to new work. To have choreographers of such calibre working with our dancers is a real coup".

"For us to collaborate with Wayne and Alexei is the modern-day equivalent of working with ballet legends John Cranko and George Balanchine – it's simply mindblowing," he said.

Each of the three pieces in **Concord** features a unique language of movement, boldly uncovering the boundless possibilities of dance.

The programme begins with the mesmerisingly beautiful *Por vos muero* (*For thee I die*). This poignant and passionate work from Spain's Nacho Duato entered The Australian Ballet's repertoire in 1998. Neo-classical choreography is complemented by evocative music and poetry that creates an overall impression of the Spanish Renaissance.

A more traditionally classical approach is taken in the one-act comic caper *Scuola di ballo* (*The school of ballet*). Originally created by Léonide Massine, Alexei Ratmansky's version retains the original score by Luigi Boccherini. This hilarious story of high drama and high jinks in the ballet studio had Melbourne audiences in stitches when it premiered in August.

The final piece in **Concord** is something entirely different. Wayne McGregor's ultramodern and abstract *Dyad 1929* bends and twists our dancers into an assortment of eye-popping movements and shapes. It's like nothing The Australian Ballet has ever performed before. This cutting-edge work is accompanied by the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Double Sextet* by Steve Reich.

With the upcoming season of *The Sleeping Beauty* close to sold out, **Concord** may be the last opportunity for many Sydneysiders to see The Australian Ballet in 2009. As the *Herald Sun* urged, "go and see what the fuss is about."

### Critical acclaim for **Concord**:

"This is one of the most diverse and entertaining triple bills The Australian Ballet has presented."  
*Sunday Herald Sun*

"The Australian Ballet has been making increasingly provocative forays into edgy contemporary dance and this new triple bill is one of the boldest."

*The Sunday Age*

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Photos L to R: Rudy Hawkes and Vivienne Wong in *Por vos muero*, Tzu-Chao Chou and Lana Jones in *Dyad 1929*, Jane Casson and Matthew Donnelly in *Scuola di ballo*.  
Photography by Jim McFarlane.

### Bookings:

australianballet.com.au 1300 369 741  
sydneyoperahouse.com (02) 9250 7777

Sydney 11 – 30 November (20 performances)  
Opera Theatre, Sydney Opera House

### For media enquiries or to receive a copy of the comprehensive **Concord** Media Kit please contact:

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