

22 June 2009

Principal Artist Lynette Wills retires



Lynette Wills. Photo James Braund

Lynette Wills has announced her retirement from The Australian Ballet after a distinguished career spanning almost 19 years.

Lynette is one of The Australian Ballet's most loved and dedicated dancers.

"Lindy is one of those dancers who stamps her presence all over the company," said Artistic Director David McAllister. "Both on and off stage she is a hugely respected and loved artist, and there are roles she has danced and created that will be the benchmark for years to come. I want to congratulate her on a wonderful career on stage and wish her every success off stage," McAllister said.

Reflecting on her career Lynette said, "Working with The Australian Ballet has not been a job, it has been a childhood dream realised."

"In the many years I have spent with the company I have enjoyed the support, encouragement and opportunity provided me by The Australian Ballet and David McAllister, which has resulted in a career I could not have imagined."

In 2007 Lynette became a mother to Thomas, 18 months later she and husband Tim Burke welcomed their second child Sophie. Her final performance was in the *La Bayadère pas d'action*, part of the *Ballet Imperial* programme in 2008.

Adelaide-born Lynette began her ballet training with Betsy Sawers and graduated from The Australian Ballet School in 1990. She joined The Australian Ballet in 1991 and was promoted to Senior Artist in 1996.

Lynette has toured extensively with the company to Italy, London, Paris, Taiwan, China, Japan and the United States, and was promoted to Principal Artist after her fiery and moving portrayal of Baroness von Rothbart in the Sydney premiere of Graeme Murphy's *Swan Lake* in 2002.

Off the stage, Lynette visited a Cambodian dance company in 2005 as The Australian Ballet's ambassador in a joint initiative between the company and CARE Australia.

Another talent Lynette has fostered off stage is photography. A collection of Lynette's photographs, called *Step Inside The Australian Ballet*, was published earlier this year.

Lynette will take her farewell bow at the opening night of *Paris Match* on Wednesday 24 June 2009.

- ends -

"Wickedly good" *Sunday Herald Sun*

"Those legs really are weapons of mass distraction" *The Australian*

"Steely yet silky" *The Sunday Age*

"... whipcrack extensions" *Inpress*

"... in her element ... steely precision" *Dance Australia*

"A powerful figure" *Stage Diary*

Read Lynette's thoughts on ballet, photography and life:
behindballet.com/the-secret-life-of-dancers

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