

19 November 2009

Out There - The Australian Ballet in Schools

In 2010, after a three year trial, The Australian Ballet is taking an innovative education programme to schools throughout Australia.

Since late 2006 the company has been piloting *Out There - The Australian Ballet in schools* in metropolitan, regional and remote communities.

The curriculum-based incursion activity is designed to foster movement skills, promote fitness, and encourage artistic engagement.

Over 15,000 students ranging from five to fifteen years have now had the *Out There* experience in one of the least taught subjects in Australian schools: dance.

Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet, David McAllister, said initiatives such as *Out There* were vitally important and reinforced The Australian Ballet's commitment to creating opportunities for all school children across the country to participate in dance.

He said the company annually conducts over 350 education events around Australia as part of its access and outreach activities.

"Dance enriches lives in so many different and inspiring ways, be it in theatres, in schools or in communities," McAllister said.

"In *Out There*, we've developed a programme that gives students, many of who may have never have danced a step in their lives, an experience that encourages them to be alert, fit and imaginative as they explore the concept of dance movement with us."

"I'm incredibly proud that this programme has generated such strong demand that we can now roll it out across Australia," he said.

In 2010, for the first time, The Australian Ballet is making the *Out There* programme available to

schools on a fee paying basis. Disadvantaged schools will continue to receive the programme free-of-charge with thanks to philanthropic funding.

Led by Helen Cameron, recipient of the 2008 Australian Dance Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance Education, the programme is based on kinetic workshops and demonstrations. It is facilitated by four presenters who are dance graduates with additional professional development in teaching and communicating in a school environment.

In 2010, The Australian Ballet has developed three incursion packages for lower, middle and upper primary students.

Ranging in cost from \$6 to \$10 per student, *Out There* will visit Victoria and New South Wales with the future possibility of further states to be confirmed.

Teachers can view all dates and book online at: australianballet.com.au/education/inschools

Out There - The Australian Ballet in schools **Supporters:**

- Newman's Own Foundation
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