

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday 29 April 2010

## TELSTRA BALLET IN THE STADIUM

### The Australian Ballet heads west to Penrith with a FREE outdoor performance

The Australian Ballet is heading to Penrith to perform a dazzling mixed bill of ballet favourites in a free stadium performance under the stars this November.

NSW Minister for the Arts Virginia Judge yesterday announced that The Australian Ballet will bring **Telstra Ballet in the Stadium** to CUA Stadium, home of the Penrith Panthers, on Saturday 6 November 2010 at 7pm.

While final details of the programme are being confirmed, the performance will feature music by ballet's best-known composers and a superb suite of The Australian Ballet's best dancers.

The Australian Ballet's Artistic Director David McAllister said: "Telstra Ballet in the Stadium is a great chance for families to come together and see a stunning 'best-of' performance of ballet favourites on the hallowed home turf of the Penrith Panthers!

"We're incredibly pleased that with the help of our government and corporate partners we managed to lock this event down for 2010.

"I'm sure it will be an unforgettable experience for all involved, both onstage and off," McAllister said.

Telstra Area General Manager, Sydney Metro, Jonathon Grahame, said Telstra Ballet in the Stadium was a fantastic demonstration of the company's commitment to making dance more accessible to people across Australia.

"Telstra has been supporting The Australian Ballet for more than a quarter of a century, and one of the highlights of each year is enabling a wider Australian audience to experience the artistry and athleticism of ballet at our annual free outdoor performance.

"We are delighted this year to bring ballet to western Sydney," Grahame said.

In the lead up to the November performance, The Australian Ballet's Dance Education Ensemble will present education programmes at The Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, the Campbelltown Arts Centre and the Blacktown Community Arts Centre

throughout June with the help of funding from the NSW Government.

McAllister said that the company has been forging relationships with a number of partners in western Sydney for some years, and that The Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre was integral to getting Telstra Ballet in the Stadium off the ground.

Telstra Ballet in the Stadium will be one of the last opportunities for audiences to see the 2010 **Telstra Ballet Dancer Award** (TBDA) nominees in action before the winners are announced on stage at the Sydney Opera House in December.

Now in its eighth year, the Telstra Ballet Dancer Award is the highest accolade of its kind available to an Australian ballet dancer.

In a first for The Australian Ballet, dancers of the company are now using **Twitter** with all six TBDA nominees signed up and Tweeting regularly.

Amy Harris, Miwako Kuboto, Natasha Kusen, Dana Stephensen, Ty King-Wall and Vivienne Wong will be updating us throughout the year on wardrobe malfunctions, injury niggles, learning new works, onstage triumphs, and all the highs and lows of life as a full-time dancer with The Australian Ballet.

Telstra Ballet in the Stadium is a free event for everyone: bring family, friends, a picnic and rug and enjoy a spectacular evening of the very best that dance can offer.

#### Booking information:

Telstra Ballet in the Stadium is a **free** performance of The Australian Ballet at CUA Stadium, Mulgoa Road, Penrith. No tickets are required.

**Gates open at 4pm** for a 7pm performance on Saturday 6 November 2010. Once venue is at capacity, gates will be closed. No alcohol or breakable glass is permitted. Alcohol, food and non-alcoholic beverages are available for purchase at the venue. Low beach chairs only.

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[australianballet.com.au](http://australianballet.com.au)  
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