

17 June 2010

## The Dancers Company 2010 Tour

Celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of touring regional Australia

The Australian Ballet is delighted to present The Dancers Company 2010 Tour, proudly supported by Principal Sponsor Telstra.

This year The Dancers Company celebrates its 30th anniversary of touring regional Australia.

To mark this milestone, an exciting new version of the lively ballet classic *Don Quixote* will be staged by international ballet stalwart, Ai-Gul Gaisina.

During July and August the company will perform a total of 15 shows across three states: Victoria, South Australia and, for the first time since 1983, Western Australia.

Travelling approximately 10,000 kilometres by bus, plane, car and truck, the company will visit Kyabram, South Morang, Warrnambool, Hamilton, Mount Gambier, Renmark, Tanunda, Port Pirie, Whyalla, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Mandurah and Bunbury.

Telstra Country Wide Group Managing Director, Brett Riley said The Dancers Company was an important part of Telstra's commitment to providing more Australians with the chance to experience the joys of ballet.

"The Dancers Company continues to bring its amazing works to the doorsteps of regional Australia", he said

Telstra is proud to support these performances which introduce the artistry and athleticism of ballet to new regional audiences every year,"

The Dancers Company comprises guest performers from The Australian Ballet and the stars of tomorrow from the senior levels of The Australian Ballet School.

*Don Quixote* is a light-hearted and colourful ballet featuring a rich diversity of characters. Its dramatic liveliness and thrilling dancing makes it the perfect showcase for The Dancers Company's many talented performers.

This production tells the story of the Spanish knight Don Quixote on a quest to find his lost love. On his journey he crosses paths with the swooning young lovers Basilio and Kitri in a tale of fun, mischief and mistaken identity.

A highlight of this year's tour will be performances by guest artists of The Australian Ballet in the roles of Kitri and Basilio.

2010's Telstra Ballet Dancer Award nominee Dana Stephensen will perform alongside 2007's Telstra Ballet Dancer Award winner Daniel Gaudiello at shows in Victoria, Mt Gambier and Renmark.

Audiences in Tanunda, Port Pirie, Whyalla and Western Australia will delight in the talents of Cuban-born Principal Artist Yosvani Ramos and homegrown rising star Kristy Corea from the corps de ballet.

In a further casting coup Garry Stocks, also from the corps de ballet, will play the dual roles of Gamache and Lead Gypsy.

The Dancers Company was founded in 1980. Since then 642 shows have been performed in 60 locations, delighting more than 355,000 people across the country.

The Dancers Company 2010 Tour kicks off on 14 July at the Kyabram Plaza Theatre, Victoria.

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### About The Dancers Company

The Dancers Company was founded by former Artistic Director Marilyn Jones who saw three primary purposes behind its inception. First and most importantly, to take the great repertoire of The Australian Ballet, in specially modified stagings, to rural centres that might otherwise never experience classical ballet. Secondly, to give senior levels of The Australian Ballet School onstage experience as part of their tuition. And thirdly, to provide the Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet with the best possible example of students of The Australian Ballet School, under the full rigour of performance, helping him/her to select the stars of tomorrow.

### 2010 TOUR DATES

#### Victoria

Kyabram 14 July South  
Morang 16-17 July  
Warrnambool 20-21 July  
Hamilton 23 July

#### South Australia

Mount Gambier 26 July  
Renmark 29 July  
Tanunda 31 July  
Port Pirie 3 August  
Whyalla 5 August

#### Western Australia

Kalgoorlie 10 August  
Geraldton 13 August  
Mandurah 17 August  
Bunbury 19 August

**For theatre details and ticket information visit:**  
[australianballet.com.au/dancerscompany](http://australianballet.com.au/dancerscompany)

### DON QUIXOTE (2010)

*Choreography* Ai-Gul Gaisina after Marius Petipa  
*Music* Ludwig (Léon) Minkus  
*Costume design* Barry Kay  
*Set design* Francis Croese & Scott Mathewson  
*Lighting design* Francis Croese

#### About Ai-Gul Gaisina

Ai-Gul Gaisina was born in Kazan in the USSR and educated in Leningrad at the famed Vaganova Choreographic Institute.

Travelling throughout South America, Cuba, Europe and Australasia, she partnered the legendary Alexander Godunov, before joining the Stanislavsky Ballet Theatre in Moscow where she created several principal roles, the most notable being in Khatchaturian's *Gaynee*.

In 1973, Ai-Gul left Russia and joined The Australian Ballet where, amongst other roles, she danced Roland Petit's *Carmen*, Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty* and Kitri in Nureyev's *Don Quixote*.

The birth of her children also signaled the beginning of her teaching career, which began at the Victorian College of the Arts. In 1983 Ai-Gul joined The Australian Ballet School where she taught for ten years before returning to The Australian Ballet – this time as guest teacher and coach.

Ai-Gul has also taught at The Royal Danish Ballet, the Houston Ballet and the Hong Kong Ballet company.

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