

13 January 2010

Star choreographer brings opera classic to the ballet stage

Australian premiere season of *The Silver Rose* begins in Brisbane

The Australian Ballet will kick off the new year in style when dance legend Graeme Murphy brings a glamorous Australian premiere to the stage. Opening in Brisbane in February before touring to Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide, *The Silver Rose* is set to be Murphy's sell-out success of 2010.

The Silver Rose is a lavish full-length production based loosely on the classic opera *The Rose Cavalier*. Choreographed by Graeme Murphy and creative associate Janet Vernon, the vision is completed by spectacular Art Nouveau sets from Roger Kirk, and is beautifully enhanced with music by Australian composer Carl Vine.

In Richard Strauss' opera *Der Rosenkavalier* (*The Rose Cavalier*), Murphy saw the makings of a great ballet: a timeless tale of jealousy, infidelity, and love gone wrong. The tangle of romantic intrigue is ripe for comic interpretation as the cast tie each other in beautifully choreographed romantic knots.

The story

Set in turn-of-last-century Vienna, *The Silver Rose* is the story of an alluring and intelligent woman – an actress, the Marschallin – in the middle of her life. Though still very beautiful, she's troubled by the clock's ceaseless tick and worried her lover might fall for a younger woman. Inevitably, he does.

The cast

The Australian Ballet's full company of 68 dancers are involved in the production, including Brisbane dancers Daniel Gaudiello (2007 Telstra Ballet Dancer Award Winner) and Dana Stephenson, as well as fellow Queenslanders

Amber Scott (Sunshine Coast), Rudy Hawkes (Ipswich), Kismet Bourne and Sarah Thompson (Toowoomba). They're all set to feature in the numerous roles that bring the ballet to life. The Australian Ballet also welcomes newcomer to the company Jessica Fyfe (Brisbane) who makes her debut with the company in *The Silver Rose*.

About the production

Premiering on Bavarian State Ballet in 2005, *The Silver Rose* boasts an all-Australian creative team: Graeme Murphy, an alumnus of The Australian Ballet, is a master storyteller and one of Australia's greatest choreographers. Along with his creative associate Janet Vernon, Murphy is best known for his long and influential tenure as the leader of Australia's internationally renowned contemporary dance troupe Sydney Dance Company.

One of Australia's pre-eminent composers, and a long-time Murphy collaborator, Carl Vine has compiled an arrangement of his greatest works for *The Silver Rose*. The music is a collage of pre-existing pieces, including his *Piano Concerto* and *Symphony No. 4.2*. Vine's compositions are extensive and include over 25 scores for classical dance.

As Dick Van Dyke did in *Mary Poppins*, Roger Kirk has made a painting come to life. With Klimt-like golds and silvers he has created, colourful and opulent sets and costumes – a glamorous world influenced by art on a grand scale.

The Silver Rose, said ballet.co.uk, is "a work of extraordinarily tender poetry... [Murphy]... has

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staged something of a ballet coup". On its inception *The Silver Rose* immediately joined the ranks of Murphy's masterpieces. This dazzling interpretation of a classic struck a powerful chord with the public, achieving critical and audience acclaim in Europe.

The Australian Ballet in association with QPAC present *The Silver Rose* in Brisbane

Following the success of Graeme Murphy's unique interpretations of *Swan Lake*, *Firebird* and *Nutcracker*, *The Silver Rose* will be one of the most eagerly anticipated works on the Australian stage in 2010.

Credits

THE SILVER ROSE (2005)

Choreography Graeme Murphy
(based on *Der Rosenkavalier* by Hugo von Hofmannsthal)
Creative associate Janet Vernon
Music Carl Vine
Set and costume design Roger Kirk
Lighting design Damien Cooper

DATES

Brisbane 26 February – 3 March

(6 performances)

Lyric Theatre, QPAC

with The Queensland Symphony Orchestra

Bookings: qpac.com.au or 136 246

Melbourne 19 – 30 March (13 performances)

the Arts Centre, State Theatre

with Orchestra Victoria

Bookings: australianballet.com.au or 1300 369 741

Sydney 9 – 29 April (21 performances)

Opera Theatre, Sydney Opera House

with Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra

Bookings: australianballet.com.au or 1300 369 741

sydneyoperahouse.com or 02 9250 7777

Adelaide 13 – 17 July (6 performances)

Festival Theatre, Adelaide Festival Centre

with Adelaide Symphony Orchestra

Bookings: bass.net.au or 131 246

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