

16 June 2009

The Dancers Company 2009 Tour

Bringing the magic of ballet to regional Australia

The Australian Ballet is delighted to announce the 30th regional tour of The Dancers Company, proudly supported by Principal Sponsor Telstra.

Following the sell-out success of 2008, The Dancers Company is thrilled to return to the stage in 2009 with an enchanting triple bill of ballet gems.

During July and August the company will present 18 performances in Victoria, Queensland and the Northern Territory.

Shows will be held in Ballarat, Frankston, Sale, Geelong, Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Rockhampton, Cairns, Alice Springs and Darwin.

The repertoire consists of *Songs of Light*, a brand-new contemporary work created especially for this tour; *Poems*, a graceful, whimsical piece; and *Nutcracker, the Gift of a Dream Act Two*, a classical ballet favourite.

The programme is inspired by the Ballets Russes, the trailblazing Russian ballet companies whose Australian tours of the late 1930s had a dramatic impact on arts and culture in this country.

A highlight of this year's tour will be performances by special guest artists of The Australian Ballet. Reiko Hombo, from Japan, and Jia Yin Du, from China, are certain to thrill audiences with the technical prowess, athleticism and artistry that have wowed critics in Australia and abroad.

The Dancers Company, The Australian Ballet's regional touring group, comprises guest performers from The Australian Ballet and the stars of tomorrow from the senior levels of The Australian Ballet School.

The company was founded in 1980. Since then 624 shows have been performed in 60 locations, delighting more than 345,000 people across the country.

In 2009 The Australian Ballet and Telstra celebrate 25 years of partnership.

Telstra Country Wide Group Managing Director, Brett Riley said Telstra is extremely proud to support The Dancers Company in this milestone year for the two organisations.

"Telstra has an unparalleled focus on investing in regional areas to the benefit of all Australians. The Dancers Company is an investment in Australia's emerging ballet talent. This tour is a unique opportunity for them to perform in front of new audiences and for Telstra to make an active contribution to Australia's future artists," he said.

The Dancers Company 2009 Tour kicks off on 15 July at Her Majesty's Theatre in Ballarat, Victoria.

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ARTS
VICTORIA



The Australian Ballet acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria – Department of Premier and Cabinet



Australian Government
Playing Australia

The Australian Government is proud to be associated with this tour through the national performing arts touring program, Playing Australia, which gives Australians across the country the opportunity to see some of our best performing arts

The
Dancers
Company



BALLETS
RUSSES
IN AUSTRALIA OUR
CULTURAL REVOLUTION

Celebrating
25 years of
partnership



The
Australian
Ballet

Telstra

Three enchanting works**Songs of light**

Tim Harbour was a senior artist with The Australian Ballet when he first discovered a flair for choreography. He is now one of Australia's hottest young dance makers, creating works for New York-based company Morphoses, The Australian Ballet's *Bodytorque* programme, The Queensland Ballet, the West Australian Ballet and Cirque Vie. Created especially for The Dancers Company, *Songs of Light* is a playful, physical contemporary piece revolving around the naivety and passion of young love and friendship, set to the music of rock group Radiohead and Michael Forsyth.

Poems

Choreographer Robert Ray, inspired by several poems of Sir John Betjeman, has created a translation of the spoken word into beautiful dance. Set in England in the 1920s, Ray's work is a graceful ballet of wit and uncluttered style that suits both the period and sentiment of the Betjeman's words. This work was choreographed for The Australian Ballet School in 1980 and later entered the repertoire of The Australian Ballet.

Nutcracker, the Gift of a Dream Act Two

Choreographed by Australian dance luminary Leigh Rowles, this classical ballet favourite features beautiful sets and costumes teamed with Tchaikovsky's unforgettable score. Young girl Clara follows her newly-discovered Nutcracker Prince to a land of dreams and fantasy where the Sugar Plum Fairy introduces her to colourful characters that live in a magical realm.

For media enquiries please contact:

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TOUR DATES**Victoria**

Ballarat 15 July
Frankston 17-18 July
Sale 21-22 July
Geelong 24-25 July

Queensland

Gold Coast 30 July
Toowoomba 1 August
Rockhampton 4 August
Cairns 7-8 August

Northern Territory

Alice Springs 13-14 August
Darwin 18-19 August

For theatre details and ticket information visit:
australianballet.com.au

THE ULTIMATE BALLET COMPETITION

Telstra is celebrating 25 years of partnership with The Australian Ballet by offering a once-in-a-lifetime ballet experience. Simply purchase any Telstra product worth \$100 or more and complete an online entry form to go into the draw to win one of 10 ultimate ballet weekends for two.

The prize includes: VIP behind-the-scenes tour, tickets to a performance of *The Sleeping Beauty*, a 'meet & greet' with the dancers, flights to Melbourne, meals and accommodation. It's a truly 'money can't buy' experience.

Visit a Telstra shop to enter. The competition closes at 5pm on the 22nd of August 2009.

Promotion open 14/4/09 to 22/8/09, drawn midday 25/8/09 at 400 George St, Sydney. Ultimate ballet weekend for two is valued at \$8,639.40. Winners published in The Australian 1/9/09. Promoter is Telstra Corporation Ltd ABN 33 051 775 556. NSW permit no LTPS/09/02079; ACT permit no TP 09/00849; Vic permit no TP 09/0755; SA permit no T 09/506. For full terms and conditions go to www.telstra.com/beinvolved

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