

Queensland **Ballet**

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR LI CUNXIN AO

# Annual Report 2019



PRINCIPAL PARTNER

SUNCORP 

*“...Queensland Ballet Company is performing at world-class standard. Both the company and the orchestra are a credit to their home state.”*

ARTS REVIEW 2019



*“...the whole cast and crew were  
nothing short of spectacular”*

ROMEO & JULIET: A TRIUMPH,  
BY DOUGLAS KENNEDY  
HUSH HUSH BIZ



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# Chair's Report

A desire to grow has always been at the heart of Queensland Ballet, and it should come as a surprise to no-one that 2019 was another ambitious year in the timeline of this flourishing Company.



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2019 Annual Report

— Elite ballet productions, enriching community experiences, extended regional reach, and nurturing young artists were core focuses for the year, alongside high-level strategic thinking and future planning.

My first year as Chair was a rewarding one given that I had the pleasure of overseeing many projects commence and conclude. Arguably the most thrilling of these was the completion of the stunning new building for Queensland Ballet Academy at Kelvin Grove State College, generously enabled by the Queensland Government with our fit-out completed thanks to the visionary donors of our inaugural Giving Day.

We opened our Academy's doors on 28 January, 2020 in time for the start of the school year and I am thrilled that our training home is truly designed for artists of the future. This purpose-built facility places QB Academy on a global stage for elite ballet training, and we see it as an honour to continue the legacy of the late Charles Lisner OBE who began his journey towards establishing our Company by opening a ballet school in the 1950s. We are grateful for his vision and for the incredible support of the State Government in enabling us to dream big for Queensland Ballet Academy and all who will experience it.

Alongside the successful conclusion of this capital works project, we continued the redevelopment of our Company home, the Thomas Dixon Centre (TDC).

# Chair's Report

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2019 Annual Report

**We remain grateful to our State and Federal Government Partners, The Ian Potter Foundation and all our visionary supporters for sharing our vision for TDC as a world-leading home and a landmark cultural and community hub.**

In August, Minister Mick de Brenni launched the redevelopment at a symbolic sod-turning ceremony, and with Hutchinson Builders appointed to undertake Early Works, the site became a hive of activity, which has since continued unabated. Determined that our new TDC will be a place of meaningful connection and cross-art inspiration, we have already commissioned several public artworks from renowned creatives. Among them are site-specific installations by TeamLab, Judy Watson and Jamie North, and these stunning works will illustrate our commitment to our community, that TDC will be a home for all, as well as a home to Queensland Ballet.

It's a noteworthy project, redeveloping a heritage-listed property, and one which will forever change the West End landscape. We are delighted to be a part of it.

Meanwhile in February, QB relocated its studios, administration offices, and production and wardrobe facilities into temporary premises at Beesley St, West End, where we will base ourselves until the TDC is complete.

Box office income increased slightly from 2018, achieving a total of \$5,361,837. Five of our productions surpassed their income targets, with the QB Academy Gala and the children's ballet, *The Little Green Road to Fairyland* performing especially well. The significance of this shows that we are successfully engaging younger audiences with our art form. We finished QB19 at 98% of our total box office target, which is an admirable conclusion.

Of course, we wouldn't be where we are without the ongoing support of the Queensland and Australian Governments, for which we are most grateful. Government support offers us the stability to continuously push ourselves as a Company, and to grow and expand our reach across Queensland and further afield. Through their commitment to arts, education, and infrastructure, 2019 sees us so proud to contribute to Queensland state Education with our Academy, and to nurture young artists of the future.

Principal Partner Suncorp also continued its generous support, providing a significant investment that allows us to spread the gift of ballet with as many people as possible, beyond the theatre and into the community. The Brisbane Riverstage 'ballet under the stars' performance of *Cinderella* was a highlight of the year — this free event enabled us to engage with audiences

who may not otherwise have the chance to experience a professional ballet production. We gratefully acknowledge Suncorp's co-presentation of *Cinderella* at Riverstage and also extend our thanks to Brisbane City Council for its support of this family-friendly event at our city's iconic outdoor venue.

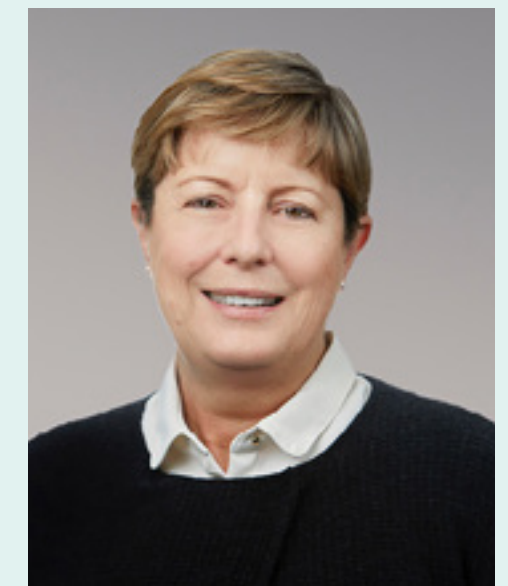
2019 saw our Corporate Partnerships team focused on the quality delivery of experiences and benefits to our partners. We are fortunate indeed that corporate support has enabled initiatives such as regional community workshops and dance camps, including one in Chinchilla supported by Shell QGC. The TDC redevelopment has also received generous support from the corporate sector; among our significant partners are architects Conrad Gargett and legal advisors Norton Rose Fulbright.

We thank all our partners for their continued, loyal support. It has been such a pleasure to work alongside Artistic Director Li Cunxin AO and Executive Director Dilshani Weerasinghe. Li's *ON POINT* conversational events in Canberra and Brisbane provided an inspiring insight into his creative world and a glimpse of the passion he has for his art form. He and Dilshani lead the whole QB team with such passion, drive and imagination. They are an inspiration to us all, and I offer them my heartfelt thanks.

It's such a privilege to be Chair of this remarkable Company. I warmly thank my fellow Directors for their steady and insightful governance, and gratefully acknowledge the ten-year contribution of outgoing Chair, Brett Clark, who very ably oversaw a time of unprecedented growth and change.

The Board is firmly committed to Queensland Ballet's successful ongoing journey. Reaching the milestone of the Company's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2020 is indeed cause for celebration. Our Company's history is marked by resilience and perseverance alongside artistic achievement. While we could not have foreseen the great challenges which 2020 would bring, we reflect with gratitude and respect on where we have come from and approach the future with equal amounts of determination and optimism.

**Julieanne Alroe**  
Chair



# Artistic Director's Report

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2019 Annual Report

2019 saw milestones met, a reinforced commitment to our art form, artists, artworkers and audiences, and a suite of exquisite productions that showcased QB's talent to audiences near and far.



— From the first scene in our world premiere production, *Dangerous Liaisons*, to the final curtain call of our festive tradition, *The Nutcracker*, it was a year of big ambitions and a whirlwind of growth and dedication to our creative pursuits that makes me so proud of the Company we have become.

The year began on a high with Brisbane audiences awed by the tantalizing tale of love, seduction and manipulation in Liam Scarlett's *Dangerous Liaisons* in March and April. This co-production with Texas Ballet Theater drew overwhelmingly positive audience and critical reviews, both in Brisbane and throughout its regional mid-year tour across the Gold Coast, Cairns, Toowoomba and Mackay. The production also spurred the commercial release of a *Dangerous Liaisons* CD, featuring Camille Saint-Saëns' music, arranged by Martin Yates, played by Camerata — Queensland's Chamber Orchestra, and conducted by QB's Music Director and Principal Conductor, Nigel Gaynor.

In May, our breathtaking triple bill encompassed George Balanchine's iconic *Serenade*, Jiří Kylián's powerful *Soldier's Mass*, and *The Shadows Behind Us*, a new commission by acclaimed choreographer Trey McIntyre. *The Masters Series* was a display of creative excellence, in both choreography and performance.

In July, we were delighted to bring back one of the most beautiful ballets in our repertoire, Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *Romeo & Juliet*. With its lavish sets and costumes, wonderful choreography and the glorious Prokofiev score played by Queensland Symphony Orchestra, the highlight was recognising the development of our dancers since we last performed this work in 2014. I am grateful to Lady Deborah MacMillan for her continued trust in us to produce her late husband's iconic work to a world-class standard.

As the latter half of the year ramped up, our contemporary season of *Bespoke* amazed and impressed at Brisbane Powerhouse. I always love to watch our dancers stretch themselves mentally, physically and artistically through contemporary dance and this year was no different, with our guest choreographers Lucy Guerin, Amy Hollingsworth and Loughlan Prior creating new works. *Bespoke* continues to create a multisensory experience for audiences, with the mesmerising outcome being art that creates wonder and inspiration in us all.

We expanded our reach in Canberra and to potential new audiences in Brisbane with productions of Ben Stevenson's magical *Cinderella* at the Canberra Theatre Centre in November; and at a free outdoor event at Brisbane Riverstage, co-presented with our Principal Partner Suncorp and supported by Brisbane City Council. The threat of rain loomed on the October morning, however by nightfall there were clear skies and a crowd of more than 2,500 people of all ages enjoying ballet under the stars.

# Artistic Director's Report

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2019 Annual Report

**Always a festive favourite, *The Nutcracker* charmed families across Brisbane in its seventh consecutive season. As usual, Ben Stevenson's festive choreography and characters, together with the stunning lighting designs and costumes, made this the must-see Christmas event in the city. We really do look forward to the ritual of presenting this beautiful ballet each year.**

Commitment to new Australian works was such a feature of 2019, and another hit of the year for the children of Brisbane was *The Little Green Road to Fairyland*, a new children's ballet by Paul Boyd co-produced with Queensland Music Festival. This enchanting production had a successful run of 18 performances and reached more than 165% of ticket sales target by the end of the season.



Our youngest dancers continued to thrive in 2019 with *Synergy* at the Judith Wright Centre for Contemporary Arts in June and July. Showcasing the future of our Company, the production brought together the rising stars of Queensland Ballet and our Academy for a season of contemporary and neo-classical works from emerging and established choreographers. Likewise, the inaugural Queensland Ballet Academy Gala exhibited the high level of artistry, technique and professionalism of the talented students in our Academy's elite training programs.

Not to be outdone, our offstage achievements flourished. We were delighted to see Queensland Ballet Academy go global with the establishment of a partnership with the Prix de Lausanne, prior to the \$17 million new, purpose-built Academy facilities opening at Kelvin Grove State College in January 2020. Featuring six studios, wellness rooms, Pilates equipment and a studio theatre space, the world-class building enables a transformational educational and artistic collaboration between Kelvin Grove State College and Queensland Ballet, and is truly fit for elite ballet training, both on a national and international scale.

The new Academy building has now been completely fitted out with everything our young students need, thanks to the generosity shown on QB's inaugural Giving Day. On 17 October 2019, QB galvanised our community to get behind a fundraising drive to support

the Academy's fit-out and operational costs — and the response was overwhelming. Match-donors quadrupled the funds raised in this all-or-nothing 24-hour period, resulting in \$2,177,958 raised from a generous community of 1,359 donors. The funds were used to purchase ballet barres, pianos, sound equipment, physio and Pilates equipment, and other apparatus the young dancers need for their success.

We welcomed five Academy graduates into the Jette Parker Young Artist Program (JPYAP) in 2019; and four dancers from JPYAP and one Company Apprentice into QB, demonstrating the high level of talent arising from our elite ballet training facility.

2019 was truly a year of creating new cultural spaces, which in turn saw QB relocate to temporary premises in West End, in preparation for the grand-scale redevelopment of our home, the Thomas Dixon Centre. This remarkable project is due for completion in 2021 and we can't wait to move into this state-of-art facility. Our heartfelt thanks go to the Queensland and Australian Governments, The Ian Potter Foundation, and all those who have made donations and pledges to generously enable the redevelopment of our home.

I'd also like to offer my sincere gratitude to all of our supporters and corporate partners, particularly our Principal Partner Suncorp, our Major Partners JCDecaux, Sealy, Shell QGC and Virgin Australia, as well as the

generous individuals in our Circles of Support, and all those whose gifts enable us to thrive. We also gratefully acknowledge the core funding support of the Queensland Government and the Australian Government.

As I write this, QB has navigated a challenge we could never have anticipated as 2019 came to a close. When the time comes to tell the story of Season 2020, we will write a new chapter in our long history, one in which the driving passions which have sustained the Company through its 60 years will shine.

As always, I feel thankful to have our Board and Executive Director Dilshani Weerasinghe by my side as we lead a team of passionate professionals on this ambitious, creative journey. Our Company is strong, energized, and united by passion for our art form, and we look forward to big dreams and achievements in the years ahead.

**Li Cunxin** AO  
Artistic Director



# Executive Director's Report

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We may be a company well known for grand productions, but at our heart we are, simply, a group of people with a passion.

— And we're not just a group of people with a passion for dance, though of course we all share love and admiration for our art form, but we're a company of people passionate about driving creativity in all we do — whether it's production design, cultural space activations, engaging children, considering how we communicate or nurturing our relationships — existing and new.

Our skilled and experienced people have facilitated the great strides we're making at our Academy, our expanded community engagement initiatives, and an evolving regional, national and international presence. In 2019, QB employed 350 artists and arts workers (145 FTE); we firmly believe that to invest in our people is to invest in the future of Queensland Ballet and by doing so, we enable a true contribution to our wider sector and society.

Two of the absolute highlights of 2019 were the construction and subsequent opening of our new Academy building at Kelvin Grove State College, and the overwhelming success of QB's first Giving Day. Our incredibly generous community got behind this fundraising drive with a difference to support the fit-out

and operational costs of the new Academy campus on an unprecedented scale. Strengthening our previous and ongoing relationships between the Queensland Department of Education, Kelvin Grove State College and Queensland Ballet, at this purpose-built facility, we will proudly train future generations of dancers and we're thrilled to be contributing to the evolving arts landscape in Queensland.

Indeed, education and engagement played an important part in our evolution as a company in 2019.

We delivered in-school dance workshops to more than 5000 young people in the Brisbane metropolitan region and engaged almost 4500 teachers and students in regional Queensland communities — what a positive impact this will make on those creative minds. Thirty-four dance teachers from across 13 Local Government Areas in Queensland completed the QB Petit Pointers Teacher Training program. Through this program more than 500 QB Petit Pointers enjoyed this QB-endorsed early years arts program. Enabled by the John Villiers Trust, this program has cemented QB's commitment to enrich lives for as many people as possible, regardless of age, background, location or ability.

Further extending our reach in the education sector, Deputy Executive Director Felicity Mandile was invited to the AllPlay international conference in Los Angeles in April, co-hosted by Deakin University and UCLA. QB is working collaboratively with Deakin University on AllPlayDance, an element of the Deakin Child Study Centre's AllPlay program which focuses on research and resources to enable all children, regardless of ability, to play, dance and learn.

Also in April, exemplary teachers visited our studios for QB's Ambassador Program for Practising Educators 2019, where they enjoyed behind-the-scenes insights, discussions with Artistic staff, visits to the theatre, and meetings with other leading arts practitioners and theorists. Ambassadors also collaborated with QB's Education team to develop curriculum-relevant lesson plans and digital resources.

Additionally, five QB staff members joined sector colleagues at the annual Australia and New Zealand Tessitura Regional Users Conference in Melbourne, and several QB senior staff attended REMIX Sydney 2019 — an industry conference exploring the future of culture and creative industries.

May proved just as fruitful, with two members of QB's Community Engagement team presenting a workshop at the Ausdance Educators Conference exploring QB's *Kindy Moves* project, which was delivered in partnership with Lady Gowrie East Caboolture Community Kindergarten and QUT Associate Professor, Sandra Gattenhof.

The latter half of the year saw QB's *Limitless Leaps* project begin its ten-week, in-school inclusive dance program at Churchill State School in Ipswich in August. Delivered in partnership with AllPlay Dance, Deakin University Child Study Centre and enabled by an Arts Queensland Artist in Residence grant, the project was underpinned by research which aims to understand whether children with additional needs/disabilities experience any changes to their health, wellbeing, thinking skills and/or behaviour after participating in an inclusive dance program. A Project Evaluation Report available on our website ensures we continue to share the practical knowledge and research implications with our communities near and far.

Touring played a major part in our year and contributed to our reach in both regional Queensland and interstate in Canberra. Our regional Queensland engagement tour achieved the highest number of participants we've had for at least the last five years, with the activities designed to draw communities closer to our art form. Beyond our shores, QB Company Artist Jack Lister was in the spotlight in the UK, commissioned by Birmingham Royal Ballet (BRB) to create a new work for its *Ballet Now* 2019 season. A co-production between QB and BRB, Jack's work, *A Brief Nostalgia* was also seen by audiences at London's Sadler's Wells Theatre.



# Executive Director's Report

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**We also brought ballet to the wider Brisbane community with our free *Cinderella* production at Brisbane Riverstage in October, co-presented with our Principal Partner Suncorp and supported by Brisbane City Council. When ticket registrations opened, the entire allocation was snapped up in under one hour, and 2,453 people enjoyed a night of ballet under the stars.**

The event was a welcome platform to broadcast the annual *Suncorp Dream Big Challenge* (formerly *Suncorp Wish Upon a Ballet Star*), which saw 13-year-old Gold Coast local, Mekonnen Knife, as the winner of a walk-on role in *The Nutcracker* at the Lyric Theatre in December. This competition received entries from all over Queensland and generated a media buzz — it was wonderful to see communities come together to support the entrants in their big dreams.

Meanwhile, progress on the Thomas Dixon Centre redevelopment moved from planning into construction phase in August 2019. Designed to be the first performing arts building in the world to adhere to the international WELL™ standard, this stunning facility will feature a studio theatre, six dance studios, a rooftop terrace, wellness suite, bar and café.

The building will further cement the West End precinct as an arts destination in southeast Queensland. We're so excited to be moving into our new home in 2021

and we know that its community impact will be felt for years to come. I'm incredibly proud of our ambitions with this project, which will be realised through the collaborative support of our State and Federal Government partners, The Ian Potter Foundation, and a host of generous corporate and private donors who share our vision. Our capital campaign to raise the funds required will continue well past opening through our already popular Take a Seat and Dancers' Dressing Room Stations initiatives, amongst others.

2019 saw QB initiate a reflective, internal process to establish our First Nations Reconciliation approach. Asking ourselves how the Company can contribute to reconciliation and improve ways of working across our communities and with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, this is the beginning of a journey for QB and we look forward to listening and learning how we can move forward with First Nations Peoples in the forefront of our minds.

As we continue on our journey of creating magic and enriching lives, we acknowledge the funding partners, corporate and private supporters who play such a crucial role in supporting our vision. The Queensland Government provides us with cornerstone annual funding and infrastructure support which has enabled us to create two new beautiful homes at the TDC and QB Academy at Kelvin Grove State College; for this, we extend our heartfelt thanks.

Our thanks also go to the Australian Government for its annual funding and support of our West End home. We are grateful to our corporate partners — Principal Partner Suncorp, Major Partners JCDcaux, Sealy, Shell QGC and Virgin Australia; our Season and Support Partners and our Corporate Club Members; and our Capital Development Major Partners Schiavello, Sirromet, Norton Rose Fulbright and Energy Queensland; and our Support Partners. All have collaborated with us in a myriad ways which enable transformative projects and activities. I acknowledge also, our visionary donors and supporters, who tirelessly listen to our dreams and enthusiastically enable them to come true. Their trust in our ever-ambitious vision is truly humbling and we wouldn't be the QB we are today without their unstinting support.

QB's journey is driven by a beautiful, ambitious vision guided by Li, and enabled by the QB team. The effect his passion has had on our Company is profound, and I'm privileged to work alongside him. In 2020, our 60th Anniversary year, I am thankful not only for his infectious enthusiasm but also, in what has become a year of inordinate challenges, his absolute determination to succeed. I was thrilled to hear him appointed officer (AO) of the Order of Australia in 2019 for 'distinguished service to the performing arts, particularly to ballet, as a dancer and artistic director'. It's a fitting honour, and to see his efforts recognised was heart-warming. I would also like to acknowledge the tireless commitment

and support we are fortunate to have from Felicity Mandile, Deputy Executive Director. Time and time again, Felicity's tenacity and talent is felt at QB and both Li and I would be lost without her. Thank you also to our Chair, Julieanne Alroe, and to Board Directors, for their unwavering support and leadership, especially as 2020 unfolded to be a year unlike any other.

As I've said many times, it's the people here at QB that create the magic. In 2019, our people enabled growth and collaborations, bringing bold creativity and striving for greatness. Ballet is an art form that offers plentiful ways to inspire and engage people of all ages, abilities, tastes and histories. Our 60<sup>th</sup> birthday brings the incredible opportunity to connect with our past, look back at our heritage, and challenge ourselves to ensure our relevance and a bright future. Our combined passions and our art will prevail in 2020 and beyond.

**Dilshani Weerasinghe**  
Executive Director



PERFORMANCES  
95

5.361  
\$ MILLION BOX OFFICE

86  
618  
PERFORMANCE ATTENDEES

55,  
379  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT  
ATTENDEES

16  
NEW WORKS

# 2019 Snapshot

## Ballet for Queensland

Throughout 2019 we continued our commitment to providing ballet for all, from seniors on the Sunshine Coast, to teachers in Cairns, to students in the Scenic Rim.

# 94.2%

of all community activities were rated as being relevant and of quality

### Snapshot of the 2019 events:

- QBA Elite Training Series in Cairns
- Ambassador Program for Practising Educators (April and September)
- Mind, Body, Ballet at HoTA Gold Coast (5 May)
- QB hosted Ballet for Seniors classes at the Sunshine Coast, Moreton Bay and Scenic Rim regions for Seniors Week (17 – 20 August)
- Queensland High School Work Experience program
- 2019 Regional Engagement Tour: 20 May – 7 July. This extensive tour through regional Queensland visited over 30 locations from Cairns to Mt Isa to Warwick, engaging with a total of 5,658 participants. A range of free and paid activities were delivered, including in-school workshops, community dance classes (for early childhood up to seniors), masterclasses and teacher professional development.

## Dangerous Liaisons

— Just weeks after its world première season in Brisbane, Liam Scarlett’s dramatic and sensual ballet, *Dangerous Liaisons*, toured to four major centres in regional Queensland. Venue partners saw this tour-de-force of dance storytelling for mature audiences as an excellent opportunity to develop their local dance audience. The production achieved 9% above its total attendance target and was praised by patrons for its artistry and high production values.

This tour was supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

### Home of the Arts, Gold Coast

Friday 14 & Saturday 15 June

### Cairns Performing Arts Centre

Friday 21 June

### Empire Theatre, Toowoomba

Friday 28 June

### Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre

Saturday 6 July

### Total audience

3,828 (5 performances)

*“This show took my breath away. The dancers were amazing.”*

GOLD COAST AUDIENCE MEMBER

*“Thank you for presenting such a spectacular performance and for touring all the way to Mackay!”*

MACKAY AUDIENCE MEMBER

# 98%

of audience survey respondents rated *Dangerous Liaisons* as good or excellent

# 2019 Snapshot

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## WEBSITE



**Page Views**  
1,956,869  
*+2% since 2018*



**Unique Visitors**  
348,536  
*+7% since 2018*



**Sessions**  
563,540  
*+5% since 2018*



**New Visitors**  
20%  
*Stable since 2018*



**Avg session time**  
2MIN 20SEC  
*-3% since 2018*

## E-NEWSLETTERS

**At the Barre**



**Subscribers**  
19,133  
*+4% since 2018*



**Average Open Rate**  
38.37%  
*Stable since 2018*



**Average Click Rate**  
4.26%  
*2018 not reported*

**Repertoire**



**Subscribers**  
4,453  
*-6% since 2018*



**Average Open Rate**  
27.4%  
*Stable since 2018*



**Average Click Rate**  
4.45%  
*2018 not reported*

**Dance Classes**



**Subscribers**  
3,781  
*-3% since 2018*



**Average Open Rate**  
27.92%  
*-4% since 2018*



**Average Click Rate**  
4.02%  
*2018 not reported*

## SOCIAL MEDIA

**Queensland Ballet**



**Facebook**  
78,451 FOLLOWERS  
*+5% since 2018*



**Instagram**  
37,202 FOLLOWERS  
*+17% since 2018*



**Twitter**  
3,903 FOLLOWERS  
*+1% since 2018*

**Queensland Ballet Academy**



**Facebook**  
1,636 FOLLOWERS  
*New in 2019*



**Instagram**  
2,582 FOLLOWERS  
*New in 2019*



**LinkedIn**  
2,276 FOLLOWERS  
*Not reported in 2018*



**YouTube**  
3,278 FRIENDS  
*+9% since 2018*

*Social Media statics correct  
as of 6 February 2020*

# Enriching Lives

## World Ballet Day

On 23 October, World Ballet Day, Queensland Ballet was one of a number of international companies, including The Royal Ballet, Bolshoi Ballet and The Australian Ballet, which opened their doors for ballet fans to go live behind-the-scenes on Facebook and YouTube. This year, the event was focused on the theme Every Body can Dance. Queensland Ballet was live for one hour from 2 – 3pm AEDT.



## Digital Accessibility

Company Artists designated as QB Junior Friends Ambassadors were available live on Instagram @qldballet on 15 October, interacting directly with Junior Friends and others in our digital community. This initiative was designed particularly for regional-based children who can't always attend our Brisbane-based activities.

# Enriching Lives

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## Queensland Ballet and Suncorp present *Cinderella Riverstage*

*“This was my daughter's first experience of a ballet and she absolutely loved it. Please keep providing these free concerts for the community.”*

*“I took my two girls ages 10 and 7. They both attend ballet class. They loved their first experience watching a professional ballet! I can't wait to take them to more.”*

**2,453** people attended, including **410** children

— Queensland Ballet and Suncorp presented a free outdoor performance of Ben Stevenson's *Cinderella* at Brisbane Riverstage on 12 October 2019. When ticket registrations opened on Tuesday 10 September, the entire allocation was snapped up in under one hour.

The audience enjoyed a magical evening of ballet with family and friends, with opportunities to meet QB dancers and watch them warm-up in class on stage before the performance. QB's Teaching Artists were on hand to guide children through some ballet moves, which the young and young at heart either joined in or followed along from the comfort of their picnic rugs.

We received a raft of positive feedback from patrons, some of whom were experiencing ballet for the first time, and others who relished the chance to share free family entertainment with loved ones. This unique experience attracted residents and visitors alike (85% / 15% split), with approximately one third of visitors spending at least one night in Brisbane.

This event was proudly supported by Brisbane City Council.



### Post-event survey

#### key findings:

**99%** rated the artistic quality of the performance as

👍 Good or 👍 Very Good

**86%** were not current QB 📅 season ticket holders

**63%** attended with 👤 family; **25%** with 👤 friends

**11%** had never 📍 been to a 🎭 ballet before

# Enriching Lives

## Engagement program

**In 2019, the Community Engagement and Education team focused on capacity building and continuing its commitment to foster and sustain the artform across regional communities in Queensland.**

— 2019 had a focus on building the QB Education Teaching Artist model, including the development of a framework from ‘induction’ through to ‘experienced’. The team was expanded to build capacity and capability, ensuring a sustainable model for developing the skills, knowledge and confidence of the trainee Teaching Artists through implementing a co-teaching delivery model. This new teaching model enabled a 66% increase in regional participants in curriculum-based workshops from 2018 to 2019. This growth was also achieved through QB’s first co-delivered regional tour with artists from the Queensland Music Festival as part of *The Little Green Road to Fairyland* season.

To diversify the business model of the Community Engagement team, with a focus on self-generated income, over 34 dance teachers from across 13 local Government areas in Queensland completed the **QB Petit Pointers Teacher Training program\*** (see opposite).

Through this program, more than 1,500 QB Petit Pointers participated in this endorsed program across dance studios in Queensland in 2019. This program has proven its ability to commercialise the fruits of the team’s creative and innovative capacity; building from human capital and know-how to embed a new IP asset.

We operate to enrich lives for as many people as possible regardless of age, background, location or ability. As part of this commitment, regional tour community workshop offerings were extended to cater to a wider audience including for the first time QB Ballet for Seniors classes in 12 regional communities, contributing to the 45% increase in the number of regional activities.

Offering versatility in our in-school workshop content such as Moving to Learn (coding workshop) responded to a need in the curriculum and contributed to a 32% increase in participants across all curriculum-based workshops.

## Connected and Creative Communities — QB Petit Pointers Regional Teacher Training

— QB reached deep into regional Queensland to build capacity in the regional dance sector and foster professional connections, creativity and wellbeing across communities.

QB Petit Pointers is a program of meaningful, creative, play-based learning and engagement for children aged between one and five years and their families. In January and February 2019, QB hosted training workshops in Rockhampton and Longreach, at which 18 dance teachers were upskilled and licensed to deliver QB Petit Pointers in their local communities.

All required resource materials, including lesson plans, music compilations and a syllabus and implementation guide, were supplied to the participants via a private web portal. Dance education consultant, Associate Professor Sandra Gattenhof, provided advice on knowledge transfer to adults and subsequently compiled a full project delivery evaluation report. The insightful information



and recommendations in her report will inform similar teacher training programs in the future. This project was enabled by the John Villiers Trust.

*“Great workshop and program. Really looking forward to teaching it in the studio. Thank you to QB for the opportunity you’re giving to regional teachers.”*

55,379

Total Community  
engagement attendees

# Conferences and Presentations

Queensland Ballet staff and dancers participated, learned, collaborated, and educated at numerous events around the world.

- In February, Li Cunxin attended the international Positioning Ballet Conference hosted by Dutch National Ballet in Amsterdam.
- On 7 March, as part of Queensland Women's Week, 40 guests attended a free forum at QB focusing on economic security for women in the arts, with speakers from Access Arts, BlakDance, Phluxus2 Dance Collective and Suncorp. Event supported by the Queensland Government.
- Deputy Executive Director Felicity Mandile was invited to the AllPlay international conference in Los Angeles on 26-27 April, co-hosted by Deakin University and UCLA. QB is working collaboratively with Deakin University on AllPlayDance, an element of the Deakin Child Study Centre's AllPlay program, which focuses on research and resources to enable all children, regardless of ability, to play, dance and learn.
- On 1 and 2 April, five QB staff joined sector colleagues at the annual Australia and New Zealand Tessitura Regional Users Conference in Melbourne (supporting the effective use of Tessitura CRM database software)



- Several QB senior staff attended REMIX Sydney 2019 on 11 and 12 April (industry conference exploring the future of culture and creative industries).
- Ausdance Educators Conference, 3 and 4 May: two members of QB's Community Engagement team presented a workshop that explored QB's *Kindy Moves* project which was delivered in partnership with Lady Gowrie East Caboolture Community Kindergarten and QUT researcher, Sandra Gattenhof.

- *Mind, Body, Ballet*: Sunday 5 May, HOTA, Gold Coast. Young dancers (11+), dance teachers and parents joined QB and industry for a half-day conference about elite pathways for growing minds and bodies whilst exploring health, wellbeing, resilience and safe dance practice.
- Executive Director Felicity Mandile attended the fifth National Dance Forum (led by Ausdance National and presented by Tracks Dance Company) in Darwin on 9 and 10 August, as both a delegate and presenter. Unpacking the 'Arts For All pillar', from the current QB Strategic Plan, Felicity shared the background, research project and future focus areas for QB Ballet for Seniors.





# Guest Performances

## Sharing Queensland Ballet talent with the world.

### Beijing International Ballet and Choreography Competition

**Location:** Beijing, China

**Date:** July 19, 2019

Soloist Vito Bernasconi and Company Artist Vanessa Morelli performed *Fonder Heart*, a pas de deux by QB's Jack Lister, at the Beijing International Ballet and Choreography Competition, advancing through to the finals



### Queensland Ballet at Noosa Alive!

**Location:** The J Theatre, Noosa; 2 performances

**Date:** 27 July 2019

**Program:** *Magnetic Fields* (Paul Knobloch); *The Cloud of Unknowing* (Natalie Weir); *Le Corsaire pas de deux* (Marius Petipa), *Never, Stop Falling in Love* (Greg Horsman).

**Total audience** 725



### Birmingham Royal Ballet: *Ballet Now Mixed Bill*

Birmingham Hippodrome (19 – 21 Sep 2019) and Sadler's Well's Theatre (29 & 30 Oct 2019); 8 performances total

Company Artist Jack Lister was invited to participate in Birmingham Royal Ballet's (BRB's) *Ballet Now* 2019. Commissioned as a co-production between Queensland Ballet and BRB, Jack's new work, *A Brief Nostalgia*, premiered at the Birmingham Hippodrome in September before its London premiere at Sadler's Wells Theatre.

**Total audience** 5,067



### VIII International Ballet Festival

**Location:** State Kremlin Palace, Moscow, Russia

**Date:** September 21, 2019

Principal Artist Yanela Piñera performed Kitri's virtuosic solos from *Don Quixote* at the VIII International Ballet Festival.

# Enriching Lives

IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOP		2019
<b>Curriculum-based workshops for schools</b>	Metropolitan Includes: In-school workshops Limitless Leaps John Paul College (JPC) Immersion: this was a school immersion experience where students from JPC visited QB Premier's Reading Challenge Workshops: as the Artistic Partner of the Premier's Reading Challenge we deliver workshops in kindergartens that bring selected early years books from the PRC list to life through dance.	5,507
	Regional In-school workshops (inc. <i>The Little Green Road to Fairyland</i> ) Teacher PD	4,405
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>9,912</b>
WORKSHOPS, CLASSES, SEMINARS		
<b>Masterclass/children's audition/corporate and community classes</b>	Masterclass	1,284
	Regional Tour — Community classes Regional Tour — Masterclasses <i>The Nutcracker</i> children's auditions Corporate Class	
<b>Adopt-A-Dancer</b>		238
<b>Community collaboration/pop-up</b>	Dance camps (Regional and International) Children's Hospital Birthday Celebration (+150) C&K Conference (+600)	1,087
	<b>Professional development/conference/teacher training</b>	
	Ambassador Program for Practicing Educators — week 1	8
	Ambassador Program for Practicing Educators — week 2	8
	Dance for Parkinson's training	25
	QB Petit Pointer Teacher Training/Other training	34
	Presentations and workshops QUT Work Integrated Learning Scheme Workshop — WILS is a QUT work integrated learning subject. Five students from QUT Creative Industries were involved in Little Green Road to Fairyland community activities for their WILS subject and we delivered a couple of dance-based workshops. <i>Bespoke</i> Networking Principal's Event <i>The Little Green Road to Fairyland</i> Work in progress — for these sessions, we invited 30 Junior Friends members to watch rehearsals and participate in activities with dramaturge, Sandra Gattenhof. These activities unpacked how the children were interpreting the ballet and helped to influence creation to ensure the ballet made sense to young audience members.	154

<b>Evening/weekend dance classes</b>	QB dance classes Seniors Week Kids Collective Centre Stage — Seniors	23,477
<b>Miscellaneous seminars/presentations</b>	BOLD Canberra Indigenous Knowledge Stage Queensland Conference Griffith University Conference Ausdance Conference	766
<b>Junior Friends classes/workshops</b>	House Parties Ambassador classes #mentormeQB (online engagement) Mind, Body, Ballet Christmas Party	1179
<b>Work experience</b>	High School Work Experience	27
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>28,287</b>
OTHER		
<b>Mainstage Performance (tickets for schools and studio groups)</b>	School and Community Matinees – <i>The Masters Series, Romeo &amp; Juliet</i>	2,613
	School and Studio Group Bookings – <i>The Masters Series, Romeo &amp; Juliet, The Little Green Road to Fairyland</i>	
<b>Public Programs — Q&amp;S/information sessions/storyteller/theatre activation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional tour open company class, autograph signing</li> <li>Open Home event</li> <li>Pre-performance workshops – <i>The Little Green Road to Fairyland</i> and <i>The Nutcracker</i></li> <li>Foyer activations, Q&amp;As</li> <li>Ballet Moves (<i>Cinderella</i> Riverstage)</li> </ul>	13,401
<b>Miscellaneous activities</b>	Juiced TV dedicated broadcasts	
<b>Alumni members</b>		179
<b>Alumni events</b>		125
<b>Junior Friends members</b>	Data from Sept 2017 – Sept 2018 2019 stats — Oct 2018 – Dec 2019 (match the new rolling membership)	862
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>17,180</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL ENGAGEMENT</b>		<b>55,379</b>

# Enriching Lives

## Suncorp Dream Big Challenge

The Suncorp Dream Big Challenge is an annual ballet competition supported by QB's Principal Partner Suncorp, offering the winner a walk-on role in *The Nutcracker*. Suncorp also subsidised free membership of QB Junior Friends in 2020 for all 400 competition entrants.



From Julia Creek in rural north Queensland to metropolitan Brisbane City, children from five to 13 years of age submitted stunning photos of their ballet poses in scenic locations, highlighting just how diverse and spectacular our state is. Six finalists visited QB studios at West End on November 22 to experience a day in the life of a QB dancer, and from there, 13-year-old Gold Coast local Mekonnen Knife won the hearts of the Suncorp and Queensland Ballet judges with his passion and enthusiasm. He performed with the Company in Act One of *The Nutcracker* at the Lyric Theatre on 15 December.

*Dancing changed my life...  
it gives movement to the emotions  
I can't always find words to  
express. Dance makes the world  
a better place.*

MEKONNEN KNIFE

# New Works

Collaborating with 13 creative artists, QB commissioned and produced 16 new dance works in 2019, including:

## 1 full-length work

Liam Scarlett's  
*Dangerous Liaisons*

*“Dangerous Liaisons is an extraordinary work, and with it, Queensland Ballet has truly come of age.”*

DANCE AUSTRALIA

## 1 children's ballet

Paul Boyd's *The Little Green Road to Fairyland*

*“Never, Stop Falling in Love has plenty of charm and leaves a warm glow”*

DEBORAH JONES, DANCE CRITIC

## 3 co-productions

with Texas Ballet Theater, Queensland Music Festival and Birmingham Royal Ballet

2019 NEW WORKS		PERFORMED IN:	CHOREOGRAPHER:	POSITION:	CHOREOGRAPHIC CAREER STATUS:
<b>Dangerous Liaisons</b>	1	Full-length new work	Liam Scarlett	QB Artistic Associate	Established
<b>The Shadows Behind Us</b>	1	The Masters Series	Trey McIntyre	Guest Choreographer	Established
<b>Magnetic Fields</b>	1	Synergy	Paul Knobloch	Guest Choreographer	Established
<b>The Cloud of Unknowing</b>	1	Synergy	Natalie Weir	QB Choreographer in Residence	Established
<b>Demain des L'Aube</b>	1	Synergy	Lou Spichtig	QB Company Artist	Developing
<b>Always in Flight</b>	1	Synergy	Pol Andres Thio	QB Company Artist	Developing
<b>Never, Stop Falling in Love</b>	1	Synergy	Greg Horsman	QB Chief Ballet Master & Director of Artistic Operations	Established
<b>The Little Green Road to Fairyland</b>	1	New children's ballet	Paul Boyd	QB Academy Teacher	Established
<b>A Brief Nostalgia</b>	1	BRB's Ballet Now 2019	Jack Lister	QB Company Artist	Emerging
<b>The Appearance of Colour</b>	1	Bespoke	Loughlan Prior	Guest Choreographer	Established
<b>pointNONpoint</b>	1	Bespoke	Lucy Guerin	Guest Choreographer	Established
<b>From Within</b>	1	Bespoke	Amy Hollingsworth	Guest Choreographer	Established
<b>Fertile Ground</b>	1	QB Academy Gala	Paul Boyd	QB Academy Teacher	Established
<b>Terra</b>	1	QB Academy Gala	Louise Deleur	QB Academy Teacher	Established
<b>Marcha</b>	1	QB Academy Gala	Louise Deleur	QB Academy Teacher	Established
<b>Grand Defile</b>	1	QB Academy Gala	Paul Boyd	QB Academy Teacher	Established
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>				

# Nurturing Artists

## QB Academy

Construction work stayed on-track to open the world-class, purpose-built facility for Queensland Ballet Academy in January 2020, in time to welcome students for the new school year.



The Academy is situated on campus at Kelvin Grove State College (KGSC), strengthening the 30-year partnership between QB and KGSC and providing students with both elite ballet training and academic studies on one site. Designed for artists of the future, the facility includes six dance studios that will effortlessly transform into performance spaces; office spaces, classrooms, and a wellness suite to educate students on injury prevention, recovery and mental wellbeing. There will also be an expert team to deliver medical treatment and physiotherapy.



QB Academy provides industry-focused training programs for gifted students from 10 years of age through to career employment. Its acclaimed faculty fosters technical and artistic excellence, and professional performance opportunities alongside Queensland Ballet are provided to senior students.

In 2019, the inaugural Senior Program Level 4 program for Year 9 students commenced. This program was provided prior as a precursor to the full suite of programs for Levels 1 – 6 which will be offered in the new QB Academy at KGSC facilities in 2020.

# Nurturing Artists



## Elite Training Series

QB Academy's Elite Training Series was held in Cairns and Sydney during June, and in Melbourne in the first week of July. Two days of informative classes, workshops and forums gave young dancers and observing teachers a taste of what QB Academy has to offer.



## Elite Winter School

QB Academy's Elite Winter School was held in the QB Studios 4 – 6 July, a free event attended by 62 Associate Program, Academy Level 4 and external students.



## Creative Generation

*Creative Generation: State Schools on Stage* — Eight Senior Program Level 1 students performed in a featured item choreographed by Louise Deleur (four performances at Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, 19 and 20 July).



## QB Academy goes global with Prix de Lausanne

Following a rigorous evaluation process, QB Academy was embraced as a Partner School of the prestigious Prix de Lausanne international ballet competition. The assessors evaluated not just the Academy's training methodology and capabilities of the faculty, but the organisation as a whole and its ability to nurture and develop talent from selection and enrolment, right through to professional employment.

The Prix de Lausanne grants its yearly prize winners scholarships to study at any partner ballet school across the globe, of which QB Academy is now one. It also demonstrates the integral role Queensland Ballet plays in the international ballet ecology, with the Academy offering a comprehensive industry-aligned, professional career pathway for young dancers whose talents and abilities are in demand throughout Australia and internationally.



## Elite Summer Program

From 11 – 16 December, 42 students from around Australia and New Zealand undertook QB Academy's Elite Summer Program at our Beesley Street studios. International guest teacher Priscilla Nathan-Murphy from Houston Ballet joined a number of Academy teachers to deliver this 6-day professional training opportunity. Additional activities included health information sessions with a visiting sport psychologist and QB Physiotherapist Michelle White, and students attended *The Nutcracker* dress rehearsal.



# Nurturing Artists

## Dancer Transition Fund

In 2019, Queensland Ballet's Dancer Transition Fund assisted the careers of two former QB dancers, Company Artist Tamara Hanton and Soloist Lisa Edwards, both of whom began new careers within the Company, outside the performance sphere.

— Instigated following the 2015 Career Transition report, which was commissioned by five of the major professional dance companies in Australia, Queensland Ballet's Dancer Transition Fund consisted of \$50,000 in 2019. With unding from the Australia Council and in collaboration with partner companies Bangarra Dance Theatre, Sydney Dance Company, The Australian Ballet and West Australian Ballet, we commissioned Professor Gene Moyle (then Head of Discipline – Dance, QUT) to work on the project. The final report, delivered in April of 2016, documented the challenges facing dancers as they transition from a performing career, and explored funding and resourcing options for structured programs. Due to the research that came out of the report, Queensland Ballet decided to found the Dancer Transition Fund.

In 2019, Company Artist Tamara Hanton retired from the stage at the conclusion of *Bespoke*. After applying for Career Transition funding through Queensland Ballet and receiving approval, she enrolled in the Accelerated Communications and Marketing Diploma at Southbank Institute of TAFE. Queensland Ballet provided the \$5,500 required for the course, enabling Tamara to gain full-time employment in QB's Marketing team as a Marketing Assistant. She said that prior to undertaking this course, her focus throughout her 20s had purely been dance.

*"I had not studied since Year 12, and I knew my career as a dancer was almost at the end," she said. "Since I retired, the Dancer Transition Fund has enabled me to smoothly and successfully transition to a Marketing position. I'm so grateful to Queensland Ballet for helping professional dancers to transition to other careers."*



After 14 years of gracing QB's stage with her artistry and exemplary technique, Soloist Lisa Edwards retired from her performing career after her final performance of *The Nutcracker* in 2018. She applied for the Transition Fund and Queensland Ballet covered \$5,000 of a \$9,500 Diploma in Pilates teaching at Body Organics Pilates and Physiotherapy in West End, which is an accredited course with the Australian Pilates Method Association. Lisa now holds a permanent part-time position with Queensland Ballet Academy teaching the classical program and body conditioning classes. She also teaches the QB Community Pilates class on Wednesday evenings, and, outside of QB, she teaches at dance schools and Pilates studios.

*"Li and Dilshani were incredibly supportive throughout the process and we'd spoken a few times about what a good decision I'd made..."*



# Building Our Future

## Three Sites – One Vision

Looking to tomorrow, Queensland Ballet is responding to a changing world with our ambitious, long-range plan to expand our facilities and extend our reach.

**Three Sites — One Vision** is focused on building a complete circle of on-stage, skills/talent development, production and community engagement. Major infrastructure developments across three sites will provide our Company with a stronger foundation from which to grow, create, collaborate, nurture talent and engage deeply with our community.

2019 saw substantial progress on two key projects in this encompassing vision for Queensland Ballet's future.



### Thomas Dixon Centre Redevelopment

At the close of 2019, construction work on the redevelopment of the Thomas Dixon Centre (TDC) was well underway, moving us closer to our goal of creating an outstanding new home for Queensland Ballet which will be both a state-of-the-art performing arts destination and a welcoming community hub.

The completed facility will feature: six studios; a 350-seat studio theatre; dancer wellness centre; wardrobe workshop; artistic facilities, including dancers' dressing rooms, green room and terrace, and music practice rooms; administration offices; public spaces, including a café, bar and kite garden rooftop terrace; and a two-level, 70-space underground car park.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to our Queensland and Australian Government Partners, The Ian Potter Foundation and the many organisations and individuals who have supported this visionary, \$70 million project.

**Project Architect:** Conrad Gargett

**Project Management:** Queensland Department of Housing and Public Works

**Early Works Builder:** Hutchinson Builders

**Main Works Builder:** Hansen Yuncken



### Key project milestones in 2019:

- QB relocated to temporary premises at 34 Beesley Street, West End, in February.
- Following a comprehensive review of the project's scope, budget, governance framework and financing arrangements, project management of the TDC redevelopment was assigned to the Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW), owners of the heritage-listed TDC.
- Minister for Housing and Public Works Mick de Brenni attended a symbolic 'sod-turning' event on 13 August to officially announce the beginning of work on the TDC redevelopment.
- Hutchinson Builders, a highly experienced Queensland company, was awarded the Early Works contract. Work undertaken during the following months included demolition of the shed, lift-shaft and WWII bunkers, strip-out of the TDC main building and poulitce application/re-pointing of internal brickwork, ground works, piling, and installation of underground power lines.
- Significant public artworks have been commissioned for TDC from Indigenous artist Judy Watson, who will translate her designs on to wool carpets; and Jamie North, who will create a cast concrete sculptural artwork in which native plant species are employed to seek out natural growth lines and explore the landscape of the work.

We anticipate the Company's return to the TDC in mid 2021.



# Building Our Future

## Capital Development Supporters



Anonymous, Clive & Conchita Armitage, Mr Trevor St. Baker AO & Mrs Judith St. Baker, Mrs Barbara Bedwell, Brett & Maria Clark, Tim & Gina Fairfax, The Frazer Family Foundation, Ian & Cass George, Goldberg Family Foundation, Lynn Harvey, David & Lorraine McLaren, Bruce & Jill Mathieson, Stack Family Foundation, Anne Symons, Roy & Nola Thompson, Liz & Graeme Wikman, Steve & Jane Wilson



We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the following Government, Foundation and Corporate Partners and private benefactors towards our capital development projects, the TDC redevelopment and Queensland Ballet Academy.

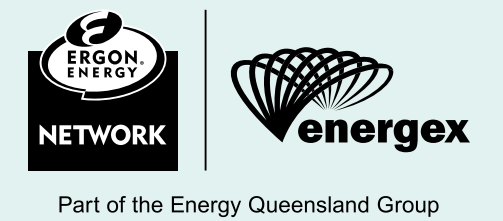
### GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



### FOUNDATION PARTNER



### MAJOR PARTNERS



### SUPPORT PARTNERS



# Building Our Future

## Queensland Ballet Academy at Kelvin Grove State College

QB has enjoyed a 30+-year partnership with the Queensland Department of Education, through Kelvin Grove State College (KGSC) and the former Queensland Dance School of Excellence and subsequently, QB Academy.

Following extensive discussions with Government stakeholders, in late 2017, the Queensland Government announced that it would invest in a state-of-the-art facility for QB Academy which would enable students to complete both their academic and dance studies at Kelvin Grove State College.

Thanks to this enabling partnership, QB Academy at Kelvin Grove State College is now realised as a transformational educational and artistic collaboration. Students receive world-leading professional ballet training and are academically empowered and equipped to best position them for their aspirations.

The impressive building in the grounds of Kelvin Grove State College is accessed from L'Estrange Terrace and has been designed so that students feel nurtured, safe, and supported in their goals for peak performance. After an intensive year of construction work during 2019, the doors of this new, world-class facility opened at the start of the school year in January 2020.

### The building features:

- six studios, with dual capacity as training or performance spaces;
- a wellness suite, including a fully equipped gym, medical consultancy area and pilates and physiotherapy spaces;
- student dressing rooms;
- open plan breakout / green room spaces, with kitchen facilities;
- meeting rooms / learning spaces and Administration offices.

On 17 October 2019, the inaugural QB Giving Day raised over \$2.1 million for QB Academy, underwriting the costs of studio mirrors, barres and flooring; pianos; audio and unified communications; external, internal studio and wayfinding signage; and health and fitness equipment for the Wellness Suite. We are grateful to the 1,359 donors who collectively ensured that QB Academy is fitted out with all that our students need to pursue their dancing dreams and thrive.

**Project Architect:** arkLAB

**Project Management:**

Queensland Department of Education

**Builder:** Paynters Pty Ltd

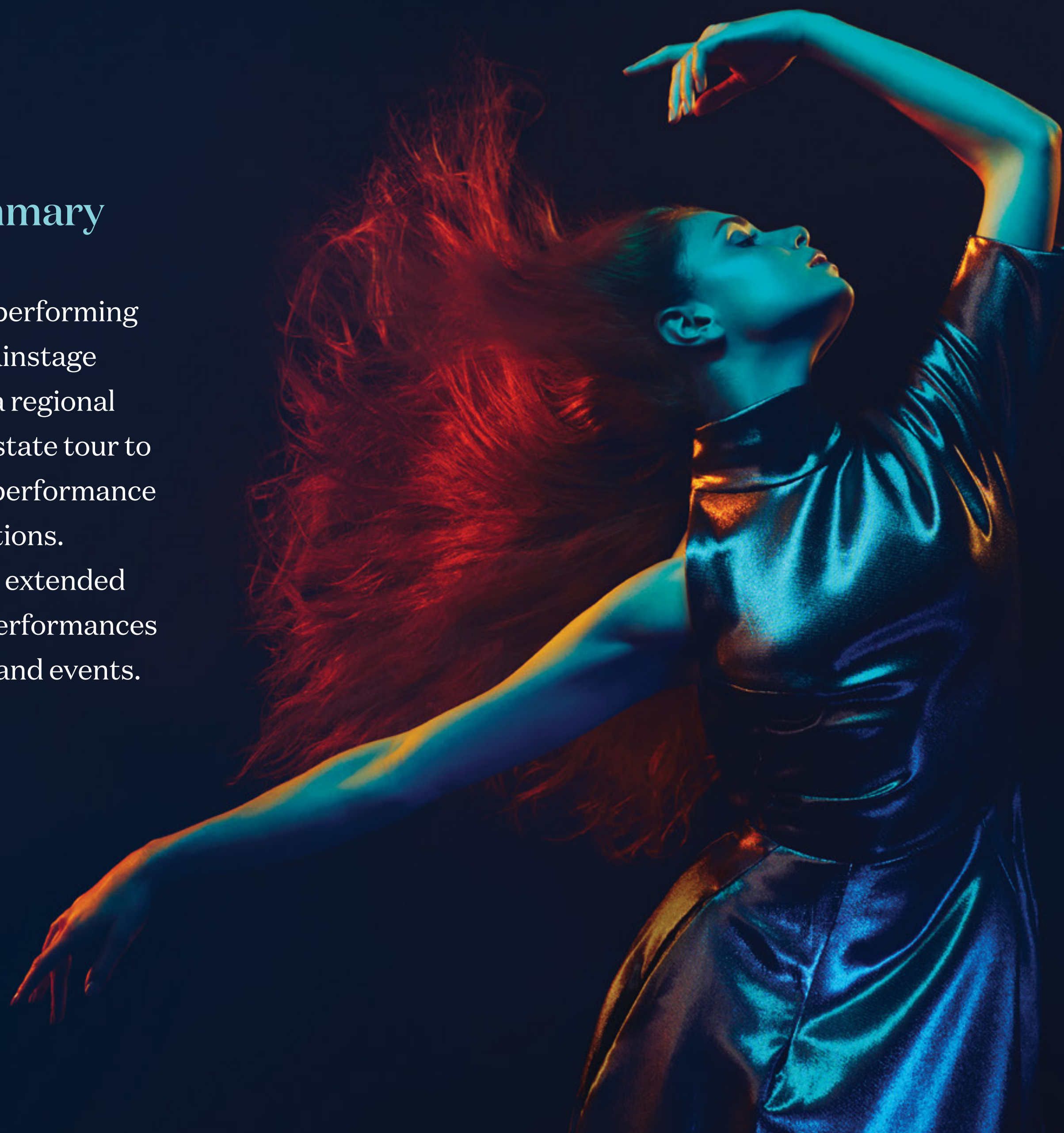


# Productions

## Performance Summary

Queensland Ballet's 2019 performing year encompassed five mainstage seasons, a studio season, a regional Queensland tour, an interstate tour to Canberra, a free outdoor performance and two Academy productions.

The Company's reach was extended through more than nine performances at non-traditional venues and events.



Dangerous Liaisons	28
The Masters Series	29
Romeo & Juliet	30
Bespoke	31
The Nutcracker	32
Synergy	33
The Little Green Road to Fairyland	34
Queensland Ballet Academy Gala	35

# Dangerous Liaisons

A classic tale of seduction and betrayal.

Based on Pierre Choderlos de Laclos' time honoured novel *Les Liaisons dangereuses*, choreographer Liam Scarlett breathed life into this sultry tale. Set amongst the aristocratic elite of late 18<sup>th</sup> century France, and with a story that has captivated audiences around the world for over 200 years, *Dangerous Liaisons* is a hedonistic tale of love, virtue and humanity, reimagined into a dramatic new ballet for mature audiences.

*Dangerous Liaisons* is a co-production between Queensland Ballet and Texas Ballet Theater.

**Choreographer** Liam Scarlett

**Composer** Camille Saint-Saëns

**Music Arrangement** Martin Yates

**Conductor** Nigel Gaynor

**Music performed by** Camerata —  
Queensland's Chamber Orchestra

**Costume & Set Designer**

Tracy Grant Lord

**Lighting Designer** Kendall Smith



28

Queensland Ballet  
2019 Annual Report

22 MARCH - 6 APRIL  
Playhouse Theatre, QPAC

15

PERFORMANCES

9,969

ATTENDANCE

\$736,315

BOX OFFICE

# The Masters Series

A breathtaking triple bill featuring masterpieces from ballet's best.

Legendary choreographer George Balanchine's iconic *Serenade* is a jewel of the ballet repertoire. Exhilarating and highly emotive, this formative piece has enthralled audiences for decades. Jiří Kylián's *Soldier's Mass* explores the horrors of war through the eyes of young soldiers, with his masterful choreography offering a powerful and moving commentary on the devastation of war. Kylian's masterful choreography offers a powerful commentary on the devastation of war that will move audiences. Acclaimed choreographer Trey McIntyre investigates the depths of human nature and the qualities that bridge the gaps between us in a world première work.

## Serenade

### Choreographer

George Balanchine

### Composer

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: *Serenade for Strings in C major, Opus 48*

### Costume Designer

Barbara Karinska

### Lighting Designer

Ronald Bates

### Lighted Recreated by

Ben Hughes

### Stager

Jerri Kumery

## Soldier's Mass

### Choreographer

Jiří Kylián

### Composer

Bohuslav Martinů: *Polní Mše (1939)*

### Costume & Set Designer

Jiří Kylián

### Lighting Designer

Kees Tjebbes

### Assistant to the

Choreographer

### Technical Adaptation

(Sets & Lights)

Joost Biegelaar

## The Shadows Behind Us

### Choreographer

Trey McIntyre

### Music

Jimmy Scott

### Costume & Set Designer

Thomas Mika

### Lighting Designer

Ben Hughes

17-25 MAY  
Playhouse Theatre, QPAC

10

PERFORMANCES

6,202

ATTENDANCE

\$406,972

BOX OFFICE

Soldier's Mass premiered June 13 1980, Circustheater, Scheveningen (The Netherlands) — Nederlands Dans Theater. A Production from the Norwegian National Opera & Ballet.

Sir Kenneth MacMillan's

# Romeo & Juliet

Proudly presented by Suncorp

The most famous love story  
of all time.

After a sell-out season in 2014, Sir Kenneth MacMillan's iconic rendition of the bard's famous tale of star cross'd lovers, *Romeo & Juliet* returned for another magnificent season. MacMillan's grand production brings the streets of Verona to vibrant life with elegant costumes, majestic sets and daring choreography that matches the dramatic heights of this classic love story. With special guest conductor Alondra de la Parra (Queensland Symphony Orchestra) taking the baton at select performances, *Romeo & Juliet* was the unmissable ballet event of the year.

**Choreographer** Sir Kenneth MacMillan

**Composer** Sergei Prokofiev

**Conductor** Nigel Gaynor

**Guest Conductor\*** Alondra de la Parra

SELECT PERFORMANCES FROM 28<sup>TH</sup>-31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST

**Music performed by** Queensland Symphony Orchestra

**Set & Costume Designer** Paul Andrews

**Lighting Designer** John B Read

**Fight Director & Stager** Gary Harris

**Stager** Julie Lincoln

**Principal Coach** Leanne Benjamin

**Choreography** taught from the Benesh Notation.

30

Queensland Ballet  
2019 Annual Report

28 AUGUST - 7 SEPTEMBER  
Lyric Theatre, QPAC

13

PERFORMANCES

20,952

ATTENDANCE

\$1,665,087

BOX OFFICE



# Bespoke

Creating dynamic dance for the digital age.

Queensland Ballet joined forces with leading creative talents including Lucy Guerin, Amy Hollingsworth and Loughlan Prior to produce a series of new contemporary works that reimaged dance. *Bespoke* created a multi-sensory experience, bringing together a collaborative space for artists who share a vision to co-create, to disrupt the norm and to embrace the interlacing of technology and dance. The mesmerising outcome was art that created wonder and inspiration in all of us.

**The Appearance of Colour**

**Choreographer**

Loughlan Prior

**Music**

John Metcalfe

**Animator**

Glynn Urquhart

**Costume Design**

William Fitzgerald

**pointNONpoint**

**Choreographer**

Lucy Guerin

**Music**

Modulator 1, 2 /

György Ligeti

**Costume Design**

Andrew Treloar

**From Within**

**Choreographer**

Amy Hollingsworth

**Composition and**

**Sound Design**

Wil Hughes

**VR Experience**

Breeder and Josephmark

**Lighting Design**

**(all works)**

Cameron Goerg

31

Queensland Ballet  
2019 Annual Report

8-16 NOVEMBER  
Brisbane Powerhouse

10

PERFORMANCES

3,380

ATTENDANCES

\$147,978

BOX OFFICE

# The Nutcracker

The tradition continues with this magical holiday classic.

Our seventh season of festive favourite, *The Nutcracker*, returned to enchant audiences across the Christmas period and cement itself as a tradition for many Brisbane families, while also capturing the hearts of new lovers of ballet.

*The Nutcracker* 2019 sold the highest ever number of "30 & Under" tickets.

**Choreographer** Ben Stevenson OBE

**Composer** Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

**Conductor** Nigel Gaynor

**Music performed by**

Queensland Symphony Orchestra

**Costume Designer** Desmond Heeley

**Associate Costume Designer** Noelene Hill

**Set Designer** Thomas Boyd

**Lighting Designer** David Walters

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Queensland Ballet  
2019 Annual Report

13 - 21 DECEMBER  
Lyric Theatre, QPAC

11

PERFORMANCES

19,405

ATTENDANCES

\$1,592,598

BOX OFFICE





# Synergy

## A vision of Queensland Ballet's future.

*Synergy* showcased the future of our Company by bringing together the rising stars of Queensland Ballet and QB Academy in a season of contemporary and neo-classical works from established and developing choreographers.

Acclaimed choreographers Greg Horsman, Natalie Weir and Paul Knobloch poured their considerable creative powers into three new works, each one an eloquent expression of the artist's unique style. QB has a wellspring of choreographic talent within our own ranks, and this year, we were thrilled to present new works by Company Artists and emerging choreographers, Lou Spichtig and Pol Andrés Thió.

The five very different short ballets gave the dancers in our Pre-Professional and Jette Parker Young Artist Programs an opportunity to explore new movement and hone their stagecraft alongside QB Company Artists.

### Choreographers

**Magnetic Fields** Paul Knobloch

**The Cloud of Unknowing** Natalie Weir

**Demain dès L'Aube** Lou Spichtig

**Always in Flight** Pol Andrés Thió

**Never, Stop Falling in Love** Greg Horsman



28 JUNE - 6 JULY  
Judith Wright Centre  
of Contemporary Arts

8

PERFORMANCES

1,541

ATTENDANCES

\$49,852

BOX OFFICE

A co-production with Queensland Music Festival

# The Little Green Road to Fairyland

A magical fairy tale for the littlest lovers of dance and music.

*The Little Green Road to Fairyland* took audiences on a charming journey with colourful sets and costumes that delighted all ages. Inspired by the original 1922 tale by Annie R. Rentoul and Ida Rentoul Outhwaite, the whimsical production sparked the imagination of our youngest audiences with a tale of love, hope, compassion and a touch of fairy magic.

**Choreographer** Paul Boyd

**Composer** Elena Kats-Chernin

**Music Arranger** Steve Newcomb

**Music performed by** Camerata —  
Queensland's Chamber Orchestra

**Costume Designer** Noelene Hill

**Set Designer** Joshua McIntosh

**Lighting Designer** Cameron Goerg

**Dramaturg** Sandra Gattenhof

This production has been assisted by the generous support of Philip Bacon Galleries and Tim Fairfax AC.

Queensland Music Festival is an initiative of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland\*\*

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Queensland Ballet  
2019 Annual Report



11-21 JULY  
Playhouse Theatre, QPAC

18

PERFORMANCES

11,174

ATTENDANCES

\$262,899

BOX OFFICE

# Queensland Ballet Academy Gala

An exhilarating showcase of  
our gifted young dancers.

Showcasing the students' wide range of skills,  
our inaugural QB Academy Gala featured elegant  
classical and vibrant character works, as well as  
exciting contemporary dance pieces.

It is a great privilege have experienced  
choreographers in our Academy faculty, and we were  
delighted to present works by Paul Boyd and Louise  
Deleur. We were fortunate to have permission to present  
Concerto (2<sup>nd</sup> movement) by the legendary Sir Kenneth  
MacMillan, with Academy graduates and now Company  
artists, performing with our Senior Program Level 1  
students. Other highlights included Mikhail Fokine's  
timeless classic, *Les Sylphides*, lively Gypsy dances from  
the traditional *Don Quixote* and a Tarantella from August  
*Bournonville's Napoli*.

Audiences were impressed by the high level of  
artistry, technique and professionalism of the talented  
students in QB Academy's elite training programs.

35

Queensland Ballet  
2019 Annual Report

18-19 OCTOBER  
Gardens Theatre, QUT

4

PERFORMANCES

1,424

ATTENDANCE

\$54,857

BOX OFFICE



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Queensland Ballet is proudly supported by:

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Queensland Ballet receives financial assistance from the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland



Queensland Ballet is assisted by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding advisory body

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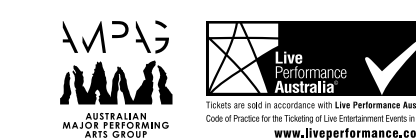


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## Queensland Ballet Academy

101 L'Estrange Tce, Kelvin Grove, Queensland 4059  
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**From late 2021 Queensland Ballet will be moving  
to the Thomas Dixon Centre, 406 Montague Rd,  
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Cover: Soloist Patricio Reve and Senior Soloist Mia Heathcote in *Romeo & Juliet*  
Photography David Kelly

Inside cover: QB Academy students in *Les Sylphides*  
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Page 3: Principal Artists Camilo Ramos and Yanela Pinera  
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Page 4: Soloist Patricio Reve and Senior Soloist Mia Heathcote  
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Page 6: Company Artist David Power and Artistic Director Li Cunxin AO  
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Page 7: Artistic Director Li Cunxin AO  
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Page 13: Soloist Lina Kim and First Company Artist Sophie Zoricic; Company Artists Tonia Looker, Chiara Gonzalez, Soloist Lina Kim, Senior Soloist Neneka Yoshida  
Photography Jasmine Ellem

Page 14: Senior Soloist Joel Woellner and Principal Artist Yanela Pinera  
Photography Darren Thomas

Page 15: Petit Pointers participant  
Photography Queensland Ballet

Page 16: AllPlay Dance Masterclass with Li Cunxin AO; Kindy Moves with QB Education Teaching Artist Joseph Stewart  
Photography Queensland Ballet; and Matt Marmy

Page 17: (L-R) Soloist Vito Bernasconi and Company Artist Vanessa Morelli, photography David Kelly; Soloist Patricio Reve; Birmingham Royal Ballet, photography Bill Cooper; Principal Artist Yanela Pinera

Page 19: Mekonnen Knife  
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Photography David Kelly

Page 24: QB Academy students; Queensland Ballet Academy exterior  
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Page 25: Thomas Dixon Centre Drake St exterior — artist rendition courtesy Conrad Gargett; Li Cunxin AO with Old Minister for Housing and Public Works, Mick de Brenni; Photography Queensland Ballet

Page 26: Queensland Ballet Academy  
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Page 33: Company Artist Lucy Christodoulou  
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Page 38: Principal Dancer Victor Estevez and Senior Soloist Mia Heathcote  
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