SBallet

BEAUTY

AND

THE

B E A S T





Martin Sierra - Artistic Director

The **Victorian State Ballet** is one of Victoria's leading ballet companies, boasting a rich and diverse repertoire from full length grand classical ballets to neo-classical and cutting edge contemporary dance works. The **Victorian State Ballet** was birthed in 2003 as a local Melbourne company but in 2013 it transcended to Victoria's prime ballet organisation under the expertise of Martin and Michelle Sierra. Its purpose is fully devoted to the pursuit of artistic excellence, presentation of magnificent classical ballet repertoire, continuous exceptional ballet education, and exhilarating contemporary dance works. Right now, the **Victorian State Ballet** has become a vibrant and creative company committed to connecting people and ballet across Victoria by offering a diversity of programs entitling grand classical repertoire ballets, exhilarating & innovative contemporary dance works and educational workshops for the enrichment, entertainment, and engagement of communities. Our vision is to hold our position as the central hub for ballet in the State of Victoria and our commitment is

to connect people and ballet across Australia through beautiful, exciting and outstanding works in collaboration with leading artists and arts organisations.

As part of the **Victorian State Ballet**'s commitment to excellence in dance education, Martin and Michelle Sierra are also on the Australian Board of the Imperial Russian Academy of Ballet (IRAB) established in 1999. Together, both institutions complement the ballet education for part-time and full-time students using the Vaganova methodology and syllabus of the Russian school. The Imperial Russian Academy of Ballet provides a solid pathway into the professional world of ballet, being the main methodology used in **Victorian State Ballet's** repertoire.

The **Victorian State Ballet** is also committed to the support and development of talented artists in Australia and abroad, offering training, rehearsal and performance opportunities through two main artistic arms of the organisation. The first arm is the Pre-Professional Program which is an initiative to prepare graduate students from Australia and worldwide for entry level to a professional ballet company. The PPY Program consists of one to two full-time years of professional training and career development. The second arm is the **Victorian State Youth Ballet** which proudly supports young artists across Australia, offering numerous unique performing opportunities to be involved with an established ballet company.

BEAUTY & THE BEAST - Season 2021

A full-length classical ballet production of the traditional tale

Beauty & the Beast is one of the world's most loved classics. The tale was first written by French novelist Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve, published in 1740. Following sell-out seasons since its Australian Premier in 2018, we are proud to present this spectacular original ballet to audiences nationwide again in 2021. Our performance is based on both the original tale and Disney version as we all know and love, and, retold through the language of classical ballet choreography which honours the spirit of this tale as old as time.

Our performance to you features exhilarating solos and duets from our favourite characters, and, magical pas de deuxs from the leading couple. An inspiring display of classical ballet, transporting audiences right through to very moving transformation, grand waltz and happily-ever-after final scene. VSB's unique version creates a fresh touch while maintaining true to the original storyline. We are delighted to bring **Beauty & the Beast** to the stage with a selection of highly skilled artists and the magical original choreography of Michelle Cassar De Sierra. Cover image by Sasha Kane of Elise Jacques & Tynan Wood.



Photo by Ron Fung of Elise Jacques & William Douglas



Michelle Cassar de Sierra - Choreographer & Co-director

Michelle has a widely recognised gift for crafting choreography that infuses the most loved classical ballets with a creative freshness and flair that accentuates the beauty of the original masterpiece, rather that detracting from it. This unique ability to balance the tension between innovation and tradition has earned Michelle wide respect within Australia's dance community.

Michelle's passion for classical ballet was fuelled whilst on a dance study tour of Moscow in 1984 during which she spent considerable time at the renowned Moiseyev Institute, which specialises in character dance. Her classical dance and teaching skills were subsequently honed at the highly regarded Victorian College of the Arts. She was winner of

the prestigious Pratt Scholarship in 1986. Her progress was rapid under the tutelage of Anne Woolliams.

Michelle's resume reflects an enviable breadth of experience: Apprentice, Kolobok Dance Company; Soloist, National Ballet of Israel; Soloist, Saarlandisches Staatstheater Saarbrucken; Guest Artist, Klagenfurt Opera House, Austria, Principal Dancer, Martin Sierra Dance Company, Germany; Co-founder Victorian State Ballet Company; Principal, Victorian State Ballet Pre-Professional Program and Co-founder of the Victorian State Youth Ballet.

Beauty & the Beast Choreography – Michelle Sierra Light Design – Martin Sierra Music – Mozart, Cesare Pagini, Silvio Amato, Pierre Adenot, John Lanchberry

CAST

Rose Petals

Belle Elise Jacques
The Prince/Beast Tynan Wood

Enchantress Elise May Watson-Lord

GastonBenjamin ObstThe RoseJanae KerrLa FouHenry Driver

Maurice (Belles father) Harry Davis/Joshua Steinke

Wardrobe Sera Schuller

LumiereCharlie Morton/Harry DavisFeather duster-PlumetteLucinda Worthing-Shore

Mrs PottsJulia PigouChipCourtney TaylorCogsworthAlana Puddy

BimbettesClaudette, Laurette, Paulette - Aimee Hodgkinson, Alana Puddy, Elise Watson-Lord

Villagers/Tavern

Henry Driver, Josh Steinke, Julia Pigou, Janae Kerr, Sera Schuller, Lucinda Worthing-

Shore, Rebecca Murray, Lisa De Koning, Hannah Lyons, Jemma Braun, Mia Wallace, Courtney Taylor, Samantha Mattner, Sarah Rose, Hannah Mancev, Jordhan Gault, Daniel Sierra, Jerome Bates, Christopher Lavilles, Lucy Harris, Natalie Trainor, Yuki Ide, Sean Schilling, Harry Davis, Charlie Morton, Tristan Gross, Joelle Aeby, Bridget Wood, Kamryn Schruhm, Macy West, Kyralee Matthewson, Abigail Merkelbach, Elizabeth Byrnes

Lisa de Koning, Lucy Harris, Samantha Mattner, Natalie Trainor, Hannah Lyons,

Aimee Hodgkinson

Princesses Hannah Mancev, Mia Wallace, Rebecca Murray, Jemma Braun, Elizabeth Byrnes

/Sarah Rose, Jordhan Gault

Cupcake dance Elizabeth Heiss, Caitlin Mitchell, Renee Ayres, Alicia Green, Lara-Ann Kidman,

Isabella Palmer, Alexia Johansen, Faye Lim, Jessica Greig, Gabi Jones,

Gabrielle Witschi, Jayde Caia, Macy West, Kyralee Matthewson, Alexandra Ross,

Kamryn Schruhm

Clothes Lucy Harris, Yuki Ide, Sophia Silvy, Natalie Trainor, Alicia Green, Sarah Rose

Clocks arms Rebecca Murray, Samantha Mattner, Natalie Trainor, Hannah Lyons, Lisa de Koning,

Aimee Hodgkinson

The Ball Full Cast

The Artists of the Victorian State Ballet



Principal Artist
Elise May Watson-Lord



Senior Artist Alana Puddy



Soloist - Tynan Wood



Senior Artist Elise Jacques



Soloist - Janae Kerr



Leading Soloist Mia Wallace



Leading Soloist Sera Schuller



Charlie Morton



Demi Soloist Julia Pigou



Demi Soloist Aimee Hodgkinson



Rebecca Murray



Lucinda Worthing-Shore



Tristan Gross



Samantha Mattner



Maggie de Koning



Jemma Braun



Courtney Taylor



Harry Davis



Lisa de Koning



Hannah Mancev



Joelle Aeby



Jordhan Gault



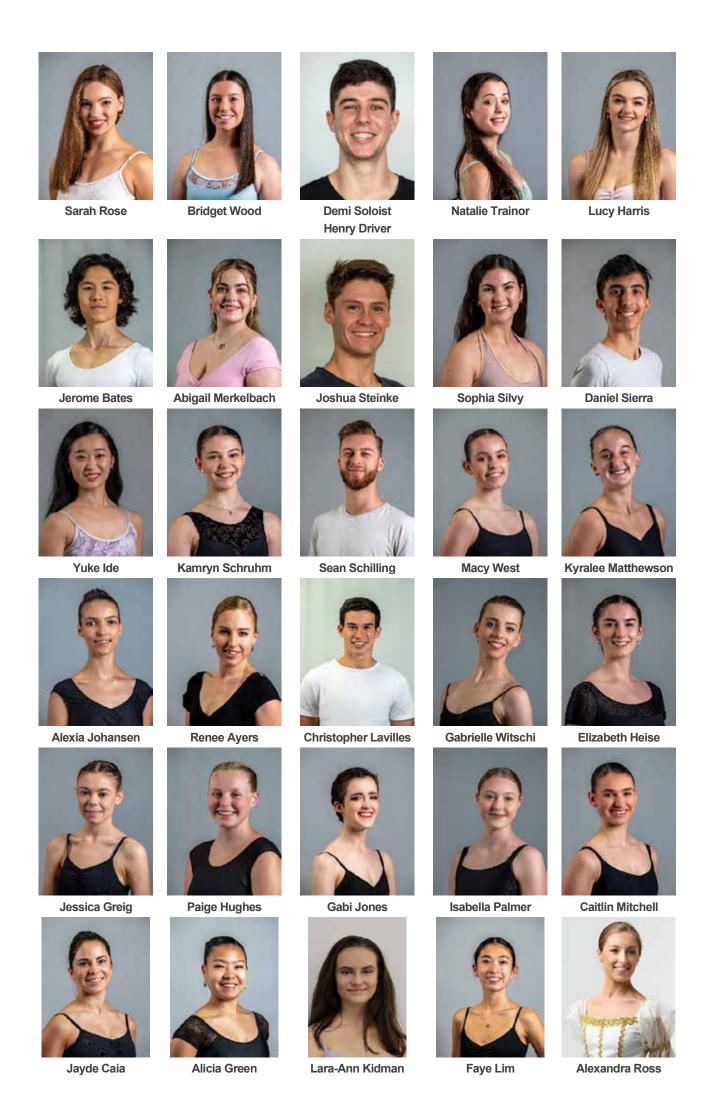
Benjamin Obst



Elizabeth Byrnes



Hannah Lyons



GALLERY





















Photos by Ron Fung



Thanks to our Principal Partners























BECOME A PARTNER WITH US

ENQUIRE TODAY ABOUT OUR CORPORATE LOUNGE

www.victorianstateballet.org.au - admin@victorianstateballet.org.au



Donate Today - All donations to the Victorian State Ballet are tax deductable



Your generous support allows us to continue the advancement of classical ballet and contemporary dance in Australia through our outstanding repertoire.

VSB is committed to improving employment opportunities to emerging and professional artists and offering performing opportunities & professional development to youth artists across Victoria & interstate Australia

Receive privilege event packages, VIP nights for friends of the ballet & annual season passes

