

Jetè to the USA: From New York to San Francisco Bay

The Australian Ballet gets set to pirouette across America this October

This October, The Australian Ballet returns to LA for the first time in more than four decades and the San Francisco Bay Area for the first time in over 20 years to premiere an Australian classic, Graeme Murphy's *Swan Lake*.

The company's 33rd international tour will kick off on **9 October** in Los Angeles at The Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion before travelling to Berkeley, opening **16 October** at Cal Performances' Zellerbach Hall.

The Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet, David McAllister, is thrilled to be bringing the company back to the West Coast along with an internationally acclaimed masterpiece.

"It's been over 40 years since The Australian Ballet last toured LA and almost 25 years since we last performed in the San Francisco Bay Area. It's especially exciting to bring with us an Australian *Swan Lake*, and a production that showcases our strength and unique style.

"Murphy's *Swan Lake* was an instant smash hit when it premiered in 2002 and since then it's gone on to wow audiences in Paris, Tokyo, Shanghai, London and New York – now it's LA and Berkeley's turn," he said.

A touring party of 100 people, including dancers, wardrobe, medical, music and technical staff, will depart the company's Melbourne headquarters on Sunday 5 October.

Meanwhile, four 40-foot-high shipping containers loaded with more than 300 costumes, 250 pairs of pointe shoes, props, sets, make-up and medical supplies will make the 26,000km round trip by sea.

The Australian Ballet has enjoyed a long history of international touring since its first company tour in 1965. The 2014 US West Coast tour will be The Australian Ballet's ninth tour of the United States – adding to the 87 cities across 37 countries the company has visited in its lifetime.

The tour will be especially memorable for guest artist Colin Peasley OAM, who will celebrate his 80th birthday in the USA. A founding dancer of The Australian Ballet, Colin retired in 2012 after an unprecedented 50-year career. Colin has accompanied the company on every international tour since 1965.

As the company mesmerises audiences on the West Coast, The Australian Ballet will also be wowing the East Coast with the world premiere of a new work from Resident Choreographer Tim Harbour in New York on 16 October.

Ostinato will premiere at the *Fall for Dance* festival at the New York City Center, alongside works from Wayne McGregor | Random Dance, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the San Francisco Ballet, and more.

Set to Bill Evans' 1958 *Peace Piece*, the work reflects the social and sexual politics of this generation of performers, and will feature dancers Daniel Gaudiello, Ty King-Wall and Robyn Hendricks.

DATES

Los Angeles (5 performances)

9 – 12 October

Swan Lake

Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Berkeley (5 performances)

16 – 19 October

Swan Lake

Cal Performances, Zellerbach Hall

New York (2 performances)

16 – 17 October

Ostinato

Fall for Dance, New York City Center

For all media enquiries, including interviews and images, please contact:

Arianne Martin, Senior Publicist

P: (03) 9669 2771 **M:** 0409 359 174 **E:** ariannem@australianballet.com.au

Grace Breen, Publicist

P: (03) 9669 2789 **M:** 0419 375 751 **E:** graceb@australianballet.com.au

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