



ASSEMBLÉE INTERNATIONALE 2009

Australian Ballet School

The Australian Ballet School, the school of The Australian Ballet, is the national centre for excellence in classical dance training in Australia.



The Australian Ballet School was established just fifteen months after The Australian Ballet gave its first performance at Her Majesty's Theatre in Sydney in 1962. The School was born of the great vision of The Australian Ballet's founding Artistic Director, Dame Peggy van Praagh who identified the need to establish a national school in which to train dancers in the style required by The Australian Ballet.

Dame Margaret Scott AC, DBE was appointed as the School's Founding Director in 1964. Since her retirement in 1989 the School has seen only two subsequent Directors: Gailene Stock AM (1990-1998), and Marilyn Rowe OBE (1999-current).

Working in close liaison in the purpose-built facilities of The Australian Ballet Centre located in Melbourne's vibrant arts precinct, the School and Company continue to share the same long term goal: a truly unique Australian Ballet with a distinctive style of its own. Nowhere, but in the school of the national company, can a unique company style be fostered and developed.

Most dancers in The Australian Ballet are graduates of The Australian Ballet School, including Artistic Director, David McAllister AM. Graduates can also be found as principals and soloists in major companies throughout the world. Such is the standard of excellence that within six months of graduating, 90% of students gain contracts. This is one of the highest employment rates of any tertiary institution in Australia.

The School also influences many other areas relating to dance. Choreographic talent has been strongly nurtured and the many graduates having established distinguished reputations include Graeme Murphy, Meryl Tankard, Stephen Baynes, Gideon Obarzanek and Leigh Warren.

www.australianballetschool.com.au

Marilyn Rowe

Artistic Director, Australian Ballet School



Marilyn Rowe assumed the role of Artistic Director of Australian Ballet School in 1999. She is the first ABS graduate to have been appointed its Director. She graduated in 1964 and in 1965 was recruited into the Australian Ballet company. She was a principal artist with the Australian Ballet and later became ballet director, deputy artistic director and in 1984 director of the Dancers Company, a post she held until 1990. She has been on the Board of the Australian Ballet since 1994. She has directed and coached many of the leading dancers of the Australian Ballet and has produced and directed major contemporary and classical works. Other positions include that of Life Governor of the Berry St Child and Family Care since 1985. She was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1979 for her services to ballet in Australia.

After a career where she danced all the major roles in the company repertoire, she ballet director, deputy artistic director and in 1984 director of the Dancers Company. Rowe continued with the Dancers Company until 1990. She was appointed to the Board of the Australian Ballet in 1994. She has been responsible for directing many of the leading dancers of the Australian Ballet. In addition she been responsible for bringing into the repertoire a large number of modern and classical ballets. Rowe was appointed Director of the Australian Ballet School in 1999.