

# SWAN LAKE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 6PM AEST Wednesday 13 April 2022

## The Australian Ballet will take flight with a new *Swan Lake* to celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary season

“Every major ballet company needs a classic version of this timeless ballet, and this will be ours for years to come,” *Artistic Director David Hallberg*

In celebration of The Australian Ballet’s 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary season the company has today announced a reimagined *Swan Lake* will be taking flight in 2023, enabled by a unique partnership with the company’s generous friends and philanthropic supporters.

The Australian Ballet’s Artistic Director David Hallberg will lead a recreation inspired by Anne Woolliams’ iconic 1977 production. An interpretation of one of the greatest ballets of all time, this adaption will embody the beauty of the art form as well as the company’s rich history and legacy.

*Swan Lake* will be Hallberg’s first major commission for the company and will be the cornerstone of The Australian Ballet’s 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration – a symbolic tribute to the company’s very first performance on 2 November 1962, which was *Swan Lake*.

“Our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be celebrated through this signature *Swan Lake*, defining us for decades to come. It will serve as our guide to connect with audiences around Australia and the world,” The Australian Ballet Artistic Director David Hallberg said.

*Swan Lake* will be brought to life by the generosity of The Australian Ballet’s philanthropic community, many of whom have already committed their support allowing the company to make this announcement today. Anchoring a gift matching campaign, the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation and the Lachlan and Sarah Murdoch Foundation have both made generous leadership gifts to double the impact of every donation towards the realisation of the landmark production.

Kerry de Lorme, Executive Director James and Diana Ramsay Foundation said: “James and Diana always admired and enjoyed the visual and performing arts and supporting The Australian Ballet during their lives was their

absolute joy. Through their Foundation they were committed to continuing to support those organisations that had given them much joy during their life together.

When The Australian Ballet presented an opportunity to the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation to partner with them on a new *Swan Lake* to celebrate the company’s 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary the Foundation saw this as a perfect opportunity to support them while also honouring the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of James Ramsay’s birth which falls in 2023”.

As Hallberg embarks on creating a *Swan Lake* tailor-made for a new era, he will assemble a team of world-class designers to realise his vision for this ambitious production.

His vision is a classic *Swan Lake* for our times, fusing the beauty of this iconic ballet with crisp, realistic designs. Hallberg will evoke the timelessness of this ballet to create a deeply moving theatrical experience.

“*Swan Lake* is a jewel in the crown of any major ballet company. This version will inspire ballet lovers for decades to come and will serve as a milestone in The Australian Ballet’s future,” Hallberg said.

“Following in Anne’s path, I am excited to honour a work that has been important to the history of this company, but believe that like herself, reinvention isn’t necessary with timeless work such as *Swan Lake*. This is the centerpiece of our 60<sup>th</sup> year, with new set and costume designs to ensure it feels as current as the day it was created,”

“Just as Anne made changes when restaging the ballet in 1991, there are sections of the work that can grow and expand with some careful additions - especially now that the company is over 20 dancers larger. I have decided to lead these adjustments myself to ensure they are made in the spirit of the original production,” he continued.

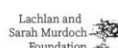
Government  
Partners



Lead  
Partner



Leadership  
Gifts



Principal  
Partner



# News from The Australian Ballet

The sheer beauty of *Swan Lake* is the reason it is the most well-known ballet ever created. Its powerful themes of solitude, idealism, betrayal and forgiveness, enthrall audiences from their earliest years and continue to resonate throughout their lifetimes.

Since 1962 *Swan Lake* has played a recurring lead role in the life of The Australian Ballet: four productions and 659 performances of the work through the company's 60-year history.

"As I begin to define what the future of The Australian Ballet looks like under my guidance, I am also looking to its rich history and depth of important repertoire. I am confident that Anne's *Swan Lake* should continue to thrive in the repertoire, set anew for a fresh generation of ballet lovers," Hallberg said.

The Australian Ballet will announce its full 2023 season later in the year.

## **FOR INFO AND TO SIGN UP TO A WAITLIST FOR TICKETS IN 2023 PLEASE VISIT:**

[australianballet.com.au/swanlake2023](https://australianballet.com.au/swanlake2023)

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

-

### **Alison van den Dungen**

Public Relations Manager

M: 0408 356 539

E: [alisonv@australianballet.com.au](mailto:alisonv@australianballet.com.au)

### **Jessica Wood**

Publicist

M: 0413 809 244

E: [jessicaw@australianballet.com.au](mailto:jessicaw@australianballet.com.au)