

### The Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School Presents

Wace

Breathtaking speed, transcendent emotion, sparkling technique & daring versatility.



## 19 - 21 SEPTEMBER 2019





Victorian College of the Arts SECONDARY SCHOOL



### PROGRAM

CHOREOGRAPHY | Fiona Munroe



CHOREOGRAPHY | Aria Morton

CHOREOGRAPHY | Sela Kiek-Callan & Leana Simper

CHOREOGRAPHY | Nicole Mellov

INTERMISSION | 20 mins

CHOREOGRAPHY | Jonathan Taylor

CHOREOGRAPHY | Lambros Lambrou

Investigation)

**STEVEN McTAGGART** Acting Head of Dance

Witness breathtaking speed, transcendent emotion, sparkling technique & daring versatility.

It is with great pleasure we present to you Vivace, a season of spirit and liveliness. I would like to thank our staff and student choreographers for creating such exciting works for our whole school. These items comprise the first half of the show and proudly demonstrate the range of skills our students develop.

In the second half, we honour the memory and massive contribution of Jonathan Taylor to VCASS and the development of the dance industry in Australia, with his beautiful work **Opus 47** restaged for our Year 10 students. Following this will be *Motif*, by Lambros Lambrou, and Currently Under Investigation by Garry Stewart; all of these contrasting works, pushing our dancers to their limits.

Once again, dance futures and dance history meet in this season, anchored in the liveliness and spirit of our wonderful students... Enjoy.

CHOREOGRAPHY | Garry Stewart



CHOREOGRAPHYFiona MunroeMUSIC*Rhapsody in Blue* by George GershwinDANCERSYears 7,8 & 9LIGHTINGTim NewmanCOSTUMESJan & Linda Slaughter

#### Choreographer's note:

This year's Junior Ballet is inspired by the symphonic jazz style of this famous work. The hustle and bustle of 1920's New York City is blended with a modern twist on ballet and our obsession with electronic devices and selfies.



'Hustle and bustle with a modern twist.'

Go Stop Go

 CHOREOGRAPHY |
 Ronan Armstrong (Year 12)

 MUSIC
 |
 Razor by ANNA

 Deliverance by Belief Defect

 DANCERS
 |
 Years 11 & 12

 LIGHTING
 |
 Tim Newman

 COSTUMES
 |
 Ronan Armstrong & Fiona Munroe

#### Choreographer's note:

In this work I explore how we are constantly moving until forced to stop by external factors beyond our control. When stationary we become agitated, causing us to take out our frustrations on ourselves and the ones near us. When we overcome these restrictions, we hasten to make up for the time we have lost.





CHOREOGRAPHYAria Morton (Year 11)MUSICWe're Losing the Moon by Slow MeadowDANCERSYear 11LIGHTINGTim NewmanCOSTUMESAria Morton

#### Choreographer's note:

Solitude is a word that describes the state or situation of being alone. This dance is a reflection of both the negative and positive outcomes of being isolated from a group or a way of being. The dancers explore emotions of tranquility, lust, hope, satisfaction, with slight spontaneous undertones of anger and frustration.

I wanted this dance to stray into the areas of vulnerability, demonstrating moments of both grief and pride, encouraging you to feel every movement of *Solitude*.

# 'Allow yourself to feel every movement of Solitude'.

Erode:Evolve

CHOREOGRAPHYSela Kiek-Callan & Leana SimperMUSIC|Pirates of the Caribbean Soundtrack by Hans ZimmerDANCERS|Years 7, 8 & 9LIGHTING|Tim NewmanCOSTUMES|Jan & Linda Slaughter

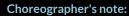
'Eroding and evolving sculptural forms and structures'.

#### Choreographers' note:

This work has taken inspiration from the issue of the erosion of coral reefs due to exposure and the changing acidity levels of the seas, both problems that have resulted from widespread climate change. The effects of tidal forces dissolving and evolving sculptural forms are explored throughout the piece. Recently scientists have suggested there may be species of resistant corals that can survive the catastrophic effects of climate change. Perhaps we humans can evolve too, and find new, more sustainable ways of existing.



CHOREOGRAPHY	Nicole Melloy
MUSIC	Sherry, Ces Soirées- Là, My Boyfriend's Back
	Walk like a Man $\&$ Who Loves You
	by Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons
DANCERS	Years 10, 11 $\&$ 12
LIGHTING	Tim Newman
COSTUMES	Nicole Melloy $\&$ Fiona Munroe



I love this theme as it is a tribute to the influences of the 60s, and challenges these talented students with Broadway style choreography. It is adapted from an award-winning piece of theatre, celebrates the joyous music and iconic dances of the period, and showcases the students' versatility.

I hope you enjoy this tribute to Dersey Boys!



CHOREOGRAPHY | Jonathan Taylor REHEARSAL DIR. | Janne Blanch MUSIC | Introduction & Allegro Opus 47 by Sir Edward Elgar DANCERS | Year 10 LIGHTING | Tim Newman

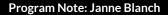
LIGHTING | **Tim Newman** COSTUMES | **Stacy Mitchell** 

Choreographer's note:

From Jonathan's notes in 2014: A chance meeting with the conductor Marco van Pagee in a small Victorian country pub and Elgar's **Opus 47 Introduction and Allegro** became the starting point for this work, **Opus 47**. The score's unusual aspect to have a string quartet within the string orchestra, was the first thing that fascinated me.

Choreographing a non-narrative work is always a challenge but here the internal complexities of the music took me many hours of study to understand. It's recurring theme was haunting me, the sheer beauty of the music, the force and dynamic sections, all of it, not easy to mirror in dance.

None of us realised until that last step, the huge challenge I had set the students: speed, technique and energy, all linked to equal the power of Elgar's **Opus 47**.



It has been a great pleasure to reproduce Jonathan Taylor's beautiful work for this group of talented students.

Although Jonathan was able to meet the dancers and cast this production of **Opus 47**, his passing in March has meant that it has arrived on stage without his inspirational guidance. The dancers have embraced **Opus 47** with commitment, enthusiasm and maturity – Jonathan would be very proud of you all.

I would like to say a special thank you to Ariette Taylor for her encouragement and support throughout the rehearsal process.





CHOREOGRAPHY REHEARSAL DIR. MUSIC

DANCERS LIGHTING COSTUMES Lambros Lambrou
Maggie Lorraine
Concerto for Two Pianos & Orchestra by Francis Poulenc
Years 11 & 12
Tim Newman
Maggie Lorraine, Jan & Linda Slaughter

#### Choreographers note:

Lambros Lambrou's Motif is choreographed for 5 couples to the complex and stirring Poulenc Concerto in D Minor for Two Pianos and Orchestra. The music drives the choreography at breathtaking speed through 3 distinct movements. The choreography is incredibly technical and requires detailed dancing - and the students have risen with determination and joy to meet the challenges it presents. Each dancer is integral to the form of the whole in this beautifully crafted work, seeming to skim over the floor, weaving speed and agility with the grace and deceptive ease of classical ballet.



CHOREOGRAPHY | Garry Stewart REHEARSAL DIR. | Tim Harbour, V

MUSIC

DANCERS

LIGHTING

COSTUME

 Garry Stewart
 Tim Harbour, Wei Wei McKercher & Janet Bradley-Bridgeman
 Locomotion by Plastikman
 Years 11 & 12
 TIm Newman
 Jan & Linda Slaughter

#### Choreographers note:

I was commissioned by the Australian Dance Theatre to create *Currently Under Investigation* in 1999, several months before I commenced my appointment as Artistic Director there. When I settled on the title it was meant to be a quietly ironic one given that my appointment had just been announced and I felt like I was indeed under investigation - or at least some form of implied scrutiny.

I'd like to thank Janet Bradley-Bridgeman for her terrific efforts in remounting this work and also Steven McTaggart for bringing the work to the VCASS students. The piece is 20 years old now so perhaps not completely representative of my current artistic interests, however for students it demands a technical acumen and a powerful sense of place and presence within the space – qualities that are still fundamental in the training of young dancers.

## **Biographies**

#### Lambros Lambrou



Internationally acclaimed teacher and choreographer, Lambros Lambrou received his training at the Arts Educational School and the Royal Ballet School in London before embarking on his career in Canada with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. He became Resident Choreographer with the Company in 1997 and created ballets for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the National Ballet of Cuba, the National Ballet of Serbia, Icelandic Ballet and West Australian Ballet among other companies worldwide.

He founded and directed the Alberta Ballet School's Professional Programme in Edmonton Alberta, Canada and later was appointed Artistic Director of Ballet Austin. Texas where he directed the company for ten years. Following his appointment with Ballet Austin, he returned to his native Cyprus where he is currently the Director of the Limassol Municipal Dance Centre, which prepares young dancers for the professional stage.

Lambros continues to choreograph and accepts commissions from Opera and Ballet Companies, television and theatre. In 1999 he was invited by Ballerina Alicia Alonso to create an original work for her and for the National Ballet of Cuba. The ballet was later performed at the Bolshoi Theatre.



#### **Garry Stewart**

For the past 20 years Garry Stewart has been the Artistic Director of Australian Dance Theatre. His work is renowned internationally for its unique physicality and ambitious international collaborations with artists from various fields including architecture, robotics, neuroscience, photography, interactive video and 3D graphics.

Stewart has also created works for other companies around the world including Rambert Dance Company, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Royal Flanders Ballet, Ballet Du Rhin (France) and The Australian Ballet.



#### Jonathan Taylor, 1941-2019

Jonathan Taylor danced with Leonide Massine's Ballet European di Nervi, Dutch National Ballet and Ballet Rambert where he began his choreographic career in 1965.

He came to Australia in 1975 to choreograph Star's End for Ballet Victoria and in 1976 was invited to reform Australian Dance Theatre.

During his directorship of Australian Dance Theatre from 1976 - 1985, Jonathan introduced not only many new works of his own creation, but many by English colleagues who had also worked with the Rambert company, in particular Christopher Bruce and Norman Morrice.

In 1988 he was appointed Dean of Dance at the Victorian College of the Arts where he remained until 1997. From 1998 - 2004, Jonathan worked with the Keene/Taylor Theatre Project, a groundbreaking Melbourne theatre company as choreographer and performer. Jonathan particularly enjoyed working with VCASS students and, in addition to Opus 47, created and recreated many works for the performance program including Smarties, Sweet Sorrow, Flibbertigibbet, Ouicksilver, Winter from Four Seasons, Steel and Summers End.

## Credits

### Principal Hilary Bland Assistant Principals

Donatella Mannolini Michael Sargeant

Acting Head of Dance Steven McTaggart

#### Dance Staff

Fiona Munroe Janne Blanch Leana Simper Maggie Lorraine Nicole Melloy Olga Polvetaveva Sela Kiek-Callan **Timothy Harbour** Wei Wei McKercher Production Manager Daniel Holden

Stage Manager Rachel Nagey

**Production Assistants** Zac Koukoravas

Wardrobe Fiona Munroe Jan & Linda Slaughter

Photography **Belinda Strodder** 

**Design & Additional** Photography **Dylan Breninger** 

VCASS Staff

Amelia Oliva

Andrew Landrigan Anne Lewitzka **Bridget Higgins** Christine Paraskeva Christopher Button Daniel Holden Dylan Breninger Eden Greskie Eleanore Vuong Elizabeth Townshend Ella Waters Felicity Rodda Goran Banyai Grace Cloney Hannah Barbour Woods Helen Mccormick Ian Whitehurst

James Rust Jeffrey Goodwin Jennifer Gillan Jenny Purcell Judith Hall Julie Haskell Kelly Sullivan Kerri Redfern Lanie Tobias Layne Naug Leonie Perry Lis Viggers Louise Howlett Maryanne Pearce Mary Jo Kelly Nancie Robinson Nicholas Heynsbergh Nicole Demasi

Nicole Sage Penelope Webster Rod Morrison **Rosemary Richards** Rosina Gannon Sandv Abev Sarah Coleman Sarah Scaramozzino Sean Peoples Stacy Mitchell Steven Thorne Stewart Kelly **Tanje Ruddick** Theo Buskes **Timothy Greaves Toby Couchman** Zac Koukoravas

#### Special Thanks

Special thanks to our parents and volunteers who assisted with costumes and The Coopers Malthouse Staff.

## VCASS Dance Students 2019

#### Year 7

Mikaylah Caracciolo Hugo Ernst-Russell Caitlin Fergus Rocco Frediani Xavier Gibson Molly Hughes Patrick McDonough Zachary Medved Ayshia-Mila Stromei Nicholas Waddington Alicia Wong

#### Year 8

Gabrielle Arnold Jamie Bogemann Ami Cowburn Jessica Dillon Oscar Flight **Flias Geffen** Mackenzie Hancock Tom Jones Ruby Maher-Williams Takdanai McLeod-Smith Jaidvn Millington Emma Mills **Flla Morrison** Noah Nissen Chloe Pearce **Morgan Renolds** Noah Sharpe Jessica Smart **Bridget Stackpole Ruby Young** 

#### Year 9

Matayo Ayegun-Watson Thomas Boddington Ashley Brkovic Siobhan Cooper Katvoon Hamvrad Alana Kluver Hannah Lesniauskas Tiana Magnussen Kealey McHenry Thierry Mendoza Felix Milewski Zac Purves Catherine Rinehart-Beer Merrikk Steinfort Raphael Trioli **Ruby Willis** 

#### Year 10

Joshua Ballinger Sherylee Campbell Catia Castagna Juliet Collard Charlotte Deanv Laura Griffiths Cosima Hudec Milei I ee Hannah Lukev Alessio Mammone Lucinda Mann Ethan Mrmacovski Michael Scott-Kahans **Blayke Sheean** Caleb Waterworth Lauren Wooller

#### Year 11

Bella Archibald Zara Bailey Harry Cooper Tess Davey Georgia Folpp Jessica Ford Darion Gandhi Ethan Gusman James McDonell Aria Morton Harvey Price Olivia Szentirmay Tom Umseher Dario Zanini-Sassani

#### Year 12

Ronan Armstrong Kate Farley Laura Harwood Laura Marriott Harrison Netherway Adam Peters Min Reed Chelsea Stewart Luke Ward





