



The Victorian College of the Arts
Secondary School Presents



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

THE *Coopers*
MALTHOUSE

19 - 21 SEPTEMBER 2019

THE *Coopers*
MALTHOUSE



Victorian College of the Arts
SECONDARY SCHOOL



Education
and Training

Featured Dancers: Michael Scott-Kahans & Milei Lee | Photograph: Belinda Strodger | Design: Dylan Breninger

PROGRAM

Rhapsody in Blue

CHOREOGRAPHY | Fiona Munroe

Go Stop Go

CHOREOGRAPHY | Ronan Armstrong

Solitude

CHOREOGRAPHY | Aria Morton

Erode: Evolve

CHOREOGRAPHY | Sela Kiek-Callan & Leana Simper

Jersey Boys – A Tribute

CHOREOGRAPHY | Nicole Melloy

INTERMISSION | 20 mins

Opus 47

CHOREOGRAPHY | Jonathan Taylor

Motif

CHOREOGRAPHY | Lambros Lambrou

Currently Under Investigation

CHOREOGRAPHY | Garry Stewart

Vivace

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.

Rhapsody in Blue

CHOREOGRAPHY | Fiona Munroe
MUSIC | *Rhapsody in Blue* by George Gershwin
DANCERS | Years 7,8 & 9
LIGHTING | Tim Newman
COSTUMES | Jan & 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.



Solitude

CHOREOGRAPHY | Aria Morton (Year 11)
MUSIC | *We're Losing the Moon* by Slow Meadow
DANCERS | Year 11
LIGHTING | Tim Newman
COSTUMES | Aria 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

CHOREOGRAPHY | Sela Kiek-Callan & Leana Simper
MUSIC | *Pirates of the Caribbean Soundtrack* by Hans Zimmer
DANCERS | Years 7, 8 & 9
LIGHTING | Tim Newman
COSTUMES | 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.



Vivace



Jersey Boys – A tribute

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



Choreographer's note:

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 Jersey Boys!

Opus 47

CHOREOGRAPHY	Jonathan Taylor
REHEARSAL DIR.	Janne Blanch
MUSIC	<i>Introduction & Allegro Opus 47</i> by Sir Edward Elgar
DANCERS	Year 10
LIGHTING	Tim Newman
COSTUMES	Stacy Mitchell

Choreographer's note:

From Jonathan's notes in 2014: A chance meeting with the conductor Marco van Paege 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*.



Program Note: Janne Blanch

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.

Motif

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.



Currently Under Investigation

CHOREOGRAPHY | Garry Stewart
REHEARSAL DIR. | Tim Harbour, Wei Wei McKercher
 & Janet Bradley-Bridgeman
MUSIC | *Locomotion* by Plastikman
DANCERS | Years 11 & 12
LIGHTING | Tim Newman
COSTUME | 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*, *Quicksilver*, *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 Polyetayeva

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

Sandy Abey

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
Elias Geffen
Mackenzie Hancock
Tom Jones
Ruby Maher-Williams
Takdanai McLeod- Smith
Jaidyn Millington
Emma Mills
Ella 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
Katyaon Hamyrad
Alana Kluver
Hannah Lesniauskas
Tiana Magnussen
Kealey McHenry
Thierry Mendoza
Felix Milewski
Zac Purves
Catherine Rinehart-Beer
Merrikk Steinfott
Raphael Trioli
Ruby Willis

Year 10

Joshua Ballinger
Sherylee Campbell
Catia Castagna
Juliet Collard
Charlotte Deany
Laura Griffiths
Cosima Hudec
Milei Lee
Hannah Lukey
Alessio Mammone
Lucinda Mann
Ethan Mrmacovski
Michael Scott-Kahans
Blayne Sheehan
Caleb Waterworth
Lauren Wooler

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