

VCASS | **DANCE** | 2021

*presents*

# *Continuum*



5, 6 & 7 AUGUST

YEARS 7 - 12

VCASS STUDIO THEATRE

57 MILES STREET, SOUTHBANK



Victorian College of the Arts  
SECONDARY SCHOOL



Education  
and Training

VCASS | DANCE | 2021

*presents*

*Continuum*



**Steven McTaggart**  
HEAD OF DANCE

Welcome to the VCASS major dance season for 2021 - ***Continuum***.

The lead up to a show is always exciting, and this season, in particular, we are thrilled to be on stage for you once more. I would like to acknowledge the huge amount of work it has taken for our whole school to support the dance performances this week. We are incredibly fortunate and sincerely thank everyone involved.

Australian trained dancers are famous for being positive, fearless and athletic artists and our aim is to begin this right here at VCASS. We believe self confidence is optimised through engaging in versatility, challenge and creative responsibility during specialist training.

We are committed to providing performance seasons that prepare students for their career. Our major seasons exemplify this by presenting a range of dance genres which maximise student skills and support individual career aspirations.

You will enjoy a junior ballet based on the aesthetic made famous by **Edgar Degas** in the nineteenth century, before witnessing the sophisticated and sensual arrogance of jazz works in the style of **Bob Fosse** - a master of choreographic minimalism.

We then enjoy the exuberance of circus elements with acrobatic dance and tap, rounding out our first half with the fun of clowns and the Big Top.

Our second act introduces the refinement and playfulness of a modern ballet by **Tim Harbour**, driven by the live accompaniment of **Olga Polyetayeva** and **John Grayling**. Performing with these wonderful musicians is something we treasure, and I know you will enjoy it almost as much as our Year 10 students.

For our Year 12s, our industry guest this year is **Yuiko Masukawa**. Yuiko comes to us with a wealth of performance and choreographic experience and her work ***Between Clouds*** draws on powerful ideas of fearlessness and resilience, showcasing the aplomb and burgeoning maturity of our graduating students.

To complete our artistic journey, **Sela Kiek-Callan** and the Year 11s harness the power and energy of contemporary dance to depict themes of connection and unveiling, constant companions to art and life!

We gladly share tonight with you and trust you enjoy the performance.

# Program

Etudes Classiques

Foolin' with Fosse

The Greatest Show

Le Bal

Between Clouds

Xuviate



# Etudes Classiques

<b>CHOREOGRAPHY</b>	Fiona Munroe
<b>MUSIC</b>	<i>Scherzo</i> from <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> by Mendelssohn
	<i>Waltz</i> from <i>Eugene Onegin</i> by Tchaikovsky
	<i>Polonaise</i> from <i>Eugene Onegin</i> by Tchaikovsky
<b>DANCERS</b>	Years 7,8 & 9 with guest Felix Milewski (Year 11)
<b>LIGHTING</b>	Craig Boyes
<b>COSTUMES</b>	Fiona Munroe

## Choreographer's note:

*Etudes Classiques* is inspired by the Degas paintings of ballerinas, and is choreographed for our Junior dancers. The personalities, nerves and excitement of warm-up and rehearsals for opening night, are lived out on stage under the watchful eye of the Ballet Master.

*Etudes Classiques* was created for VCASS in 2018  
First performed - September 2018 (VCASS)



# *Etudes Classiques*





# Foolin' with Fosse

<b>CHOREOGRAPHY</b>	Ross Hannaford after Bob Fosse
<b>MUSIC</b>	Medley of Fosse Repertoire: <i>Nowadays</i> ,   <i>Calypso</i> , <i>Bowl of Cherries</i> , <i>Sing Sing Sing</i> ,   <i>Cool Hand Luke</i> , <i>Brass Band</i> ,   <i>All That Jazz</i> & <i>Hot Honey Rag</i>
<b>DANCERS</b>	Years 9,10,11,12 with guests   Heidi Milne & Desiree Katakis
<b>LIGHTING</b>	Craig Boyes
<b>COSTUMES</b>	Rebecca Docherty, Lisa Kluver   & Stacy Mitchell

## Choreographer's note:

Bask in the creative genius that is Bob Fosse - Enjoy the incredible range within the repertoire and join us in celebrating his iconic choreography.



# *Foolin' with Fosse*







# The Greatest Show

<b>CHOREOGRAPHY</b>	Leana Simper, Olivia Castagna and Jack Egan
<b>MUSIC</b>	<i>The Greatest Show</i> by Hugh Jackman, Keala Settle Zac Efron, Zendaya & The Greatest Show Ensemble   <i>This is Me</i> , by Keala Settle & T.G.S. Ensemble   <i>Never Enough (Reprise)</i> by Loren Alfred   <i>Be a Clown</i> by Roy Castle
<b>DANCERS</b>	Years 7,8,9 with guest Gabrielle Arnold (Year 10)
<b>LIGHTING</b>	Craig Boyes
<b>COSTUMES</b>	Stacy Mitchell, Nicki Ballinger & Rebecca Docherty



# The Greatest Show

## Choreographers' note:

Welcome to the circus! These students have had to train under extremely difficult circumstances to produce the work you will see today, and we are so proud of the result.

This performance is a celebration of the circus, where we rejoice in the unique individuality, joy and pride of the performers.



# Le Bal

**CHOREOGRAPHY** | Tim Harbour

**MUSIC**

| *Sonata for Four Hands* by Francis Poulenc

| *La Belle Excentrique Grand Ritournelle* by Erik Satie

| Two excerpts from *Ma Mère L'Oye* by Maurice Ravel

| *Menuet* from *Petite Suite* by Claude Debussy

| Two excerpts from *Jeux d'enfants* by Georges Bizet

| Performed by Olga Polyetayeva & John Grayling

**DANCERS**

| Year 10

**LIGHTING**

| Craig Boyes

**COSTUMES**

| Fiona Munroe

**STAGE DESIGN**

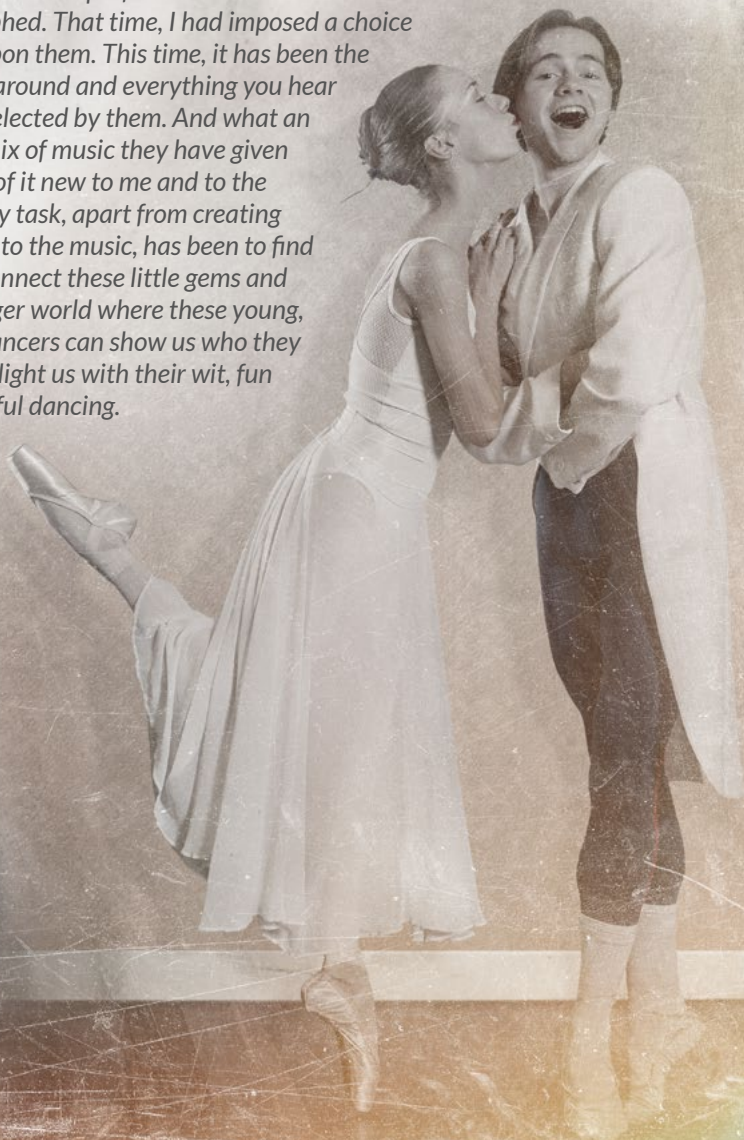
| Stacy Mitchell



# Le Bal

## **Choreographer's note:**

*This piece began with a wish to work with live music and particularly, to work with John and Olga again, who had both played live accompaniment for another VCASS performance that I had choreographed. That time, I had imposed a choice of music upon them. This time, it has been the other way around and everything you hear has been selected by them. And what an exquisite mix of music they have given us – much of it new to me and to the dancers. My task, apart from creating the dances to the music, has been to find a way to connect these little gems and make a larger world where these young, talented dancers can show us who they are, and delight us with their wit, fun and beautiful dancing.*





# Between Clouds

**CHOREOGRAPHY** | Yuiko Masukawa

| Assisted by: Janne Blanch

**MUSIC**

| *Thirteenth Dalai Lama* and *Move to Dungkar*,  
from the soundtrack *Kundun*;

| *Company: IV.* - and *MISHIMA/Closing* by Phillip Glass

**DANCERS**

| Year 12

**LIGHTING**

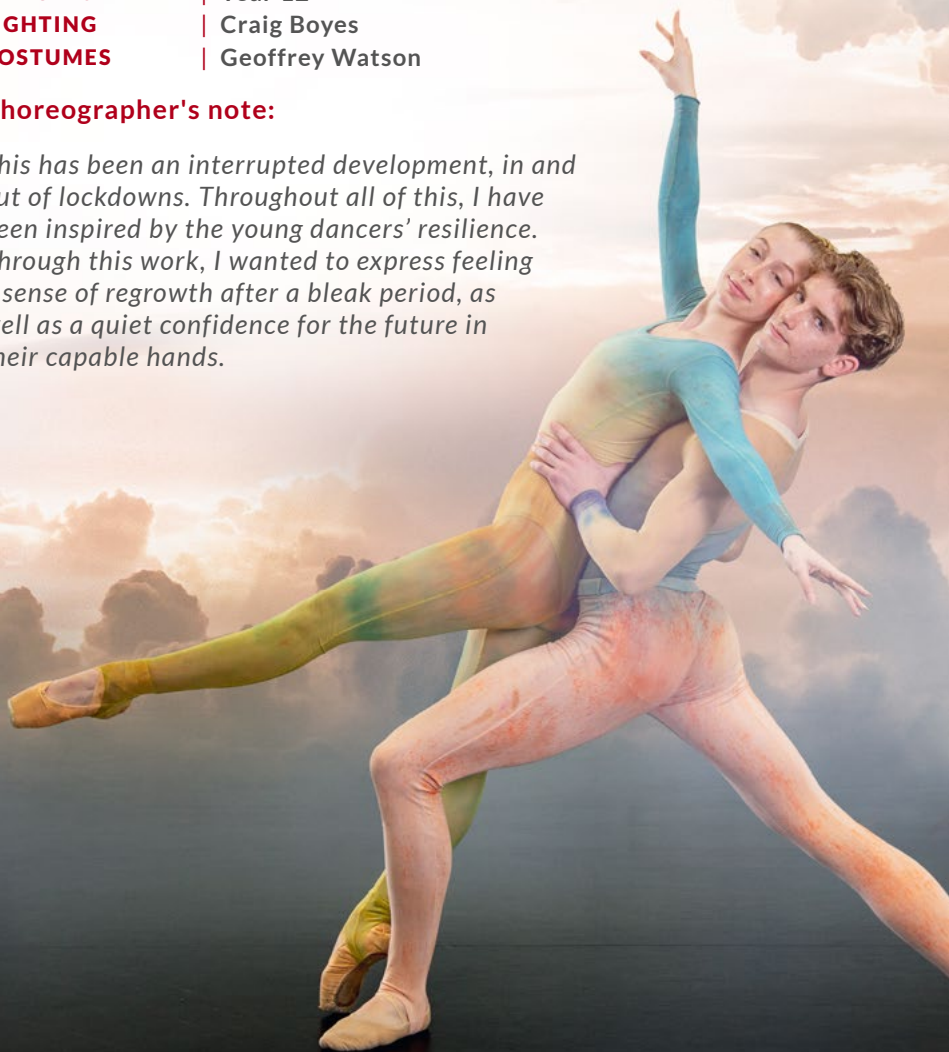
| Craig Boyes

**COSTUMES**

| Geoffrey Watson

## Choreographer's note:

*This has been an interrupted development, in and out of lockdowns. Throughout all of this, I have been inspired by the young dancers' resilience. Through this work, I wanted to express feeling a sense of regrowth after a bleak period, as well as a quiet confidence for the future in their capable hands.*







*Between Clouds*

# Xuviate

**CHOREOGRAPHY** | Sela Kiek-Callan  
**MUSIC** | *Light Ascending* by Luke Howard and Shards  
| *A Long Life* by Luke Howard & Brett Kelly  
| *Trio Per Uno* by Pulse Percussion Ensemble  
**DANCERS** | Year 11  
**LIGHTING** | Craig Boyes  
**COSTUMES & SET** | Kallie Turner

## Choreographer's note:

*This piece explores the ideas of sloughing our skin, or our outer selves. In shedding our skin we create connections to others that might constrain and bind us, but can also reveal new layers to our being.*



Xuviate



# Biographies

## **YUIKO MUSUKAWA**

Yuiko Masukawa is a choreographer based in Melbourne.

Until 2019, she was a Principal Artist with Melbourne City Ballet and Artistic Director of Melbourne City Youth Ballet. Her work at MCYB received a nomination at the 2018 Australian Dance Awards. In 2019, she was awarded an Ian Potter Cultural Trust Grant to undertake choreographic secondments with the New York City Ballet and Milwaukee Ballet.

## **JACK EGAN**

Jack is an influential member of the Australian Tap Dance community. Working with young Australian dancers has brought his choreography across the world for competitions and further training. He has achieved World Champion choreography for the IDO World Tap Dance Championships in Germany representing Australia but recently his passion for tap dance has extended into The Tap Project Australia, an initiative promoting youth tap dance. He has recently Co-Founded The Australian Tap Dance Company, a premier contemporary tap company as well as performing with The Tap Pack around the world on numerous prestigious cruise ship companies such as Royal Caribbean, Norwegian and Europa.

## **FIONA MUNROE**

Fiona Munroe is a classical ballet specialist and choreographer with a wealth of dancing experience. After her early training in Australia gaining her Advanced RAD, she trained at the Royal Ballet Upper School in London. Upon graduation Fiona went on to dance principal roles in Malmo Ballet, Sweden, performing professionally in Europe, Japan, Italy and Australia. After her professional career she returned to Australia and gained her RAD teaching registration with Distinction. For over 20 years, Fiona led her own dance studio in Queensland, providing pathways for many of her students to attend professional vocational training at the Australian Ballet School and many international schools. Fiona currently teaches ballet at VCASS across all year levels.

## DR SELA KIEK-CALLAN

Sela is a graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. Moving to the United Kingdom in 1996, she performed with Green Candle Dance Company, Kantikoy and Lisa Torun and Dancers, and worked as a lecturer in Dance at Coventry University in England. Sela has choreographed for Dancehouse Seasons, the St Kilda Festival, Quantum Leap Dance Company, and the Australian Youth Dance Festival. She completed her PhD in Dance in 2011 through Deakin University and has published a number of articles on her site specific dance work. Sela is currently a Leader Teacher for Contemporary Dance at the VCASS and lectures sessionally at Victoria University and Deakin University.

## ROSS HANNAFORD

Ross' career highlights include playing Tobias Ragg in *Sweeney Todd* as well as the coveted roles of Paul in *A Chorus Line* and Princeton in *Avenue Q*. Ross became the resident director of *Cats* after playing Skimbleshanks in the most recent Australian tour. His other musical theatre credits include, *Wicked*, *King Kong*, *We Will Rock You*, *Pippin* and *Shout*. He is a recipient of the RAD Solo Seal award and a dedicated member of the Arts community.

## LEANA SIMPER

Leana has been teaching acrobatic dance for over 20 years. She has studied Classical, Jazz, Tap, Contemporary, Musical Theatre and Acrobatics. Leana is a alumna of VCASS who has worked professionally as both a dancer and an acrobat. As a trainer for The Acrobatic Dance Association, Leana is responsible for running acrobatic workshops and training sessions all across Melbourne.

## TIM HARBOUR

Tim danced for the Australian Ballet for 13 years, dancing principal roles, working with leading choreographers and touring all over the world. He was nominated as Best Male dancer in the Australian Dance and Green Room Awards and, after dancing as a guest with the Royal Swedish Ballet, retired in 2007. Tim has gone on to have an extensive career as a choreographer, taking on commissions with local companies like the Queensland and West Australian Ballet as well as internationally for the New York City Ballet, Houston Ballet and Singapore Dance Theatre. Tim was resident choreographer with the Australian Ballet 2014-2020, creating many works - *Filigree and Shadow* and *Squander and Glory* and enjoyed multiple award nominations and return seasons. His choreographies have been performed all over the world including New York, London, Houston and Singapore.



# CREDITS

## Principal

Hilary Bland

## Assistant Principals

Donatella Mannolini

Michael Sargeant

## Head of Dance

Steven McTaggart

## Dance Staff

Anne Butler

Fiona Munroe

Jack Egan

Janne Blanch

Jenny Purcell

Kynan Jones

Leana Simper

Madeleine Eastoe

Olga Polyetayeva

Olivia Castagna

Ross Hannaford

Sela Kiek-Callan

Timothy Harbour

Wei Wei McKercher

## Production Manager

Daniel Holden

## Stage Manager

Kit Cunneen

## Assistant Stage Manager

Sela Kiek-Callan

## Wardrobe

Fiona Munroe

## Lighting

Craig Boyes

## Design & Photography

Dylan Breninger

## VCASS Staff

Adrian Bowler

Amy Gigliotti

Andrew Landrigan

Anne Lewitzka

Bridget Higgins

Chelsea Matheson

Christine Paraskeva

Christopher Button

Claire Di Lallo

Dermot Tutty

Eden Greskie

Eleanore Low

Elizabeth Townshend

Felicity Rodda

Gabriella Ibbott

Gobitha Gowrishan

Goran Banyai

Grace Cloney

Hakan Benli

Hannah Barbour Woods

Haris Boyd-Gerny

Ian Whitehurst

James Le Fevre

James Rust

Jennifer Gillan

Jessica Casey

Julie Haskell

Kelly Sullivan

Kerri Redfern

Kiara Williams

Lanie Tobias

Leonie Perry

Lis Viggers

Louise Howlett

Mary Jo Kelly

Nicholas Heynsbergh

Nicole Demasi

Nicole Sage

Oksana Kozlova

Penelope Webster

Rod Morrison

Rosemary Richards

Sarah Coleman

Sara McKenzie

Sean Peoples

Stacy Mitchell

Steven Thorne

Stuart Campbell

Stewart Kelly

Theo Buskes

Zac Koukoravas

## Special Thanks

Special thanks to our parent volunteers who assisted with costumes: Sophie Jing, Ida Tran, Maria Pearce, Claire and Molly Hughes.

## Featured Dancer (Cover)

Lucas McLean

## PERFORMERS

### YEAR 12 DANCERS

Joshua Ballinger, Sherylee Campbell, Catia Castagna, Charlotte Deany, Eloise Docherty, Alessio Mammone, Lucinda Mann, Blayke Sheean, Caleb Waterworth & Lauren Wooller.

### YEAR 12 THEATRE ARTS (GUESTS)

Desiree Katakis & Hedi Milne

### YEAR 11 DANCERS

Ashley Brkovic, Siobhan Cooper, Amelia Dixon, Ella Gordon, Rubi Hawkins, Alana Kluver, Hannah Lesniauskas, Tiana Magnussen, Mia Mangano, Jacqueline McBratney-Owen, Lucas McLean, Felix Milewski, Audrey Moutia, Zac Purves, Catherine Rinehart-Beer, Eli Southurst, Merrikk Steinfort, Ruby Willis & Ariana Wolf.

### YEAR 10 DANCERS

Gabrielle Arnold, Jamie Bogemann, Lucy Clatworthy, Emily Euman, Oscar Flight, Mackenzie Hancock, Thomas Jones, Jaidyn Millington, Emma Mills, Katherine Montgomery, Ella Morrison, Braelan Newman, Evelyn Nguyen, Noah Nissen, Chloe Pearce, Morgan Renolds, Noah Sharpe, Jessica Smart, Bridget Stackpole & Ruby Young.

### YEAR 9 DANCERS

Yusra Al-Taee, Sienna Babbage, Madeleine Burnet, Mikaylah Caracciolo, Taj Cooper, Lily-Grace De Zwart, Hugo Ernst-Russell, Maddison Fisher, Rocco Frediani, Xavier Gibson, Samuel Holzberger, Molly Hughes, Zachary Medved, Ruby Monro, Flynn Masterton, Blythe Nadorp-Daw, Jack O'Toole, Ashton Smith, Pearl Southgate, Thomas Stevens, Ayshia-Mila Stromei, Alicia Wong & Lachlan Woodworth.

### YEAR 8 DANCERS

Ryan Black, Samuel Bourbon, Banjo Chiron, Martin Cohen, Chloe Dan, Darcy Donoghue, Tilly Eardley, Emogen Gough, Sharon Jiang, Kurumi Laksmi, Eliza McTaggart, Mishka Oehlers, Jasmine Pye, Ella Tan, Oliver Trus & Jocelyn Wee Ching Wen

### YEAR 7 DANCERS

Christina Ivas, Nico Lundqvist, Zoe Muscat, Annabelle Tran, Mika Reiss, Misa Titcher & Will Wiseman.