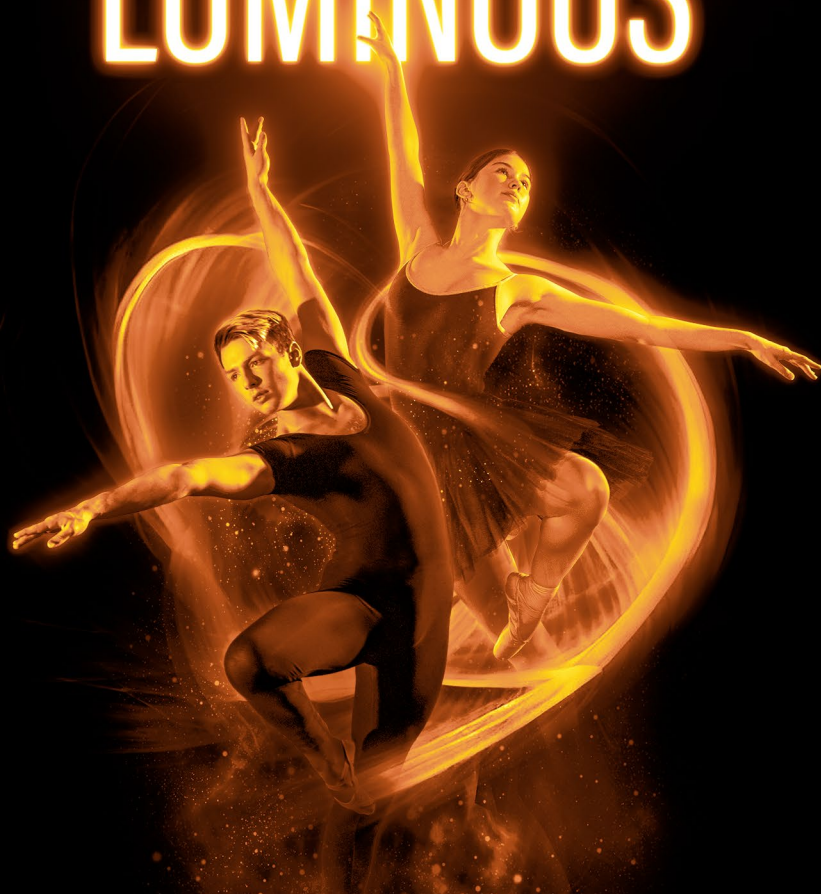


VCASS | 2023

presents

LUMINOUS



AUGUST 24 - 26

MALTHOUSE THEATRE

113 STURT ST, SOUTHBANK VIC



Victorian College of the Arts
SECONDARY SCHOOL



Department
of Education

VCASS | 2023

presents.

LUMINOUS

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to our 2023 Major Dance season.

It is wonderful to be back at the Malthouse Theatre after our three year pandemic break.

This year we are thrilled our students have had the opportunity to be part of such a diverse program working with highly regarded teachers, choreographers and theatre professionals. A special mention to our alumni Richard House and Joe Newton-Keogh who we welcome back to VCASS in the role of choreographers. It is always wonderful to have former students return, sharing their wisdom and experience with current students.

School performances involve many hours of planning, rehearsals and run-throughs; a big thank you to our passionate and committed Dance team lead by Steven McTaggart and to all our guest staff and VCASS staff for their skill, efforts and care. Thank you also to our parents and friends for your support during the year. Your attendance at these shows helps us provide the opportunity for our students to perform and to celebrate our school.

To our VCASS students, your hard work, commitment and creativity is a continual inspiration.

Enjoy the program.

Hilary Bland

FROM THE HEAD OF DANCE

Steven McTaggart



The spark of creativity, the firelight of warmth and camaraderie, the piercing beams of precision and clarity and the dazzling shine of pure energy...analogies for all things dance.

Tonight VCASS presents *Luminous*, a mixed bill of dance to shine a light on our young artists of the future.

Returning to the Malthouse theatre brings great joy as we introduce so many of our students to their role of performers in this venue for the first time. Offering the culture and experiences of a 'season' of performances, it is a wonderful opportunity for us all to cherish.

Thank you to all the staff both at VCASS and Malthouse for supporting us in the preparations for this season. It is a truly collaborative effort.

As a special treat we have the works of three Guest Choreographers on show tonight, alumni Richard House and Joseph Newton-Keogh, along with Paul Knobloch. We are proud to offer our students significant experiences such as working with these industry professionals, ably supported by Janne Blanch, Madeleine Eastoe and Sela Kiek-Callan.

New works from our talented dance team also feature tonight, a world premiere from Tim Harbour and a new Junior Ballet from Fiona Munroe. I would also make a special mention of Ross Hannaford and Nicole Melloy. They have provided an item for the whole school, seamlessly weaving all 6 year levels together, and incorporating Tap and Acrobatics and Hip-hop into their tribute to Musical Theatre and the world of Disney. A mammoth task indeed!

I trust you will savour and enjoy this evening with us as much as we enjoy presenting it, and may the luminous glow of our dancers shine on!

VCASS | 2023

presents

LUMINOUS

WITH FULL SUPPORTING PROGRAM

PERFORMANCE LENGTH | 120 MINUTES INCLUDING 20 MINUTE INTERVAL

VIENNESE DANCES

CHOREOGRAPHY | FIONA MUNROE

DANCERS | YEARS 7, 8 & 9

NOTWITHSTANDING

CHOREOGRAPHY | JOSEPH NEWTON-KEOGH

DANCERS | YEAR 12

NEVER GROW UP... A TRIBUTE TO DISNEY

CHOREOGRAPHY | ROSS HANNAFORD, NICOLE MELLOY, LEANA SIMPER,

JACK EGAN AND NADIA TORNESE

DANCERS | YEARS 7 - 12

INTERVAL | 20 MINUTES

DEAR ANTON

CHOREOGRAPHY | TIM HARBOUR

DANCERS | YEAR 11

100s AND 1000s

CHOREOGRAPHY | RICHARD HOUSE

DANCERS | YEAR 10

CONVERSATIONS

CHOREOGRAPHY | PAUL KNOBLOCH

DANCERS | YEARS 11 & 12

VIENNESE DANCES

CHOREOGRAPHY	Fiona Munroe
MUSIC	1st Movement, <i>Music of the Spheres</i> by Josef Strauss 2nd Movement, <i>Die Fledermaus</i> by Johann Strauss II
COSTUME DESIGN	Danielle-Grace Carbone
DANCERS	Years 7, 8 & 9

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE:

This ballet has been created for the VCASS junior dancers, guided by the beautiful Strauss music and inspired by the elegant traditional dances of the *Viennese Ball*.







NOTWITHSTANDING

CHOREOGRAPHY	Joseph Newton-Keogh
REHEARSAL DIRECTOR	Sela Kiek-Callan
MUSIC	<i>Notwithstanding</i> by Miles Lee
COSTUME DESIGN	Danielle-Grace Carbone
DANCERS	Year 12

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE:

There is one rule; no standing.

Inspired by the methods of Joan Skinner's release technique and the evolving practice of soft acrobatics, this work is an exploration of the infinite ways one can move without standing. Disorientation, nausea and flow seem to be the result.

This challenging and individualised movement vocabulary has been fearlessly embodied by the Year 12 dancers, and the process has been a joy to bring to the stage.





NEVER GROW UP

A Tribute to Disney

CHOREOGRAPHY	Ross Hannaford (Senior Jazz & Additional Choreography) Nicole Melloy (Junior Jazz & Additional Choreography) Leana Simper (Acrobatics) Jack Egan (Tap) Nadia Tornese (Hip Hop)
MUSIC	Excerpts from: <i>Beauty and the Beast</i> , <i>Newsies</i> , <i>Aladdin</i> and <i>Mary Poppins</i>
COSTUME DESIGN	Danielle-Grace Carbone
DANCERS	Years 7 - 12

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE:

Escape with us to the wonderful world of Disney as we celebrate its 100th Year and be warmed as it reminds us to hope, love and never grow up.

This collaboration with Nicole Melloy was a joy and a privilege to oversee. We love the escapism and nostalgia that takes hold when watching a beloved Disney classic; it is both hopeful and heart warming. It was this positivity and exuberance that inspired our tribute to one of the most successful movie catalogues of all time.



Our work was inspired by many incredible Disney productions, that we compiled, re-created and at times completely re-choreographed to achieve our vision.

This epic collaboration was created with five wonderful choreographers traversing through the Jazz, Tap, Acrobatic and Hip Hop Styles, including all the Years 7 - 12 dance students, some of whom are singing with skill and confidence.

I pay respect and give thanks to each of these dance staff for their willingness to combine their exciting and energetic contributions, and wow, what a treat you are in for!

Ross Hannaford





DEAR ANTON

CHOREOGRAPHY
AND STAGE DESIGN

Tim Harbour

LIGHTING DESIGN

Tim Newman

MUSIC

Romantic Prelude for Hurdy Gurdy by Andrey Vinogradov

Naigrysh Na Koliuke by Andrey Vinogradov

Uzh I Ya Li Moloda, Tonkopriaditsa Byla by Andrey Vinogradov

Doors and Distance by Antonio Sanchez

Kamarinskaya by Andrey Vinogradov

Crystal Waters by Matthias Loibner

Aequilibrium by Andrey Vinogradov

DANCERS

Students from Year 11



Dear Anton,

Today is the day after you left us. We know you're gone, but it feels like you're still around.

We used to hang out in the backyard under the clotheslines. We spent so many afternoons there, never doing much. It was just good being together.

You and Javier were always laughing. He's not himself now - he's just so sad you're gone. Nikki says she's angry. We all feel a bit like that.

Caitlinn is really upset. It's like she thinks it was her fault, but it's not. It's just that everything will be different now.

There's good memories though. Remember that camping trip when Pen and Henry got together and you kissed Cam? He's still got those socks you gave him.

And the class when you got all the kids singing and the teacher didn't even get mad?

Someone was saying you were like a song everyone knew and liked. You kept us together, but now that's vanished into nothing.

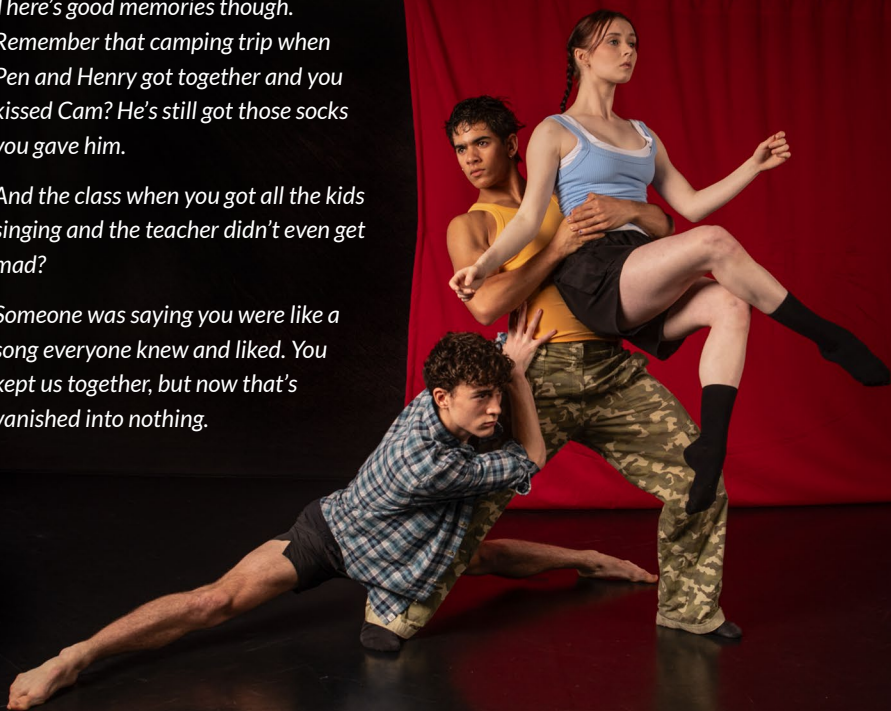
We wish we could tell you what you meant to us, but we're not really sure how we would say it, even if we could.

There's just this feeling.

It's not sadness, it's something else. It's how you made us feel when you were here, except, we still feel it.

So, goodbye Anton. We won't forget you.

Us.



100s AND 1000s

CHOREOGRAPHY	Richard House
STAGED BY	Janne Blanch
MUSIC	<i>Poland and Tomorrow's Song</i> by Olafur Arnalds <i>Opening</i> by Philip Glass and Bruce Brubaker <i>Embers</i> by Max Richter
COSTUME DESIGN	Danielle-Grace Carbone
DANCERS	Year 10

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE:

The expressive intention of this work centres around the moment of entering the 'crowd' of life and leaving one's youth.

This piece was created with the purpose of encouraging freedom and confidence within the students' dancing; focusing on embracing and letting each individual stand out in order to be the best version of themselves; to not ever get lost in a sea of 100s & 1000s







CONVERSATIONS

CHOREOGRAPHY	Paul Knobloch
REHEARSAL DIRECTOR	Madeleine Eastoe
MUSIC	Excerpts from Season 1 and 3 of HBO original <i>Succession</i> by Nicholas Britell
COSTUME DESIGN	Fiona Holley
DANCERS	Students from Years 11 & 12

CHOREOGRAPHER'S NOTE:

This work celebrates the profound significance of silent conversations within the realm of dance. I hope this piece can take the audience on a journey of exploration, unveiling the power and beauty of non-verbal communication in dance.

In a world dominated by words and noise, dance offers a unique avenue for individuals to express themselves beyond the confines of language.

Conversations delves into this extraordinary realm of expression, inviting the audience to witness the subtleties and nuances of a silent dialogue and the connections made between dancers.



As the dancers navigate space, they rely solely on the power of their movements to convey emotion, narrative, and connection. Every gesture, every breath, and every pause becomes a means of communication, creating a tapestry of an unspoken dialogue.

From tender duets to dynamic group sequences that embody the ebbs and flows of collective energy, I hope this work can offer a rich tapestry of human interaction, unbound by linguistic barriers.

I invite the audience to contemplate the significance of the non-verbal communication in our lives and remind us that sometimes the most profound conversations happen in silence where words are transcended by the purity of movement and great power can lie in the beauty of the unspoken.





YEAR 12 DANCERS

Lauren Edwards, Josephine Gear, Mackenzie (Macka) Hancock,
Jaidyn Millington, Braelan Newman, Jessica (Jess) Smart
and Bridget Stackpole

YEAR 11 DANCERS

Sienna Babbage, Mikaylah (Maddi) Caracciolo, Taj Cooper,
Lily-Grace De Zwart, Hugo Ernst-Russell, Maddison Fisher,
Rocco Frediani, Xavier Gibson, Samuel (Sam) Holzberger,
Molly Hughes, Flynn Masterton, Ashlinn McLean, Tawhia McMath,
Zachary Medved, Mikayla Milner, Ruby Monroe, Chloe Nikolovski,
Jack O'Toole, Ashton Smith, Pearl Southgate, Ayshia-Mila Stromei
and Alicia Wong

YEAR 10 DANCERS

Chantal Banks, Connor Bevis, Ryan Black, Dimitri Bregianis,
Banjo Chiron, Martin Cohen, Chloe Dan, Darcy Donoghue,
Matilda (Tilly) Eardley, Emogen Gough, Sharon Jiang, Abbey Jones,
Keira Lee, Desiree Li, Giselle Mammone, Eliza McTaggart,
Mishka Oehlers, Jasmine Pye, Ella Tan, Celina Ung and Jocelyn Wee

YEAR 9 DANCERS

Christina Ivas, Nico Lundqvist, Chloe Petrovic, Mika Reiss,
Milla Rigazzi, Misa Titcher, Annabelle Tran, William (Will) Wiseman,
Millie Wood and Elle Wootton

YEAR 8 DANCERS

Eden-Rose Driver, Ella Eastoe, Ally Gillespie, Sheydin Glynn,
Sean Yuet (Natalie) Hew, Giorgiana Ridolfi, Logan Taylor,
Charlotte Trapani and Ebony Veitch

YEAR 7 DANCERS

Ava Del Rosario, Benson Flores, Ashley Gillespie, Grace Ivas,
Lara Kafkis, Quinten Kamupala, Jasmine Pope, Sora (Sola) Takeda,
Ethan Taylor and Jasper Zajacek-Tieu

GUEST CHOREOGRAPHERS

Richard House



Richard began his full-time training in Victoria, Australia at the Victorian College of the Arts in 2003, in his time at VCASS he was awarded the scholarship to study at the Dance School of Scotland in 2006. After his time at VCASS he was accepted into The Australian Ballet School where he graduated in 2008. Whilst there, Richard continued his passion for choreography and was awarded the Graeme Murphy Award for Excellence in

Contemporary Dance. Richard toured with Australian Ballet's regional company during his graduating year and joined The Australian Ballet in 2011. Over his eight years with the company, Richard choreographed six works, being performed at the Sydney Opera House, State Theatre Melbourne, and many other theatres around Australia. In addition to creations for the stage, Richard has choreographed for film. His credits include The Australian Ballet's 2017 season campaign, the music video for Australian artist Fiction Writer from The Preatures single No Rumour, and a duet for Australian Broadcasting Company's (ABC) classical music campaign which received over 70,000 views when launched in 2018. Integral to his development as a choreographer, Richard benefitted from the Khitercs scholarship whilst at The Australian Ballet which facilitated a range of shadowing and observational opportunities with choreographers including Akram Khan, Wayne McGregor and companies like The Royal Ballet, Bolshoi Ballet, and National Ballet of Canada. Richard joined the Sarasota Ballet as a Soloist for the 2018/2019 season, choreographing Sketch Tones for the Sarasota Ballet's Studio Company, and Tomorrow's Dust for a collaboration between Sarasota Ballet's Studio Company, the trainees of the Margaret Barbieri Conservatory and Key Chorale Choir in 2021. Richard has continued close ties with arts organisations in Australia, having choreographed ballets for Victorian College of The Arts Secondary School and The Australian Ballet School in 2019. For the Sarasota Ballet's 2022/2023 season he created Living Ghosts for the company whilst still performing at the rank of Junior Principal. He is now excited to be moving to Semperoper Ballet in Dresden, Germany, where he will be joining the company in August 2023.

Paul Knobloch



Paul Knobloch is noted by critics for having a unique movement vocabulary based on the highly developed fusion of classical and contemporary dance. He has performed all over the world with The Australian Ballet, West Australian Ballet, English National Ballet, B  jart Ballet Lausanne, Alonzo King LINES Ballet and Sydney Dance Company.

His choreographic style is characterised by its fluidity, athleticism, and emotional depth. He seamlessly combines classical ballet techniques with a contemporary movement vocabulary, creating a dynamic and visually stunning experience for performers and audiences alike. His works often explore themes of human relationships, identity, and the human condition, inviting viewers to connect with the stories he tells through movement.

Throughout his career, he has collaborated with renowned choreographers and artists, both in Australia and internationally. His collaborations have resulted in the creation of numerous original works that have been performed on prestigious stages around the world.

In addition to his choreographic work, Paul Knobloch is also a highly sought-after teacher and coach. He has conducted masterclasses and workshops for professional dancers, aspiring students, and dance institutions worldwide with guesting positions for Les Ballet de Monte Carlo, Tokyo Ballet, Hong Kong Ballet, St Petersburg Ballet Theatre, National Ballet of China and many leading schools and institutions across Australia, Europe and the USA. His teaching style combines technical precision with artistic expression, emphasising the importance of musicality, storytelling, and individual interpretation in dance.

Paul's contributions to the dance world have been recognized with various awards and honours. He has received critical acclaim for his performances, choreography, and teaching, solidifying his status as a prominent figure in the dance community.

Overall, Paul Knobloch's unique movement vocabulary, combined with his talent as a dancer, choreographer, and teacher, has made a significant impact on the world of dance. His innovative approach to blending classical and contemporary dance styles continues to inspire and captivate, and he endeavours to continue making and sharing his love of dance for many generations to come.

Joseph Newton-Keogh



Joseph (Joe) Newton-Keogh is a Naarm-based, multi-disciplinary artist, working independently as a contemporary dancer/choreographer, sculptor, filmmaker, and installation artist.

Following his training at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School and New Zealand School of Dance, Joe has directed large scale art installations, performed in and choreographed multiple independent dance projects, directed and produced music videos, and presented sculpture exhibitions.

As a practitioner and teacher of soft acrobatics, Joe is becoming increasingly intrigued by peak physical performance and mastery. With a deep love for absurdity, Joe aims to allow surrealism to bleed through the cracks of realism within his creative work. It is his choreographic mission to merge these interests.

CREDITS

Principal

Hilary Bland

Assistant Principals

Donatella Mannolini

James Rust

Head of Dance

Steven McTaggart

Dance Staff

Anne Butler

Fiona Munroe

Jack Egan

Janne Blanch

Kynan Jones

Leana Simper

Madeleine Eastoe

Olga Polyetayeva

Nicole Melloy

Ross Hannaford

Sela Kiek-Callan

Timothy Harbour

Production Manager

Tom Backhaus

Stage Manager

Tom Backhaus

Lighting Design

Tim Newman

Lighting Operator

Luke Grana

Sound Engineer

Riley McCullagh

Head Mechanist

Emma Van Dyk

Wardrobe Direction

Fiona Munroe

Costume Design

Fiona Holley

Danielle-Grace Carbone

Program Design

& Cover Photography

Dylan Breninger

Additional Photography

Belinda Strodger

Featured Dancers

Front Cover

Jessica (Jess) Smart

Mackenzie (Macka) Hancock

Parent Helpers

Sally O'toole

Ida Tran

Lea Black

Marika Titcher

Megan Medved

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Anne Lewitzka

Bridget Higgins

Christine Paraskeva

Chris Button

Chris Davis

Claire Di Lallo

Dermot Tutty

Lis Viggers

Gabriella D'Costa

Goran Banyai

Grace Cloney

Hannah Barbour Woods

Harry Boyd-Gerny

Ian Whitehurst

James Le Fevre

James Sherlock

Jennifer Gillan

Jenn Purcell

Jessica-Rose Casey

Jessie Newhouse-Rayson

Josephine Vains

Julie Haskell

Kelly Sullivan

Kerri Redfern

Kiara Williams

Lanie Tobias

Laura Owsianka

Leonie Perry

Louise Howlett

Luke Burgess

Mary Jo Kelly

Monica Naselow

Nicholas Heynsbergh

Nicole Demasi

Nicole Sage

Oksana Kozlova

Rachelle Simm

Rod Morrison

Rosemary Richards

Sara Mckenzie

Sarah Cathcart

Sarah Coleman

Sean Peoples

Stacy Mitchell

Steven Thorne

Stewart Kelly

Stuart Campbell

Tara Daniel

Theo Buskes

Wendy Campbell

Kathy Zhao

Zac Koukoravas

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