

Ballet Theatre of Qld 80th anniversary gala



Make a date to celebrate as [Ballet Theatre of Queensland](#) marks eight decades as the state's premier youth dance company with a glittering 80th Anniversary Gala, on 30 July.

It promises to be a stunning celebration with dancers from The Australian Ballet, Queensland Ballet and Expressions Dance Company joining tertiary dance students from Queensland University of Technology, along with past and present dancers from Ballet Theatre. They'll perform excerpts from the company's large repertoire, so expect favourite pieces from Les Sylphides, Swan Lake, Graduation Ball and The Sleeping Beauty.

Guest artists include soloist Camilo Ramos with Neneka Yoshida, both from QB, and Expressions Dance Company senior dancer Elise May. Recently retired QB Principal Dancer Clare Morehen will also perform for the first time in Brisbane since her March departure from the company.

This unique company has been making ballet history since it was established in 1937 to promote the art of ballet and to give talented dancers the opportunity to perform at a professional level. Many former BTQ dancers now work professionally around the world, and some are currently studying in leading dance training institutions such as The Royal Ballet School, Bolshoi Academy of Ballet, and the Australian Ballet School.

Coinciding with the Gala will be the launch of an on-line archive, compiled by Dr. Christine Comans, thanks to a Brisbane City Council Community History Grant. For the first time, the early years of the company right up to the present have been charted, with photographs, scanned copies of programs and a detailed narrative linking the whole.

By Vicki Englund

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