

## Ballet Theatre of Queensland 80th Anniversary Gala

by Phil Brown, Arts Editor, The Courier-Mail, July 28, 2017



Young dancers Chloe O'Sullivan, 14, of Bridgeman Downs and Sarah Kelly, 14, of New Farm. Picture: AAP/Steve Pohlner

BALLET Theatre of Queensland has been promoting ballet in Queensland for 80 years and that's something worth celebrating. And the best way to celebrate is to put on a ballet.

So this Sunday night some of our most promising young dancers will take the stage in the Concert Hall at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre for the company's 80th Anniversary Gala.

It is an opportunity for young dancers to shine and experience what it might be like if they go professional, according to Ballet Theatre of Queensland executive director Denise Richardson.

"They get treated like professionals and they love it," said Ms Richardson. "They really step up to the plate."

Yesterday Chloe Sullivan, 14, of Bridgeman Downs and Sarah Kelly, 14, of New Farm were rehearsing in the open air at New Farm Park.

They will be joined on stage on Sunday night by guest artists including, among others, Elise May from Expressions Dance Company, former Queensland Ballet star Clare Morehen and Isobelle Dashwood from Toowoomba, who is with the Australian Ballet.

Ms Richardson said many former BTQ dancers have gone on to international careers.

The company usually has one major ballet a year which features talented young dancers from dance schools all over southeast Queensland.

Early this year they performed in *Cinderella* and next year they will be doing *The Little Mermaid*.

This year's program features excerpts from four ballets: *Les Sylphides*, *Swan Lake*, *Graduation Ball* and *The Sleeping Beauty*.

Everyone is welcome to attend and bookings can be made at [qpac.com.au](http://qpac.com.au)