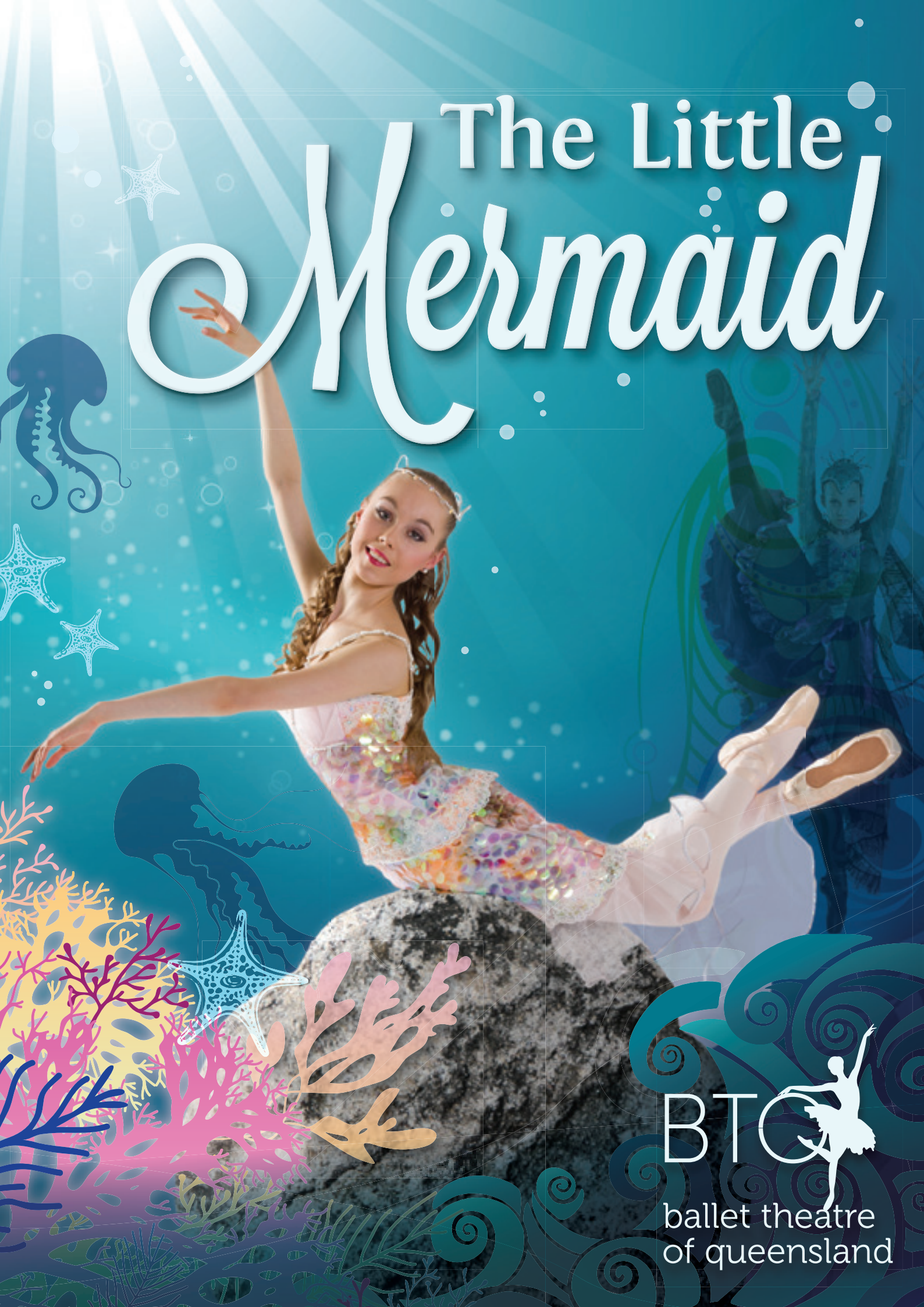


The Little Mermaid



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The Little Mermaid

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2014



CHOREOGRAPHY
TIMOTHY BROWN

SET DESIGN
ROZINA SULIMAN

COSTUME DESIGN
CARMEL WENCK

LIGHTING DESIGN
ANDREW MEADOWS



- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S -

Welcome

Welcome to Ballet Theatre of Queensland's production of The Little Mermaid, which marks our 78th year of producing ballets for talented young dancers of South-East Queensland. I am delighted to be part of this wonderful company as we embark on a new and exciting phase under the governance of our newly appointed Board of Directors and its Chair Mr. Craig Spencer.

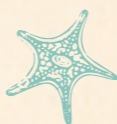
Ballet Theatre of Queensland has flourished since its inception primarily because of the commitment and enthusiasm of its dancers' parents and other dedicated supporters, who through a love of ballet give unstintingly of their time in order to help pull these wonderful productions together. Without their generosity of spirit Ballet Theatre of Queensland would cease to exist. I therefore thank them for their indefatigable support during the months leading up to this season. I must also thank our key corporate supporters The Courier Mail and QPAC, who continue to lend valuable marketing and production support to our annual productions.

This is Artistic Director Timothy Brown's second work for BTQ. His creative vision and innovative choreography for The Little Mermaid have been beautifully realised by the dancers, who were meticulously coached by Rehearsal Director Elizabeth Whelan. Our set designer Rozina Suliman, costume designer Carmel Wenck and lighting designer Andrew Meadows have further enriched Tim's vision to create what I hope you will agree is a most magical ballet.

Thank you for being with us this performance.
Please enjoy!

Denise Richardson

DENISE RICHARDSON - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



"...and she then became aware that her fish's tail was gone, and that she had as pretty a pair of white legs and tiny feet as any little maiden could have..."



- ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S -

Notes

The Little Mermaid is a wonderful story for young people to creatively explore, engaging their curiosity in the world under the sea, just as the Little Mermaid had a burning curiosity in the world above. Creating this ballet with our talented dancers has therefore been an uplifting and delightful adventure.

I am excited to introduce several new friends of the Little Mermaid from the Deep Ocean Jazz Club in this ballet, including a divine red-finned jazz singer, a drumming turtle and an octopus that can play eight octaves at once! I am also thrilled to showcase a virtuoso display of character dance and classical ballet including the favourite female variation from Flower Festival in Genzano to compliment our Bournonville inspired choreography in Act 2.

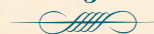
Creating this celebration of traditional and new balletic choreography, in collaboration with our exceptional Rehearsal Director, Elizabeth Whelan and the young dancers, has been an integral part of our work at Ballet Theatre of Queensland. It has also been my pleasure to bring together the beautiful coral and garland sets by designer Rozina Suliman, glorious costuming by Carmel Wenck and evocative lighting by Andrew Meadows.

A special thank you also to Executive Director Denise Richardson for her tireless efforts, as well as the parent committee, and parents and friends of BTQ who have also contributed so much time and energy to bring The Little Mermaid to life.

With so many exquisite elements to our Little Mermaid ballet I feel sure it will become a family favourite. I hope you enjoy The Little Mermaid, swimming along with us from the underwater palace to the Moldavian palace shore. Congratulations to our BTQ dancers who will take you on this journey of love, loss, and discovery.

Timothy Brown

TIMOTHY BROWN - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



"The sun had not risen when she came in sight of the prince's palace and approached the beautiful marble steps, but the moon shone clear and bright."



- THE LITTLE MERMAID -

Synopsis



ACT 1

The Little Mermaid appears to us gently swimming in her beautiful ocean garden surrounded by delicate seahorses that tend to the coral flowers. Along come her best friends, Carman Maracas, Lady Jazz Singer and the quirky members of the Underwater Jazz Club Band. Carman Maracas invites the Little Mermaid to band practice, however she prefers to stay in her garden and imagine meeting the handsome Prince who lives in the palace by the shore.

The Little Mermaid looks forward to her 15th birthday, when she will be given her own mermaid wreath, which is a symbol of her sisterhood and also the permission from her mother to swim up to the surface of the sea. However, the Sea Witch arrives on her birthday and takes away the mermaids' younger brother Prince Triton to make him help with her evil plans.

The Queen Mother sends out her Jellyfish to bring Prince Triton back to the palace, but Prince Triton obeys the Sea Witch, causing a storm and shipwrecking the Prince's ship, whereupon the Prince falls to the bottom of the ocean.

Meanwhile the Little Mermaid has been watching over the Prince from the ocean surface and heroically swims him to the bottom of his palace stairs. Feeling frightened she dives back into the sea with only Princess Moldavia seeing her and her beautiful wreath.

On her return to the ocean the Little Mermaid is lured into the Polypi garden. In desperation she strikes a deal with the Sea Witch, where she gives her precious family wreath away to magically turn her fish tail into a pair of human legs.

ACT 2

The Little Mermaid swims to the palace shore in hope of befriending the Prince, but to her disappointment she finds him dancing with the Moldavian Princess. It is the annual Flower Festival and the Moldavian Princess dances beautifully with the village people and Flower Girls, who collect the most glorious flowers in the land to give to the Princess as a gift of gratitude.

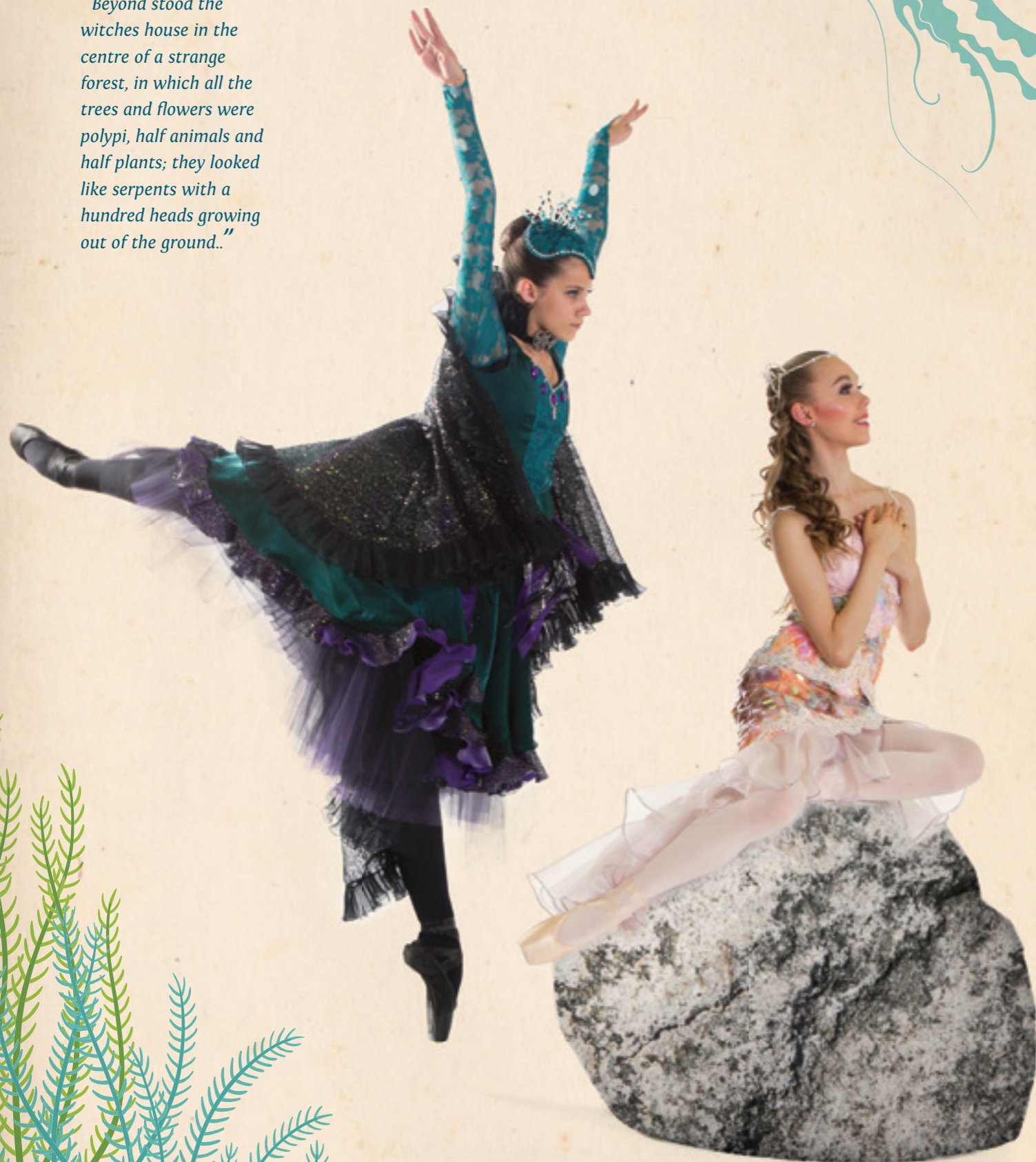
The Prince and Princess greet the Little Mermaid, but they don't recognise her for the true hero she was on the day of the shipwreck. Sadly she begins to miss her devoted sea friends.

Carman Maracas decides to undo the Sea Witch's spell and steals back the Little Mermaid's coral wreath with the help of the royal magic of Prince Triton. With the wreath in her claws Carman Maracas goes to the shore to find the Little Mermaid and convince her to return to her family. Once the Little Mermaid puts on her birthday wreath the Princess recognises her as the mermaid that saved the Prince. The Little Mermaid is overwhelmed by the Princess's kindness and they swap wreaths to celebrate their eternal friendship.

At the sight of the Little Mermaid's happiness the evil Sea Witch returns to cause havoc on the joyous festivities. She swells the ocean high onto the palace shores to wash away the Moldavian people. It is at this moment that Prince Triton finds true courage and stands against the Sea Witch, changing the Little Mermaid's now useless human legs back in to a fish tail so she can swim to safety. He creates calm water, shallow enough for both the people of the land and the creatures of the sea to dance a final dance of united friendship. At last, the Little Mermaid will be known throughout the kingdoms of the land and sea for her bravery in saving the Prince.



"Beyond stood the witches house in the centre of a strange forest, in which all the trees and flowers were polypi, half animals and half plants; they looked like serpents with a hundred heads growing out of the ground.."



- THE LITTLE MERMAID -

The Creative Team



ARTISITC DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER
- TIMOTHY BROWN



Timothy Brown

A graduate of the Australian Ballet School (2000) Timothy choreographed his first work at the Australian Ballet School, Melbourne in 2000. Acting as a catalyst for a choreographic career, this work Little Tell Tales won the Peggy Van Praagh Award in the Australian Institute of Classical Dance (AICD) choreographic competition Dance Creation 2000. After graduation, Timothy continued his choreographic development, creating 15 works for Queensland Ballet and its Professional Year and 3 works for Expressions Dance Company, whilst also performing works by choreographers François Klaus, Nils Christe, Paul Boyd, Young Soon Hue, Timothy Harbour, Stephan Thoss and William Forsythe. In 2010 Timothy was invited to create a work, Nocturnal Phantasm, for The Australian Ballet season of Bodytorque and toured to Melbourne to showcase a new work When Cherry Blossom Falls for AICD's Dance Creation performed by dancers of QUT. Tim is currently working as part of Queensland Ballet's education team Edsquad while completing a Master of Business.

REHEARSAL DIRECTOR & ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER
- ELIZABETH WHELAN



Liz Whelan

Elizabeth (Liz) Whelan attended the Queensland Dance School of Excellence where she sat her Solo Seal examination. She studied for a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Dance Performance) at QUT, also performing at the Guangzhou Dance Festival in 2008, before moving to London for 2 years and performing at The Shunt Lounge with Pair Dance. In 2013, Liz performed in Timothy Brown's Salon in the role of Marchesa at The Judith Wright Centre. Liz also performed in Claire Marshall's dance film Ward of State and recently danced for Thea Basiliou, modelling Blonde Venus' clothes under the direction of Claire Marshall at Fish Lane Studios. Liz will debut in her first television commercial in 2014. She currently teaches ballet and contemporary dance at Premier Dance Academy, Danzart, and the Theatre Factory.





"Nothing gave her so much pleasure as to hear about the world above the sea."



- THE LITTLE MERMAID -

The Creative Team



SET DESIGN - ROZINA SULIMAN



Rozina Suliman

Rozina Suliman is a set designer, installation artist and independent curator, graduating from the Queensland College of Art with a Bachelor of Fine Art in 2005. Rozina began her journey in set design in 2009, designing for Hey Scenester, an independent work by choreographer Claire Marshall. She has designed for eight productions for both independents and established venues, including Claire Marshall, Timothy Brown, JWCoCA and Connect 2 Productions. These have been showcased at Brisbane Powerhouse, QPAC and JWCoCA as well as regionally. Rozina has also held curatorial roles for various Brisbane based organisations such as 4C Art Collective, Top Floor and The Environmental Art Collective and is currently a director of Reverse Garbage Co-op in Brisbane. She is delighted to be part of Ballet Theatre of Queensland's The Little Mermaid.

COSTUME DESIGN - CARMEL WENCK



Carmel Wenck

Carmel comes from a long line of gifted seamstresses. Based in Brisbane she has been heavily involved with the Queensland dance industry for many years, designing not only her own children's costumes but countless others for eisteddfods and concerts. After working with Max Hurley for many years designing and crafting costumes for Brisbane City Youth Ballet, Carmel joined Ballet Theatre of Queensland for the 2009-2010 season of Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs. She has designed for every subsequent season, including the 75th Anniversary Gala season of Cinderella in 2011. Carmel currently runs a successful costume business, Carmel's Dance Wear-Tutu Couture. She hopes that her costumes will contribute to the magic of this special ballet.

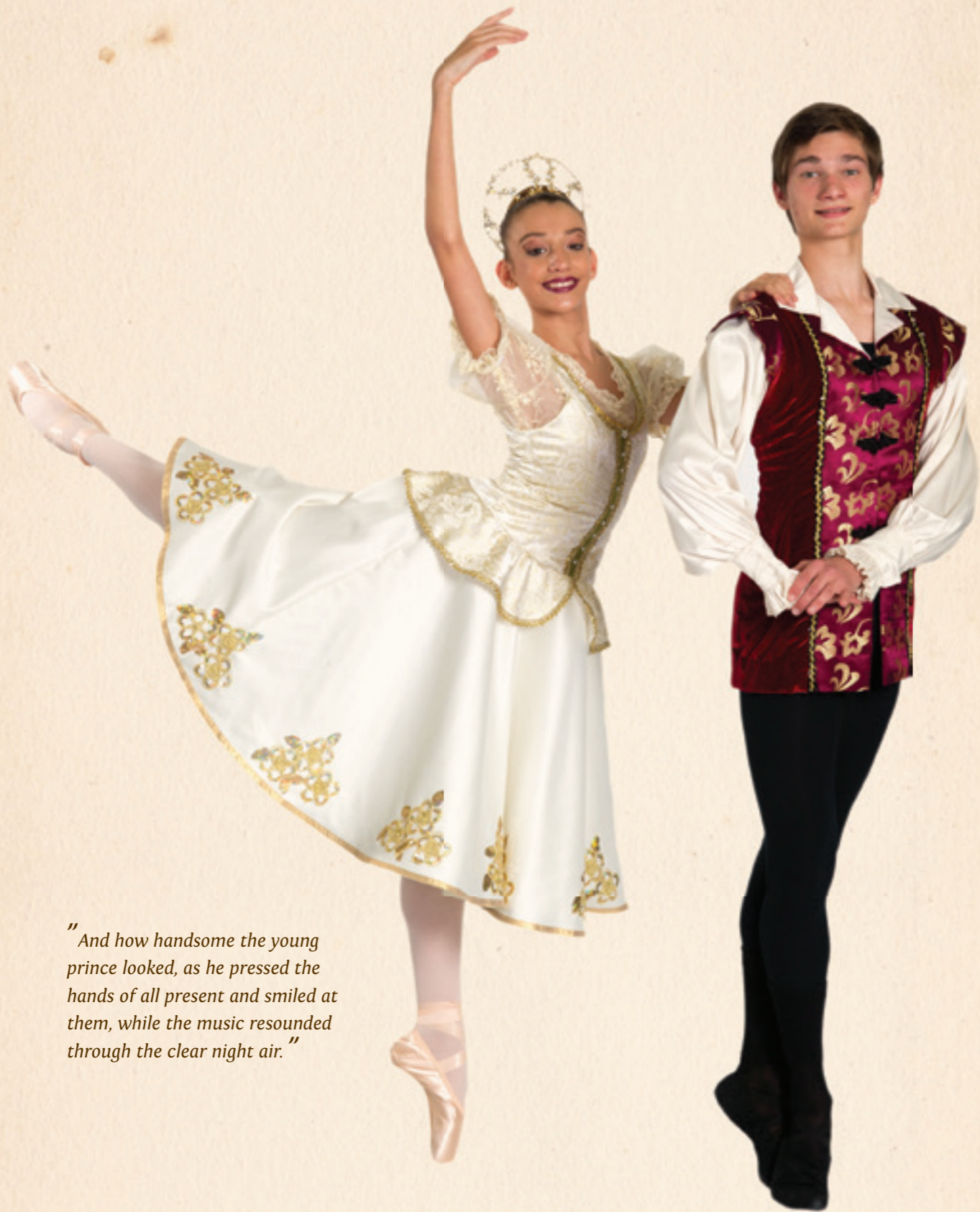
LIGHTING DESIGN - ANDREW MEADOWS



Andrew Meadows

Andrew has worked as lighting designer for Expressions Dance Company, Queensland Theatre Company, La Boite, Queensland Ballet and Opera Queensland. He has a strong connection with independent performing artists in Brisbane, working in the area of production management and lighting design with Diva Carita Farrer, Tequila Postcards, Rat Trap (Polytoxic), The Brides of Frank, X-Collective (Queensland Orchestra), Millennium New Year's 2000 Fire Event Main Stage 2008 & 2009 (Woodford Folk Festival), international performer Linsey Pollak and Brian Lucas in Performance Anxiety (World Theatre Festival). Andrew worked in The Lion King in Johannesburg 2007 and Taipei 2008 and is production manager & lighting re-creator for Marrugeku's European tour of Gudirr Gudirr. Andrew has been Head Electrician at Opera Queensland since 2004.





"And how handsome the young prince looked, as he pressed the hands of all present and smiled at them, while the music resounded through the clear night air."



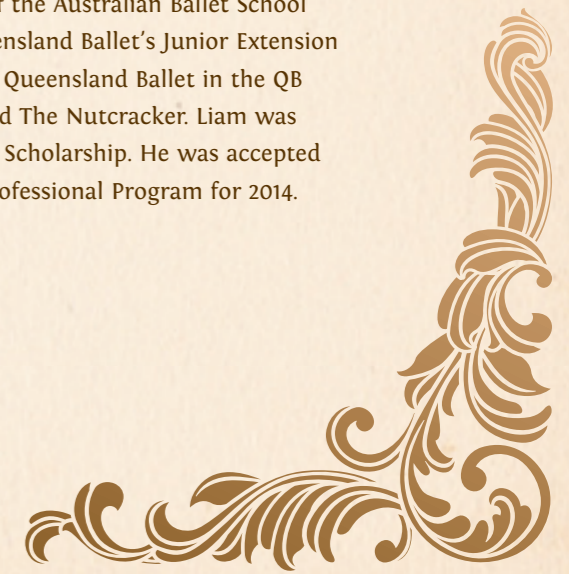
Guest Artist

LIAM GECK



Liam Geck

Liam is a 2013 graduate of the Queensland Dance School of Excellence. He began his training at Kick Dance Studio at the age of 3, and was part of the Australian Ballet School Interstate Program and also Queensland Ballet's Junior Extension Program. He has performed with Queensland Ballet in the QB International Galas, Cinderella and The Nutcracker. Liam was runner-up in the 2013 RAD Senior Scholarship. He was accepted into the Queensland Ballet Pre-Professional Program for 2014.



Solo Artists



Alicia Townsend



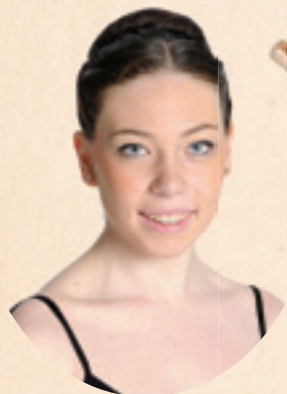
Claudia Conley



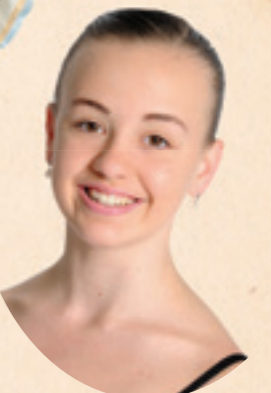
Emma Voevodin



Jessie Kalayzich



Brooke Thompson



Amelia Fisher



Annette Roselli

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Alice Bretz



Alysse Keene



Breanna Fenton



Bronte Kielly-Coleman



Lauren Bell



Lucy Christodoulou



Maddison Hutchins



Meghan Hansen



Caitlin Cowhig



Caitlin Mio



Eden McAuliffe



Emily Pirie



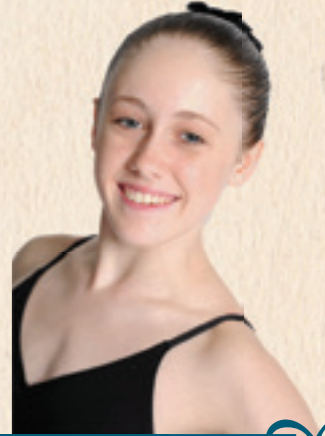
Mia Sandford



Olivia Cordaro



Paris Jones



Phoebe Carroll Campbell



Georgia Green



Jade Morris



Jamie Delmonte



Jesse Buttfield



Sophia Shogren



Tada Jankovic



Ted Cooper



Zahrah Senese

The Little Mermaid



Junior Company Dancers



Abbey Haller



Amy Ronnfeldt



Annabelle Watt



Annalise McDonald



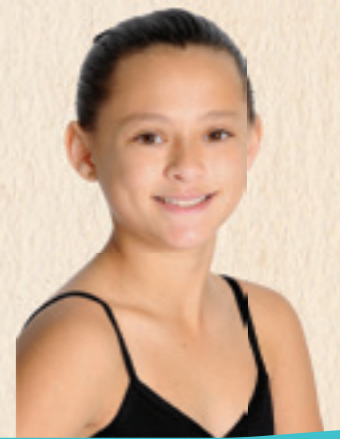
Ireland Knowles



Jacqui Meacle



Kate Gibbons



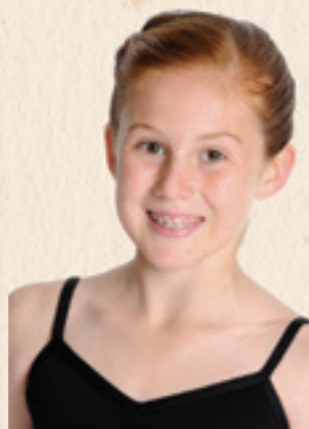
Kayla Wong



Benjamin Smith



Bianca Egart



Charlotte Walters



Dominic Thomas



Kelis Wiseman



Madeline Tuck



My Le



Nia Savas



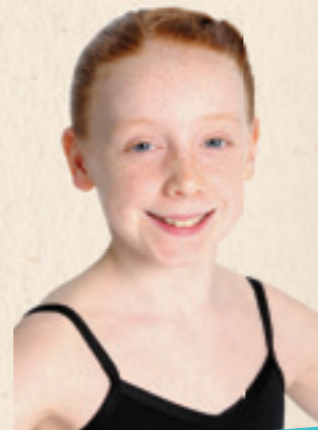
Dominique Twigg



Eilidh Heffernan



Gabrielle Jones



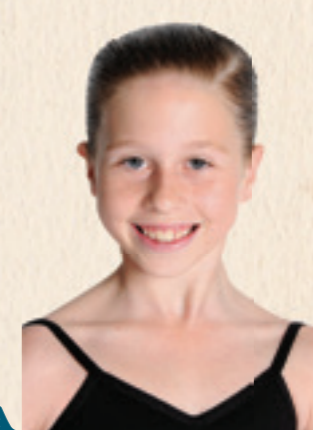
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2013 Graduates Liam Geck, Hannah Hughes (pictured) and Zoe Doonar continue their training with Queensland Ballet's Pre-Professional Program in 2014
Photo: Tom Baker



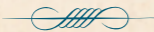
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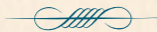
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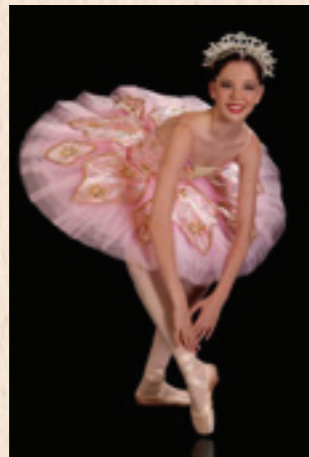
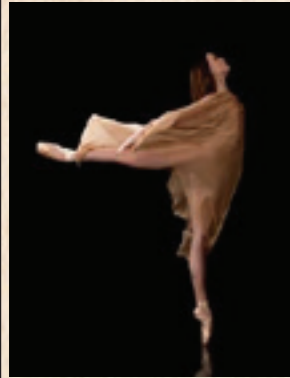


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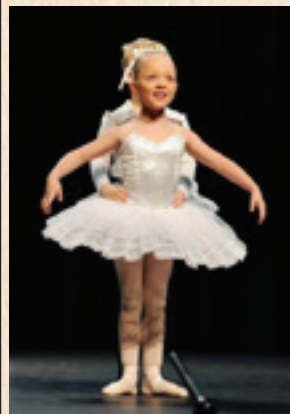
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Phyllis Danaher

THE PHYLLIS DANAHER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Phyllis Danaher MBE, FRAD (1908-1991) was a dancer, teacher of dance and choreographer, and the founder of Ballet Theatre of Queensland in 1937. Born in Brisbane, she was a children's examiner for the Royal Academy of Dance from 1957 to 1982, and the first Queensland teacher to attain the Royal Academy of Dance, Advanced Teachers Certificate. Two of Miss Danaher's more successful students were Garth Welch and Lucette Aldous, former principal dancers with the Australian Ballet. Miss Danaher was made a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Dance and a Member of the British Empire for services to dance in Queensland.

We would like to thank the Danaher family for their continued support in providing this scholarship honouring Miss Danaher's memory. This year the scholarship was awarded to Ted Cooper.

JODIE WHITE-BIVONA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship has been set up in loving memory of Jodie Anne White-Bivona (13.5.67 - 21.1.12). Jodie and her husband Boris were joint Artistic Directors of BTQ for 10 years. During their tenure the company's growth was enormous, transforming the company into the very professional ballet company we have today. She was and will continue to be an inspiration to all who knew her.

The Jodie White-Bivona Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a dancer who has been with the company for 2 consecutive years, who shows outstanding ability, dedication and a love of ballet - the true essence of what Ms Jodie stood for.

We thank the Whiteley family for their support of this scholarship. This year the scholarship was awarded to Alicia Townsend.



Jodie White-Bivona

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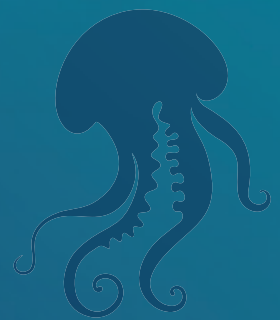
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