



Derek Deane's

The Lady of the Camellias

5 - 8 DECEMBER 2024

LYRIC THEATRE

QPAC



Presented by

Queensland **Ballet**



Queensland
Government



Australian Government



From Queensland Ballet



Brett Clark AM
Chair of the Board,
Queensland Ballet

Queensland Ballet is proud of our long-standing relationship with Shanghai Ballet. Through ballet, we engage across cultures and build strong relationships. While we come from different backgrounds and speak different languages, we share a universal experience.

These engagements build deep connections and foster understanding. We acknowledge the strong commitment and collaboration of both companies, enabling valuable opportunities for audiences both here and in China. We warmly welcome Shanghai Ballet to Queensland. We also extend a heartfelt welcome to our audiences, inviting you to enjoy these world-class performances right here in Brisbane.

From the Governor of Queensland



Her Excellency
the Honourable
Dr Jeannette Young
AC PSM
Governor of
Queensland

Four years ago, Brisbane audiences were eagerly anticipating a season of Shanghai Ballet's *The Lady of the Camellias*.

British choreographer, Derek Deane OBE, had created this ballet just a year earlier on the dancers of the Chinese company, and Li Cunxin AO, as Queensland Ballet's Artistic Director at the time, had invited his counterpart at Shanghai Ballet to bring Deane's production to Brisbane as part of Queensland Ballet's 2020 Season.

As we all know, a global pandemic put paid to those plans. However, thanks to the strength of the relationship built with Shanghai Ballet during Li's 11-year tenure and to the trust and spirit of collaboration established during Queensland Ballet's visit to Shanghai with *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 2018, the sister companies agreed to postpone rather than cancel the planned visit, and now we are finally able to experience this powerful retelling of Dumas's tragic tale of forbidden love.

As Patron of Queensland Ballet, I congratulate and thank both companies, as well as the government partners, corporate sponsors and other supporters, for maintaining their faith in this international project over the intervening four years and for their continuing belief in the value of cultural exchange.

In February this year, I was delighted to join many of those supporters, as well as representatives of the governments of Queensland and The People's Republic of China, at a reception on the Kite Terrace at Queensland Ballet's refurbished and expanded Thomas Dixon Centre to celebrate 35 years of the highly successful Sister State agreement between Queensland and Shanghai.

That gathering recognised the importance of collaboration in trade, business and investment in fields as wide-ranging as tourism, education, health, science and technology, but it also demonstrated the invaluable role of cultural exchange and people-to-people contact in building and maintaining that collaboration.

I once again experienced the strength of the Sister State relationship and the power of cultural diplomacy, as well as the closeness of the ties between these sister companies, when Professor Graeme Nimmo RFD and I visited Shanghai Ballet's magnificent state-of-the-art dance performance and education centre in May this year.

Like Queensland Ballet at its home in the Thomas Dixon Centre and through the Queensland Ballet Academy, Shanghai Ballet, through its centre, is able to present performances of the highest international standard, underpinned by excellence in choreography, production values, design, training and dancer wellbeing.

Together, the companies represent pointe shoe diplomacy at its best and I wish everyone concerned well for a successful season and for the future of the sister company relationship.

From the Shanghai Ballet

President of Shanghai Grand Theatre Arts Group



ZHANG Songhua

The year 2024 marks the 35th Anniversary of the friendship between Shanghai and Queensland. In recent years, Shanghai Ballet actively explored the opportunity to perform internationally, aiming to promote Shanghai Culture Brand by presenting high-quality productions.

Bringing this production to Australia shows the determination and confidence of Shanghai artists to move forward, building a bridge of artistic exchange between the two cities.

Best wishes to the performers!

Director of Shanghai Ballet



JI Pingping

Shanghai Ballet works closely with outstanding artists from around the world to create a series of great repertoire, which has won a reputation in the international market. Shanghai Ballet and Derek Deane OBE jointly explored the classic written by Alexandre Dumas fils, giving new life to the work. Since its premiere in 2019, *The Lady of the Camellias* has received huge attention from media and audiences.

Art has no boundaries. We hope to establish a friendship between the two countries that has an enduring impact.

Artistic Director of Shanghai Ballet



XIN Lili

Since its establishment in 1979, Shanghai Ballet has given birth to more than 180 original productions that nourish Shanghai culture. These productions promote and highlight the Chinese spirit.

Thanks to the creative team of Derek Deane OBE and the outstanding artists of Shanghai Ballet. I want to say thank you to the support from Queensland Ballet, and we look forward to continuing this long-term cooperation and communication in the future.

About the Choreographer



Derek Deane OBE
Choreographer and
Artistic Consultant of
Shanghai Ballet

Derek Deane OBE is a former Principal Dancer of The Royal Ballet and former Artistic Director of English National Ballet. Previous credits include *Swan Lake* in-the-round (1997) and *Romeo & Juliet* (1998) at the Royal Albert Hall.

He has created work for The Royal Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet, English National Ballet, Teatro alla Scala (Milan), Teatro San Carlo (Naples), Shanghai Ballet (China), Kobayashi Ballet (Tokyo), Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Toulouse Ballet and National Ballet of Zagreb.

Credits

Choreographer

Derek Deane OBE

Composer

Carl Davis

Scenery and Costume Designer

Adam Nee

Lighting Designer

Friðbjófur Þorsteinsson

Assistant to the Choreographer

Ivan Gil-Ortega

All performances are to recorded music.

The performance duration is approximately two hours, including one 20-minute interval.



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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Queensland Performing Arts Trust is a statutory body of the State of Queensland and is partially funded by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

The Honourable John-Paul Langbroek MP
Minister for Education and the Arts

Sharon Schimming
Acting Director-General, Department of
Education

QPAC rests on the lands of the Jagera and Turrbal peoples. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this country and recognise their rich cultural heritage and enduring connection to the land, waters and skies. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are this country's original storytellers, and it is our privilege to continue to share stories and be a place of gathering on this land that has been a meeting place for millennia.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

QPAC warmly thanks our key donors who help us engage broadly across the state and continue enriching lives through performing arts.

Tim Fairfax AC and Gina Fairfax AC, Dr Lee and Professor Peter Coaldrake AO, Leigh Tabrett PSM, Susan Rix AM, Julian Myers, Dr Sally Pitkin AO, Dare Power, Dr Cathryn Mittelheuser AM, Sandi Hoskins, Lance and Suzanne Hockridge, Leigh Wheeler, Judith Musgrave Family Foundation, Queensland Community Foundation, de Groot's Charitable Fund, Joachim and Paula Erpf, Dr Colin and Mrs Noela Kratzing, Barbara Snelling, Frank and Karen Alpert, Dr Ailbhe and Dr Frank Cunningham, Jenny Morton, Klaus Beckmann and several donors who wish to remain anonymous.

We give heartfelt thanks to QPAC's Principal Partners Hyundai and MinterEllison.

Every effort was made to ensure program details were correct at the time of printing, however details are subject to change where necessary and without notice. Please check queenslandballet.com.au for updates.

Principal Dancers

WU Husheng (Armand Duval)

Vice Director of Shanghai Ballet / First Principal Dancer



Wu Husheng won the Igor Youskevitch Award and Silver Medal in the ninth New York International Ballet Competition. A frequent prize-winner in Chinese competitions and awards ceremonies, Wu has danced principal roles in nearly 20 full-length productions including *The White-haired Girl* and Derek Deane's *Swan Lake*, *Hamlet*, *Le Fantôme de l'Opéra* and *The Lady of the Camellias*. He choreographed *A Dream of Floating Life* and *Follow the Light*, with *Follow the Light* earning him Excellent Work at the 14th National Dance Exhibition.

QI Bingxue (Marguerite Gautier)

First Principal Dancer



After graduating from the Affiliated Dance School of Shanghai Theatre Academy, Qi Bingxue joined the Shanghai Ballet in 2014 and was promoted to First Principal Dancer in 2023. She has danced principal roles in repertoires including *The White-haired Girl*, *Giselle*, *The Last Mission of Marco Polo*, *A Sigh of Love*, *Swan Lake*, *Le Fantôme de l'Opéra* and *Lady of the Camellias*. Selected awards include the top award in the third Beijing International Ballet and Choreographer Competition, Gold Award in the fifth Shanghai International Ballet Competition and the tenth China Dance Lotus Awards.

Synopsis

ACT I

Marguerite Gautier, a dying French courtesan, hallucinates her funeral and the return of her lover, Armand Duval. Despite her impending death, she is revived by her maid Nanine and the opportunistic Prudence, returning to her life as the star of Parisian society. She attracts the attention of several men, including Armand, whom she initially mocks but later falls in love with. Armand adores her and seeing her illness, becomes devoted. They begin a passionate affair, and Armand convinces her to leave Paris for the countryside to improve her health. However, their life becomes financially strained, and Marguerite is forced to sell her jewels. Armand promises to support her, but his father Mr. Duval convinces Marguerite to end the relationship for Armand's sake. She does, but she is heartbroken and regretful.

ACT II

In Paris, Marguerite's disgrace is overtaken by the rise of Olympe. Marguerite returns to society with a new benefactor, shocking the public. Armand, now with Olympe, seeks revenge on Marguerite by publicly humiliating her. He tricks her into believing that if she gives up her wealth they can reunite, only to degrade her in front of everyone. Heartbroken and shamed, Marguerite pursues Armand, but he refuses to forgive her. As she dies, the ghosts of her past haunt her, but she finally surrenders to death, finding peace as the angel arrives to take her away.

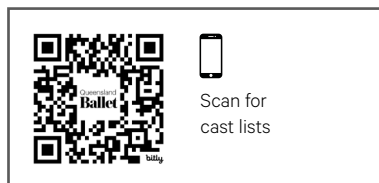
Queensland Ballet acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we train and perform. Long before we arrived on this land, it played host to the dance expression of our First Nations Peoples. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the valuable contribution they have made and continue to make to the cultural landscape of this country.

Cast List

Marguerite Gautier: QI Bingxue, FENG Zichun
Armand Duval: WU Husheng, YUAN Anpu
Prudence: FAN Xiaofeng
Armand Duval's Father: Ivan Gil-Ortega, BAO Deli
Olympe: ZHAO Meici
Gaston: ZHANG Wenjun, XU Jingkun
Baron: TU Hanbin, GONG Liwei
Duke: LI Yang, XUE Li
Nanny: XU Jia, HU Pingting
Doctor: GAO Jie
Rich Benefactor: ZHOU Haibo

DANCERS

GUO Wenjin, HE Linyi, JIN Guolongfei,
WANG Jiali, MIAO Siyun, YAN Qingchen, ZHU Qian, GAO Zhizi,
YAN Wentong, YANG Tianzhen, GE Yimeng, ZHAN Weiyuan,
XU Jingyi, CHEN Ruoxuan, GUO Fan, YANG Zheyang, LI Xinyi,
LI Chenjin, TANG Jingqi, QI Yuxun, QI Yamin, XU Zhou,
CHEN Zhuo, ZHANG Yiran, XU Mingjie, CHEN Weihai,
ZHANG Junzhong



Production Credits

Producer: ZHANG Songhua
Production Director: JI Pingping
Artistic Director: XIN Lili
Project Coordinator: WANG Mingyu
Producing Coordinator: WU Husheng
Rehearsal Coordinator: ZHANG Yao
Rehearsal Teachers: FAN Xiaofeng, XU Wenjie, CHEN Yan
General Administrator: LI Li
Project Executives: YE Lihong, ZHOU Yiwei
Content Review: LI Jieli
Publicity: LU Jiashi
Legal Affairs: JIANG Qingfu
Doctor: CHEN Li

Technical Credits

Tech Manager: HUANG Jiajie
Stage Manager: GAO Dongming
Set: CAO Lixin, XU Zhige, LU Jinhua, HU Zhongyu
Lighting: ZHU Xiachen, TAN Rongqing, ZHU Heihu
Multimedia: WU Guangxin
Props: CAO Haitao
Sound: DAI Haichun
Costume: SONG Liang, LIU Li
Makeup: WU Wenting

NOVOTEL

BRISBANE SOUTH BANK

Hotel provider for Shanghai Ballet in association with
Queensland Ballet.

Queensland Ballet Credits

Acting Artistic Director: Greg Horsman
Executive Director: Dilshani Weerasinghe
Executive Producer: Craig Cathcart
Director of Production Services: Shaun O'Rourke

Shanghai Ballet Sponsors

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achette



Sansha



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