



Photographer Taylor-Ferne Morris

BEN DAVIS – DIRECTOR

Former Soloist of The Australian Ballet, Ben started his formal training at Ballet Theatre Australia under the direction of its founder, LEEANNE RUTHERFORD. During his time at the school, Ben received further coaching in New York City.

Ben began his career performing throughout Germany and Austria before returning to Australia and joining The Australian Ballet in 2005. In 2008 he was awarded a professional development scholarship from TAB to receive coaching abroad at the Royal Ballet in London, Paris Opera Ballet and Vienna Staatsoper. During his 13 years spent with The Australian Ballet Ben worked with some of the world's finest dancers, choreographers and coaches. Performing various featured and leading roles in the company's expansive repertoire, many of which were created on him.

Appointed Director of Ballet Theatre Australia in 2020, Ben is passionate about sharing his numerous years of stage and industry experience with the school's next generation of young artists.

JANE CASSON

As a former Soloist of The Australian Ballet and Royal New Zealand Ballet, Jane's career saw her travel the world performing numerous featured and leading roles in both the classical and contemporary repertoire.

Throughout her career Jane's professional accolades include receiving the 2007 Green Room Award for 'Best Female Dancer' for her Year's work with The Australian Ballet and being twice nominated for the Telstra Dancer of the Year Award in 2004 and 2007. Jane was also awarded a professional development scholarship to study with the Paris Opera Ballet, Ballet de Nice, Ballet de Monte Carlo and the Hamburg Ballet.

Ballet Theatre Australia is thrilled to benefit from Jane's wealth of experience and passion for the art form.





Photographer Daniel Boud

NATASHA KUSEN

As a finalist in the 2001 Prix de Lausanne, Natasha was awarded a one year scholarship to her chosen international training institution, The Royal Ballet School. Following this year of training, Natasha received a full scholarship from Gailene Stock to complete a further two years of training in London. During her time as a student, Natasha was invited to tour with The Royal Ballet Company, performing throughout Australia & Russia. After graduating from the Upper School, Natasha returned home to join The Australian Ballet in 2003.

Through many career highlights and featured roles, Natasha was promoted to Soloist in 2013. Natasha gave her final performance at the Sydney Opera House in December 2019 after more than 16 years of touring around the world with The Australian Ballet.

Ballet Theatre Australia is fortunate to welcome Natasha to the teaching faculty of 2020.

KIRSTY MARTIN

After graduating from the Australian Ballet School in 1995, Kirsty accepted a position with The Australian Ballet. She rose quickly through the ranks, being promoted to Soloist in 1998 and to Senior Artist in 1999. In 2000 Kirsty took a two year hiatus from TAB, joining Nederlands Dance Theater, where she worked with renowned choreographer Jiří Kylián performing an extensive range of contemporary ballets.

Upon returning to The Australian Ballet in 2002, Kirsty was promoted to Principal Artist the following year. Throughout her career Kirsty performed leading roles in both the classical and contemporary repertoire, many of which were created on her.

After a successful and fulfilling career Kirsty retired from the stage in 2011. To expand her teaching skills, Kirsty completed a Graduate Diploma in Elite Dance Instruction at The Australian Ballet School and also embarked on studying an Advanced Yoga Teaching Training Course. Kirsty is excited to share her knowledge and experience with the students of Ballet Theatre Australia.



Photographer Tim Richardson