

1 March 2010

Star choreographer brings opera classic to the ballet stage

Australian premiere season of *The Silver Rose* in Melbourne

Choreographic legend Graeme Murphy brings the glamorous Australian premiere of *The Silver Rose* to Melbourne this March.

Following the success of Murphy's unique interpretations of *Swan Lake*, *Firebird* and *The Nutcracker*, *The Silver Rose* will be one of the most eagerly anticipated works on the Australian stage in 2010.

Opening at the Arts Centre on 19 March, *The Silver Rose* is a lavish full-length production based loosely on the classic opera *The Rose Cavalier*.

Choreographed by Murphy and creative associate Janet Vernon, their vision of the ballet is completed with spectacular Art Nouveau sets by Roger Kirk, and beautifully enhanced with music by Australian composer Carl Vine.

In Richard Strauss' opera *Der Rosenkavalier* (*The Rose Cavalier*), Murphy saw the makings of a great ballet: a timeless tale of jealousy, infidelity, and love gone wrong. The tangle of romantic intrigue is ripe for comic interpretation as the cast tie each other in beautifully choreographed romantic knots.

Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet, David McAllister, said he was thrilled to be bringing *The Silver Rose* home after it premiered on the Bavarian State Ballet in 2005.

"With an all-Australian creative team we just had to bring this glorious production home and stage it with an all-Australian cast!"

The story

Set in turn-of-the-last-century Vienna, *The Silver Rose* is the story of an alluring and intelligent woman – an actress, the Marschallin – in the middle of her life. Though still very beautiful, she's troubled by the clock's ceaseless tick and worried her lover might fall for a younger woman. Inevitably, he does.

The production

Premiering in Germany in 2005, *The Silver Rose* boasts an all-Australian creative team. Graeme Murphy, an alumnus of The Australian Ballet, is a master storyteller and one of Australia's greatest choreographers.

Along with his creative associate Janet Vernon, Murphy is best known for his long and influential tenure as the leader of Australia's internationally renowned contemporary dance troupe Sydney Dance Company.

One of Australia's pre-eminent composers, and a long-time Murphy collaborator, Carl Vine has compiled an arrangement of his greatest works for *The Silver Rose*. The music is a collage of pre-existing pieces, including his *Piano Concerto* and *Symphony No. 4.2*. Vine's compositions are extensive and include over 25 scores for classical dance.

As Dick Van Dyke did in *Mary Poppins*, Roger Kirk has made a painting come to life. With Klimt-like golds and silvers, he created colourful and opulent sets and costumes – a glamorous world influenced by art on a grand scale.

The Silver Rose, said ballet.co.uk, is "a work of extraordinarily tender poetry... [Murphy]... has staged something of a ballet coup". On its inception *The Silver Rose* joined the ranks of Murphy's masterpieces. This dazzling interpretation of a classic struck a powerful chord with the public, achieving critical and audience acclaim in Europe.

"The corps de ballet dance beautifully in prodigious number with sumptuous costumes amidst splendid sets" *Stagediary.com* 26 February 2010

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Credits

THE SILVER ROSE (2005)
Choreography Graeme Murphy
(based on *Der Rosenkavalier*
by Hugo von Hofmannsthal)
Creative associate Janet Vernon
Music Carl Vine
Set and costume design Roger
Kirk

Performance details

19 – 30 March (13 performances)
the Arts Centre, State Theatre
with Orchestra Victoria
Bookings: australianballet.com.au or
1300 369 741

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