

25 October 2017

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister  
C/O Ministry of Culture and Heritage  
PO Box 5364  
Wellington 6140

*Tēnā Koe Prime Minister,*

On behalf of the Royal New Zealand Ballet and our Board, please accept our warmest congratulations on your new role as our nation's Prime Minister. We are thrilled that you will also be the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage.

We are proud to be New Zealand's national ballet company. We are directly funded through the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, and we are pleased to work closely with central government to ensure that we can deliver high-quality ballet experiences which educate, and encourage participation and appreciation of our artform for all New Zealanders.

You'll find a USB stick with this pack – on it is a brief video window into how we deliver exceptional experiences New Zealanders, in theatres, schools and communities in main centres and in the regions throughout Aotearoa. We make our work accessible to a diverse range of audiences through world-class performances on the stage and community outreach initiatives.

This video tells a brief story of our work in 2017, and I invite you to peek through this window to hear directly from our dancers and our audiences, to hear the cheers of hundreds of students at schools matinees, to see how blind audiences experienced their first touch tour of ballet, to catch a glimpse of a schools workshop and more.

2017 has been a year of firsts for the RNZB, and in addition to some outstanding firsts on the main stage, we have delivered several new outreach initiatives reaching students in low-decile schools, and audiences with disabilities. We are as proud of our delivery of accessible performances to differently-abled New Zealanders as we are of our world-class mainstage performances. We look forward to continuing to grow and expand our reach across Aotearoa.

In 2018, we celebrate not only our own 65<sup>th</sup> birthday but also the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage in New Zealand. We have some unique new offerings next year which strongly reflect New Zealand's spirit, including *The Piano : the ballet*, our *Strength and Grace* programme of new works by female choreographers and a new work being create by Christchurch-born choreographer Corey Baker, who will take an RNZB dancer to Antarctica in February 2018 and

there he will begin to develop a work that speaks about the important issue of climate change. That work will premier in Wellington on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018, set to the music of Mozart. Our 2018 season brochure is enclosed and I invite you to enjoy reading about each and every aspect of what we have planned, as well as our plans to take Tutus on Tour out to 7 regions from Keri Keri to Gore.

We eagerly look forward to welcoming you to our performances in the coming year, starting with the world premiere of *The Piano: the ballet*, in Wellington on 23 February 2018.

We also look forward to welcoming you into our studios to share our work with you – from company class to studio rehearsals, to a tour of our wardrobe department, to see the creation of new choreography, and to attend community and access initiatives. Invitations will be forthcoming, but we happily extend an open invitation and you need only be in touch to arrange a visit at your convenience.

I look forward to meeting you soon and working with you.

We at the Royal New Zealand Ballet look forward to continuing to make you, your government and all of Aotearoa proud!

Ngā mihi nui,



Frances Turner  
Executive Director

[phone number  
withheld under  
section 9(2)(a) of the  
Official Information  
Act 1982]

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# rnzb

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND BALLET

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: PATRICIA BARKER



The Royal New Zealand Ballet will turn 65 in 2018. Here are some of the highlights of the last five years with New Zealand's national ballet company, and where we're headed in the future.

We hope that you will be able to visit our Wellington studios and wardrobe facilities very soon, and we look forward to welcoming you to the world premiere of *The Piano: the ballet* in February next year.

PEOPLE – PARTNERSHIPS – PASSION – PRIDE

## 2013

### WE CELEBRATED OUR 60TH BIRTHDAY WITH:

- 46,871 kilometres travelled during three domestic tours.
- 17,655 people engaging with RNZB Education, including dancers and dance teachers, schools and communities.
- Three new one-act ballets by New Zealand and international choreographers, touring to seven centres.
- A five centre tour to China, including performances of *Giselle* at the National Centre for Performing Arts in Beijing, with the support of sponsors in New Zealand and China and assistance from the Cultural Diplomacy International Programme.
- 25 performances of *Swan Lake*, partnered by Vodafone, in eight centres, including two in the CBS Arena in Christchurch and two schools' performances, and an open day attracting 1,500 people at the St James Theatre.
- With sponsorship from TOWER, Tutus on Tour took the RNZB to 47 centres from Kaitiāia to Stewart Island, with Te Radar onstage narrating *Peter and the Wolf*. A live recording was made available as a free download.

*'It was great to see so many children, who must have gone home full of inspiration and enthusiasm for where their love of dance could take them.'*

PETRINA HODGSON, NORTHLAND AGE

- The publication of *The Royal New Zealand Ballet at 60*, by Victoria University Press.
- The release of Toa Fraser's feature film based on *Giselle*, filmed in Wellington, Auckland and Shanghai, premiered at the New Zealand International Film Festival.
- A special performance and reception in the Legislative Council Chamber at Parliament, hosted by Hon. Christopher Finlayson and Hon. Tim Groser.



THE ANATOMY OF A PASSING CLOUD 2013

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND BALLET

# 2014

## WE WERE PROUD TO CELEBRATE A MILESTONE IN THE REBUILDING OF CHRISTCHURCH AND:

- Re-opening the rebuilt Isaac Theatre Royal in Christchurch with a sell-out season of *A Christmas Carol* in November, part of a 25 performance national tour in partnership with National Sponsor Vodafone which reached 28,500 New Zealanders.

*'After the 'bah, humbug' of inadequate venues for the last four seasons, a capacity audience relished the company's performance of A Christmas Carol.'*

IAN LOCHHEAD, THE PRESS, CHRISTCHURCH

- A five centre tour to the USA, including sold-out performances of *Giselle* at the Los Angeles Music Center and seven sell-out shows at The Joyce Theater in New York.
- *Allegro: five short ballets*, including a foray into kinetic art with New Zealander Daniel Belton's *Satellites*, and performing with young New Zealand violinist Benjamin Baker, a prize-winner at the Michael Hill International Violin Competition, onstage for 14 performances in seven centres.
- NCEA resource published for senior NCEA dance students, analysing Javier De Frutos' 2013 ballet, *The Anatomy of a Passing Cloud*.
- 48 education activities were delivered free of charge to 3,414 participants and overall more than 11,000 people engaged with RNZB Education.



# 2015

## WE WERE HONOURED TO BE PART OF NATIONAL COMMEMORATIONS:

- We commemorated the centenary of the Gallipoli Landings with *Salute*, touring to seven centres with the New Zealand Army Band and New Zealand String Quartet cellist Rolf Gjelsten, and a programme including newly commissioned works by New Zealand choreographers Andrew Simmons and Neil Ieremia, with scores by Gareth Farr and Dwayne Bloomfield. We were grateful to the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board through the Lottery World War One Commemorations, Environment and Heritage Committee for their support towards commissioning costs.

*'In the Royal New Zealand Ballet's Salute, four works combine in a triumph of the human spirit – and the company's artistry.'*

FRANCESCA HORSLEY, NEW ZEALAND LISTENER

- Free open rehearsals at Wellington's Opera House attracted more than 3,000 visitors ahead of the company's premiere of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a new ballet by renowned British choreographer Liam Scarlett, was created for the RNZB and premiered in August 2015, to sell-out audiences around the country. The production was co-produced with Queensland Ballet, a successful financial model to share costs and collaborate internationally.
- Wellington City Council, a long-standing partner of the RNZB, increased funding in recognition of the RNZB's contribution to the capital city and made our funding relationship part of the city's long term plan.



- 2,000 children and families took part in free Pick & Mix performances and workshops in Auckland and Takapuna, in partnership with Auckland Live.
- 22,000 people took part in free events over the year.
- 100 workshops were delivered in New Zealand schools.
- The RNZB ended the year with a five week tour to the UK and Italy, performing classical and contemporary repertoire, including three New Zealand works, in Edinburgh, Leeds, High Wycombe, Canterbury, London, Udine, Vicenza and Rome.

- A revival of 2012's *Giselle*, touring to six centres, achieved an audience of 20,761, 25% over capacity target.
- We were invited to present *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the International Shakespeare Festival at the Sha Tin Town Hall in Hong Kong in October, and ended the year with a Wellington-only revival of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, with special support from Wellington City Council's City Growth Fund.

## 2016

### WE SOLD TICKETS 'AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT':

- *Speed of Light*, three contemporary ballets from the 20th and 21st centuries, including two New Zealand premieres, enjoyed sell-out seasons in four centres, opening the New Zealand and Auckland Arts Festivals.

*'20 out of 10 as far as I'm concerned... courageous and skilful dancing which show the company to be a formidable dance force.'*

LYNN FREEMAN, RADIO NEW ZEALAND, MORNING REPORT

- An open day at Te Papa brought 2,000 Wellingtonians behind the scenes with the RNZB.
- 25,000 people attended free education and community events.
- 290 workshops were delivered in New Zealand schools.
- The Ryman Healthcare Season of *The Wizard of Oz* sold out every show of a 23 performance tour, with a total audience of just under 36,000 nationwide.



ROMEO AND JULIET ACT II 2017

## 2017

### A YEAR OF FIRSTS:

*But I could not have known what it would mean to attend a ballet with my mother: to experience the whole show, not just the music. It was an artform I had subconsciously assigned to the 'unreachable' pile.*

*'When you were two,' Mum reminded me fondly as we pulled out of the parking lot and headed for the motorway, 'you could do all your arabesques, first position, second position, plié ... I always wanted to take you to the ballet.'*

AINE KELLY-COSTELLO, A BLIND UNIVERSITY STUDENT, WHO ATTENDED THE AUDIO-DESCRIBED PERFORMANCE OF ROMEO AND JULIET IN AUCKLAND THIS YEAR.

- We staged the first-ever New Zealand performances of works by celebrated French choreographer, Roland Petit, taking his *Carmen* and *L'Arlésienne* to eight centres around New Zealand.



THE WIZARD OF OZ 2016



## AND IN 2018...

**WE CELEBRATE OUR 65TH BIRTHDAY WITH A FOCUS ON THE FUTURE, TRAVELLING TO 19 VENUES AROUND NEW ZEALAND:**

- We were the first company to programme three 21st century works by Swedish choreographer Alexander Ekman, taking *Three by Ekman* to five centres, as well as onto the streets of Wellington and Matiu Somes Island in a multimedia performance experience.
- The Ryman Healthcare Season of *Romeo and Juliet* premiered in August with sets and costumes by Academy Award-winning designer James Acheson and choreography by Francesco Ventriglia. Just under 28,000 New Zealanders saw performances, including 2,678 school students at special matinees, and more than 4,000 people came to our *Romeo and Juliet* open day at Te Papa.
- Tutus on Tour returned in a new model, touring to seven regional centres from Taranaki to Oamaru, together with free 'Ballet in a Box' schools' performances.
- We undertook our first sensory-friendly performance for young people on the autistic spectrum, with the support of the Vodafone Events Centre at Manukau.
- We welcomed deaf Wellingtonians behind the scenes at the RNZB with a sign language interpreted tour as part of National Deaf Week.
- We presented the first-ever audio described performance of a ballet in New Zealand, welcoming blind and partially-sighted Aucklanders to *Romeo and Juliet*, with a special pre-performance workshop and touch tour.
- We are collaborating with the Department of Corrections and Arohata and Rimutaka Women's Prisons on creative dance workshops towards the 'Inside Out Arohata Christmas Concert' in support of Women's Refuge.
- *The Piano: the ballet* will premiere at the New Zealand Festival and will then feature in the Auckland Arts Festival and tour to a further five centres around New Zealand.
- *Dancing with Mozart* will include a new commission from Christchurch-born choreographer Corey Baker, themed around climate change and taking a dancer to Antarctica over the summer as part of the creative process.
- *Strength and Grace* will mark the RNZB's 65th birthday and the 125th anniversary of women's suffrage in New Zealand with four new one-act ballets commissioned from leading international and New Zealand women choreographers.
- Tutus on Tour will take in seven regional centres, from Kerikeri to Gore.
- *The Nutcracker* will return to our touring programme for the first time since 2010, taking a much-loved Christmas classic to ten venues around New Zealand, in partnership with Ryman Healthcare.
- Our education and access programme will continue to expand, with transport and ticket subsidies for children from low decile schools to attend schools matinees, and audio described performances in four centres for *The Nutcracker*, Pick & Mix, Te Papa Day, school workshops and more.





## OUR VISION

Transcend the everyday through dance

*achieved by*

## OUR PURPOSE

To deliver inspiring dance performances and give full expression to New Zealand's creative spirit

*we aim to*

## OUR GOALS

Engage audiences  
Extend our talent  
Enhance our capability

*We are*

## NEW ZEALAND'S NATIONAL BALLET COMPANY

*which*

Employs and retains talented artists and staff  
Encourages creativity and innovation  
Reflects the spirit and diversity of Aotearoa New Zealand

*connects*

New Zealand and international creative talent  
Diverse communities and audiences

*delivers*

Relevant and inspiring repertoire  
World-class performances

*has*

An engaging digital footprint  
A valued and trusted brand  
A caring, safe and productive culture

*and*

Our finances are sustainable  
Our risks are contained  
Our operations are fit for purpose

*All driven by our values to be*

Creative, courageous, connected and caring

## 2018 At a Glance

Contributing to economies in the regions through performances, employment for local venue crew and employment for orchestras

Delivering significant return on government investment

Engaging the largest New Zealand arts social media and newsletter following

Connecting New Zealanders far and wide through performances, education and outreach

**36**

company dancers

**38**

staff and crew

**79**

performances

**60,000**

audience members

**16**

cities visited

**19**

venues hired

**110**

regional stage crew

**5**

orchestras accompany performances

**300**

live musicians accompany performances

**24**

NZ cities and towns reached by RNZB education

**25,000**

people attend free events

**250**

workshops for New Zealand schools

**20**

weeks on the road

**34,000**

Facebook followers

**10,700**

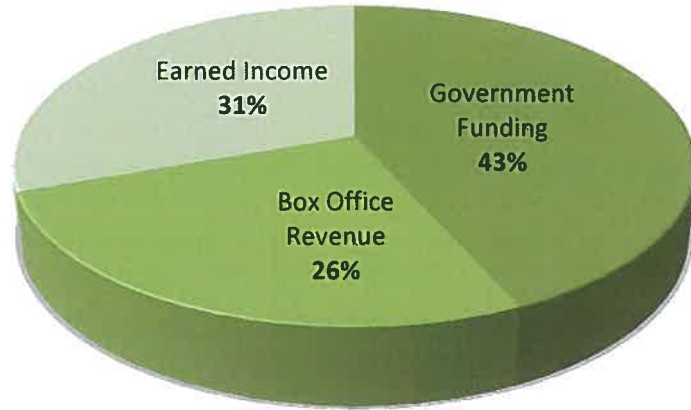
Instagram followers

**35,000**

e-newsletter subscribers

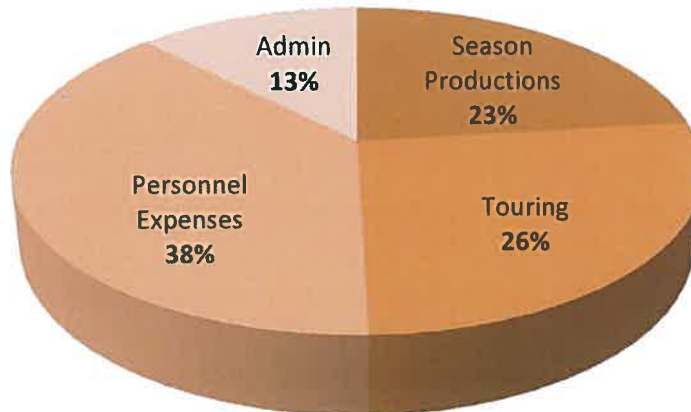


## 2018 Revenue



Total \$12.4M

## 2018 Expenses



Total \$12.3M

