



The Honourable Rod Welford MP



Minister for Education and Training
Minister for the Arts

WORLD FAMOUS FRENCH BALLET EXCLUSIVE TO BRISBANE

Arts Minister Rod Welford today announced a cultural coup for Queensland, with the world famous Paris Opera Ballet making its only Australian performances in Brisbane next year.

“The Paris Opera Ballet is one of the world’s finest ballet companies and has only ever visited Australia once before, performing in Sydney in 2007,” Mr Welford said.

“To have the company perform exclusively in Brisbane at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) in June 2009 is a major coup.

“This further strengthens the state’s reputation for snaring world-class arts events, such as Andy Warhol and Picasso & his collection at the Gallery of Modern Art.

“These exhibitions, along with The Phantom of the Opera at QPAC, have been a boon for cultural tourism in Queensland and the Paris Opera Ballet will also be a major attraction.

“I congratulate QPAC and Queensland Events for securing this production for Brisbane and look forward to seeing it in the Lyric Theatre, which is being refurbished as part of the \$34 million redevelopment of QPAC announced in the 2008-09 State Budget.”

Mr Welford said the Paris Opera Ballet’s origins date back to the 17th century under Louis XIV and it is considered one of the greatest ballet companies in the world.

“The Paris Opera Ballet season is a triumph for Queensland,” Mr Welford said.

“For its Brisbane season it will perform the classic La Bayadere, ballet legend Rudolf Nureyev’s last creation as the artistic director of the Paris Opera Ballet before his death in 1993.

“It is rare to have the opportunity to see artists of this calibre in Australia. Our Government is delighted to bring this exclusive season to Queensland audiences, through Queensland Events and QPAC.”

The Paris Opera Ballet’s QPAC season, opening 24 June 2009, will be the company’s only international performance next year.

Booking for the Paris Opera Ballet’s season will open next month. To register for priority access to tickets patrons can visit www.qtix.com.au or www.parisoperaballet.com.au

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