

The National presents

Annual Gala 2024

6 and 7 December

Ludwig van Beethoven and Roald Dahl walk Into a Barre

Featuring students from
The National Ballet School
and Drama School with
the Melbourne Youth
Orchestra



N THE NATIONAL
BALLET SCHOOL

N THE NATIONAL
DRAMA SCHOOL

 MELBOURNE
YOUTH
ORCHESTRAS

Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation, The National proudly acknowledges the Boonwurrung people of the Kulin Nation; the Traditional Custodians of the unceded lands that we work, train and perform on. We pay our respects to their elders, past and present, and to all First Nations peoples.

Welcome

Welcome to The National Annual Gala 2024 as we celebrate 50 years in St Kilda. This milestone event, with its curious title, will showcase the extraordinary young talents of The National Ballet School and Drama School students, alongside the musical prowess of Melbourne Youth Orchestras.

Since 1935, The National has been training and developing Australia's future stars of stage and screen, dance and drama. Our goals are shared by Melbourne Youth Orchestra who have, since 1967, built a reputation for excellence and supported young artists to reach their potential in creative and inspirational learning environments.

The Annual Gala 2024 brings together this triumvirate of Australian performing arts education and training institutions for a multi-faceted evening of classical excellence, balletic beauty, comedic chops and triple threats in action.

The Annual Gala is an opportunity for our audiences, families and friends to support The National's fundraising efforts with purchases of Gala Event tickets or direct donations. As we do not receive any ongoing government funding, it is only through your generosity that we are able to continue the almost 90-year legacy of our founder Gertrude Johnson OBE.

Whether you are already a friend of 'The Nash' or a newcomer to our historic establishment, we are eternally grateful for your attendance and ongoing support.

Thank you for joining us and please enjoy the show!

Sarah Hunt, CEO and The National team

Annual Gala Program

Delight in a dance of discovery as our Junior Ballet students explore instrumental tone and colour in **Benjamin Britten's** *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*.

Witness a symphony of movement and music with the future stars of ballet joining forces with **Melbourne Youth Orchestra** for a breathtaking performance of **Beethoven's** *Symphony No.7*, known as *The Apotheosis of Dance*.

20 minute interval

Revel in the *Revolting Rhymes* of **Roald Dahl** as students from our Young Actors Program (primary) reveal what happens when a wolf in teacher's clothing infiltrates the school.

Build connection and a sense of belonging with a self-devised work from our Young Actors Program (secondary) students.

And marvel at the all-singing, all dancing, high energy of **Roald Dahl's** *Matilda* performed by triple threat students of jazz, tap and musical theatre.

Duration 2 hours plus 20 minute interval.



THE NATIONAL BALLET SCHOOL

Est. 1939 | Artistic Director Damian Smith

2025 Courses

Aspire to Excellence

Nashies

RAD Core Plus

Aspire Saturday Program

Musical Theatre

Contemporary Dance

On Stage Summer School

Full Time Accredited
Dance Training

For more information, visit
nationaltheatre.org.au/ballet

RTO 3600/Cricos 01551E

N THE NATIONAL
BALLET SCHOOL



THE NATIONAL DRAMA SCHOOL

Est. 1936 | Director of Drama Dr Jaime Dörner

2025 Courses

ACTOR TRAINING FOR STAGE AND SCREEN

Young Actors Program
(Primary and Secondary)

School Holiday Programs

Adult Short Courses

Foundation in Acting

Advanced Diploma of Acting

For more information, visit
nationaltheatre.org.au/drama

RTO 3600/Cricos 01551E

N THE NATIONAL
DRAMA SCHOOL



Junior Ballet: *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*

Cast

Soloist

Claudia Westrup

Teen Nashies

Alexandra Munnich

Audrey Schiff

Beatrice Mara

Elke Sun

Eva Brecko

Freya Cara Weber

Isabella Dukcevic

Katherine Smit

Violet Metz

Little Nashies

Bethan Wong

Ivy Faure

Josephine Howard

Nephele Tynan

Nina Auchett

Olivia Angelovich

Rhia Roberts

Sophie Goucher

Mini Nashies

Alice Nadebaum

Allegra Alaia

Angelica Maisano

Anvika Reddy Karthanaparthi

Cecilia Cram

Frida Murphy

Gaia Pressly-Monier

Grace Sopher

Isabella Piras

Isla Cortinovis

Leah Hamer

Pandora Wright

Pilar Aquino

Riku Ateto

Ruby Robb

Sloane Krizmanic

Vali Sofo

RAD Pre-Primary

Aisla Hamill

Annikki Winter

Aurelia Grace Ettakadoumi

Bernadette Wheatley-Durack

Gaargi Vijay

Grace Sciancalepore

Luna Van de Kerkhof

Mackenzie O'Gorman

Mary Starsky

Mia Liu

Mila Stojanovik

Olivia Butseva

Teresa Ribeiro Soares

Wren Blagojevic

RAD Primary

Alianna Botros

Clover Blackburn

Dinethi Rose Perera

Ines O'Neill

Melissa Lu

Mia Crouch-Phan

Mona Pressly-Monier

Thea Raute

RAD Grade 1

Anna Hu

Bella Hu

Emily Feng

Giselle Marouff

John Lee

Lucas Pardo-Shimizu

Sabine Hall

RAD Grade 2

Brigid O'Gorman

Clara Gram

Emilia Romero

Faith Hughes

Gigi Morabito

Isabelle Guy

Polly Donovan-Wilson

Romy Massard

Ruini Tang

Sarah Zuo

Sofia Kanova

Valentine Leroux

Yinning Grace Liu

Zoe Vlahovich



The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra

The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra is a composition for orchestra by British composer Benjamin Britten, created at the request of the British Ministry of Education for the 1946 educational film "*Instruments of the Orchestra*".

This work takes the form of variations and a fugue based on a melody composed more than 250 years ago by the eminent English composer Henry Purcell.

The piece begins with the orchestra dividing into four groups – woodwind, brass, strings, and percussion – allowing the audience to discern the distinct timbres of each section. Following this, individual instruments perform solos in ascending order from the highest to the lowest pitches within each group.

Finally, Britten weaves together all sections of the orchestra in a complex fugue built on a new, dancelike theme derived from the original melody. Throughout the composition, contrasting voices and melodies are skillfully highlighted, showcasing the unique characteristics of each instrument.

Benjamin Britten

Benjamin Britten was a prominent British composer, conductor, and pianist, born in 1913. Renowned for his impactful contributions to 20th-century music, he emerged as a leading figure in the classical world. Britten studied at the Royal College of Music, where he honed his distinctive style that often combined traditional elements with modern sensibilities. His notable works include operas *Peter Grimes* and *The Turn of the Screw*, as well as orchestral pieces such as *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*. Britten's music is celebrated for its emotional depth, innovative use of harmony, and mastery of orchestration, solidifying his legacy in the canon of classical music.

Melbourne Youth Orchestras

Cast

Violin 1

Autumn Lee
Holly Sutton

Naija Hanna
Edgar Chen

Adel Kalnoki
TT Yan

Anna Tench
Emily Zeng

Eliza Hansen-Gregg
Katherine Ma

Violin 2

Naamah Hanna
Claire Yeung

Sophia Tan
Helena Kozdra

Avelyn Reynolds
Asher Hanna

Anna Davidson
Sophie Qin

Viola

Neil Wang
Evan O'Connor

Maximillian Topor
Millie Davidson

En-Kim Anderson
Mei Hurley

Connor Senn-Sanger

Cello

Christopher Cheng
Joanna Ostaff

Mahalia Shelton
Rowan Parr

Grace Tan
Ryan Tan

Double Bass

Grace Reynolds
Maxwell Harders

Ava Loke

Flute

Anushi Fernandopulle
Hannah Phillips

Oboe

Benjamin Roe
Kenneth Li

Clarinet

Freya Parr
Ben Fitzsimons

Bassoon

Jake Newman
Thomas De Simone

French Horn

Scott Plenderleith
(1st and 2nd)
Hannah Lin
(1st and 2nd)

Trumpet

Arthur Lou

Timpani

David Stockwell

Melbourne Youth Orchestras

Melbourne Youth Orchestras (MYO) is Victoria's leading provider of ensemble music education for young people aged eight to 25 years of age.

Every Saturday and Sunday during school terms, we bring over 600 young musicians together to rehearse and explore music in our twelve ensembles, comprising symphony orchestras, string orchestras, jazz orchestras and symphonic bands. Students enter our program from the age of eight and can progress through our structured ensemble program which culminates in the esteemed Melbourne Youth Orchestra.

Established in 1967, we continue to grow our community on a reputation for excellence, supporting young musicians to reach their potential, in creative and inspirational learning environments. Our program is designed to instil a lifelong love of music, because we know that only a love of music motivates lifelong learning and participation.

No young learner should ever be excluded based on disadvantage, and our diverse learning community brings together students from all backgrounds and walks of life. At Melbourne Youth Orchestras, they are united by a love of music and a commitment to excellence.



The National Ballet School: Beethoven's 7th Symphony

Cast

Fulltime Students

Ashley Griffen
Bridget Mori
Catherine Marty
Celeste King
Demi Kerlidis
Imogen Chapman
Iris Leung
Jessica Latto
Jorja Langthaller
Khai Le Thai
Lalu Germaine
Magnus Gilmore
Malik Chong
Michael Boato
Naomi Cox
Rhiannon Tappenden
Sadie Foster
Thomas Smithers
(Jane Moore Academy
of Ballet)
Zoe Reddaway

RAD Grade 3

Annika Chrisafis
Britt Bui
Clara van Leeuwen
Clarie Liu
Elena Liu
Isabelle Sandaver
Morgan Dawson
Vivienne Friedrich

RAD Grade 4

Dolly Ann Liang
Eila McCarthy
Gisele Luba
Kyra Gan
Lara-Rose Van Dort
Liza Subbotina
Loie Roux
Melody Zhang
Polly Lang-Farrall

RAD Intermediate

Anna Chard
Beatrice Hanadi
Isla Martin
Jessica Parker
Lily Piazza
Mina Annan
Roma De ieso

RAD Intermediate Foundation

Alexandra Healey Milone
Amelia Stebbing
Angelina Lu
Charis Morabito
Charlotte Bluemmel
Chloe Berkovitch
Clara Barry
Claudia Morton
Claudia Westrup

Eloise Fifield

Gisele Wijemanne
Isabelle Russell
Maya Young
Nell Martin
Petra Freivalde
Rafferty Wilson
Ramona Muraca-Wood
Tine He

RAD Advanced Foundation

Amelie Luba
Anna Kirsner
Bella Reed
Lucy Johnson
Odette Eales-Grziwotz
Romy Morabito
Zara Azzopardi

RAD Advanced 1

Fletcher Thomas
Liliane Carpentier
Lucy Gorr
Samantha McDonald
Saskia de Bruin

RAD Advanced 2

Claire Jones
Mia Atacador
Nathanie (Tanya) Hanadi

The National Ballet School

The National Ballet School is one of Australia's premier dance training institutions. Established in 1939 by performing arts pioneer **Gertrude Johnson OBE**, The National Ballet School (formally known as the National Theatre Ballet School) has provided exceptional training to students of all ages for more than 80 years. Located beneath the heritage-listed National Theatre, the Ballet School has nurtured more than 16,000 young artists in their pursuit of dance. Today, under the leadership of Artistic Director **Damian Smith**, the School continues to train small groups of dedicated students, focusing on mentoring, personalised instruction, and versatility in their pre-professional development.



Ludwig Van Beethoven

German composer and pianist **Ludwig van Beethoven** (baptised 17 December 1770– 26 March 1827) is one of the most revered figures in the history of Western music; his works rank among the most performed of the classical music repertoire.

Beethoven conducted the premiere performance of his *Symphony No.7* in Vienna on 8 December 1813. The benefit concert for wounded soldiers from the *Battle of Hanau* came in the immediate aftermath of Wellington's victory over Napoleon.

At the premiere Beethoven remarked that it was one of his best works. The second movement, *Allegretto*, was so popular that audiences demanded an encore.

In Beethoven's address to the participants he commented, "We are moved by nothing but pure patriotism and the joyful sacrifice of our powers for those who have sacrificed so much for us."

The National Drama School: *Belonging and Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes*

Cast

The Wolf

Madi Edwards

Stage Ensembles Intermediate

Aiden Zhang

Beau Shepherd

Bette Mitchell

Emilie Laine

Jacob Hamilton

Lily Vancam

Nina Sarell

Noor Malhan

Olivia Banerjee

Sebastian Le

Stefania Trapetsa

Stage Ensembles Senior

Keira-Lily Barr

Pia Sarell

Drama Combined Pre-Junior

Audrey Huynh

Oliver Bickford

Otis Barden

Viyana Mani

Drama Combined Junior

Asher Kabillo

Daisy Carew

Daniel Shemesh

Iniko Bowden Voderberg

Ishana Jodha Anuraj

Layla Fiteni

Leilani Murratti

Lottie Cayley

Oliver Kayakesen

Owen Baylis

Phoenix Phillips

Shayaan Dhillon

Sophia Rapaport

Thomas Sargent

Vivian Cunsolo

Stage Ensembles Pre-Junior

Abigail O'Goh

Ava Kunkel-Strell

Elliot Lowndes

Frankie Nepia

Ginger Adams

Lottie Pope

Mirelle Chrapot

Olivia Brownell

Poppy Grynberg

Stage Ensembles Junior

Abby Dostal

Charli Murphy

Claudia Mulet

Ella Peel

Emma Formon

Estelle Bradley

Finton Samson-Burke

Frankie Bankes

Ida Jordan

Nina Binisti

Pepper Hamilton

Sorcha Hills O'Boyle

Wiktor Majdak



The National Drama School

The National Drama School (formerly known as the National Theatre Drama School) is Australia's longest established vocational training organisation for screen acting and leading cultivator of stage and screen talent.

Under the inspired leadership of Director **Jaime Dörner**, the School's teaching faculty of industry experts impart their professional skills and techniques with budding young actors in the heritage listed National Theatre complex in the bayside suburb of St Kilda, Melbourne.

The National Drama School offers a suite of regular classes in acting techniques including the Young Actors Program for primary and secondary students, seasonal school holiday programs, short courses for adults and the industry leading bridging program Foundation In Acting. The flagship two-year Advanced Diploma of Acting prepares young acting talent for a fulfilling career in front of live audiences and on the big - or small - screen.

Renowned for industry connections, intimate class size, and passion for the craft of acting, The National Drama School celebrates and champions diversity, while cultivating excellence and authenticity.



Roald Dahl

Roald Dahl, born in 1916 in Wales, was a renowned British author celebrated for his imaginative and darkly humorous children's books. His famous works, including *James and the Giant Peach*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *The BFG*, feature themes of bravery and cleverness, captivating readers of all ages and inspiring numerous adaptations. His writing is characterised by inventive language, playful rhymes, and a touch of the macabre, which keeps readers engaged.

The National Drama School: Roald Dahl's *Matilda*

Cast

Matilda

Gigi Morabito

Miss Trunchball

Ashley Griffen

Miss Honey

Rhiannon Tappenden

Mr Wormwood

Michael Boato

Mrs Wormwood

Naomi Cox

Pre-Primary

Gaargi Vijay

Olivia Butseva

Pilar Aquino

Wren Blagojevic

Primary

Emelie Nilsson

Gigi Ablethorpe

Isabella Love

Lottie Ablethorpe

Ophelia Tynan

Pre-Junior

Amaya Miller

Aria Nilsson

Charlotte Love

Gigi Morabito

Linlin Mao

Junior

Annika Chrisafis

Beatrice Mara

Beatrix Lawson

Clara van Leeuwen

Ella Peel

Eloise Fifield

Eloise McLoughlin

Emma Formon

Gigi Morabito

Gisele Luba

Isabella Chin

Isabella Sandaver

Kiana Miller

Lara-Rose Van Dort

Loie Roux

Morgan Dawson

Scarlett Khvatsky

Olivia Welfair

Intermediate

Amelia Stebbing

Beatriz White

Charis Morabito

Charlotte Bluemmel

Claudia Westrup

Cleo Kyzintas

Eloise Fifield

Hannah Lupton

Isabelle Russell

Isla Martin

Jessica Parker

Maya Young

Nell Martin

Roma De ieso

Stefania Trapetsa

Zadie Kolsrud

Senior

Amelia Stebbing

Amelie Luba

Ashley Griffen

Bridget Mori

Catherine Marty

Charis Morabito

Claire Jones

Cleo Kyzintas

Demi Kerlidis

Fletcher Thomas

Grace Richardson

Iris Leung

Iris Parker

Imogen Chapman

Lalu Germaine

Liliane Carpentier

Magnus Gilmore

Mia Atacador

Michael Boato

Naomi Cox

Nathanie (Tanya) Hanadi

Odette Eales-Grziwotz

Rhiannon Tappenden

Romy Morabito

Sadie Foster

Samantha McDonald

Saskia de Bruin

Zara Azzopardi

Zoe Reddaway

Musical Theatre

Beyond classical ballet, The National Ballet School advocates for well-rounded performers with skills and experience in multiple genres of dance from classical and contemporary, to character and acrobatics. Our Musical Theatre students, led by professional triple theatre **Jackie Rae Lythgo**, undertake training in jazz, tap dance, and musical theatre, with the latter including voice, acting, movement and dance.

Matilda

Published in 1988, *Matilda* is one of **Roald Dahl**'s most celebrated works. This enchanting story follows the extraordinary young girl Matilda Wormwood, who possesses remarkable intelligence and telekinetic abilities, yet faces neglect and cruelty from her parents and school headmistress, Miss Trunchbull. Through Matilda's journey, Dahl explores themes of resilience, the power of knowledge, and the importance of kindness.



Production Credits

Artistic Director, Ballet

Damian Smith

Associate Artistic Director, Ballet

Jane Inglis-Keen

Director of Drama

Jaime Dörner

Head of Musical Theatre

Jackie Rae Lythgo

Production & Stage Manager

Paige McIntosh

Assistant Stage Manager / Show Caller

Lucy Anderson

Costume Coordinator

Isabel Moore-Payne

Dramaturg

R. Johns

Ballet

Ezlimar Dortolina

John Utah

Rachel Higham

Rhiannon Tappenden

Sarah Dehn

Yuiko Masukawa

Drama

Shaun Goss

Rosa Ablett-Johnstone

Administrative support

Isabelle Drohn

Sinead Fernandes

Ami McElle

Naomi Cox

With gratitude

Thank you to our wonderful parents who volunteer their time to work with the production in costumes, backstage and student wrangling.

Thank you to Jane Moore Academy of Ballet for allowing Thomas Smithers to join the production.

Thank you to YABC for lending us their risers for the Orchestra.

Thank you to Stephanie Barcham for her contribution to the production prior to her departure.

Celebrating
50
years

Recollections

SHARING STORIES OF THE NATIONAL

1974 – 2024

The National Melbourne celebrates 50 years in St Kilda this August/September and we're searching for personal and professional recollections that help us tell the story of The National Theatre, Ballet School and Drama School from 1974–2024.

With a history spanning more than a century, the building houses myriad stories and memories that reach across generations.

If you, your family members or friends and colleagues have a story to tell, we'd love to hear from you. Recollections will become a trove of treasures including oral and written histories, old programs, posters or photos, or just a simple note to say *I remember when...*

Over the coming months, we will collate your recollections of The National and share them on our social media channels with the aim of building a digital gallery of stories, memorabilia and ephemera that will be available for all to see.



**Find out
more**



**Share your
recollections**

Melbourne Youth Orchestras

Partners



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Music Director
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Thank you to our generous partners

Arnold Bloch Leibler
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The National Melbourne is a not-for-profit organisation. We do not receive regular government funding and we rely on the generosity of our donors.

We are currently fundraising for our Scholarships fund for our accredited courses. Your support will help us boost the scholarships fund and welcome students to train at The National Drama School. Please support artists of the future and make a tax-deductible donation by visiting nationaltheatre.org.au/support-us

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the many individuals and organisations who have donated to The National in 2024. Your ongoing support is essential to our future.

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Please visit nationaltheatre.org.au for the most current information.

