

# Bold ruffling of classical feathers

ON the cusp of its 50th anniversary, the Australian Ballet soars into the future with a specially commissioned triple bill that affirms its commitment to broadening the boundaries of classical dance.

*Infinity* encompasses the work of neo-classical master craftsman Graeme Murphy, experimental contemporary choreographer Gideon Obarzanek and indigenous theاتمemaker Stephen Page from Bangarra Dance Theatre.

Passing the task of creating three new works to choreographers removed from the classical ballet sphere was a brave move by artistic director David McAllister. It's no secret

subscribers and patrons — the backbone of box office sales — are in it for romantic stories told the traditional way.

*Infinity* is neither traditional nor romantic; rather, it's powerful in a provocative way, ruffling feathers and causing foyers to swell with impassioned patrons.

The triple bill kicked off with Murphy's *The Narrative of Nothing*, a potent piece of pattern play, free-falling from one formation to the next. The uninformed narrative and stripped-back stage (save Damien Cooper's sexy lighting

design) gave the dancers the perfect environ to showcase their skills. Fans of Murphy's purist work will be well satiated.

Obarzanek headed in the opposite direction, deconstructing ballet with a fury in *There's Definitely A Prince Involved*. The result is *Swan Lake* in one act with running commentary that asks all the questions you were too afraid to ask.

"Is she a princess? A woman? Or is she a swan?" asks the brilliant Sara Black as a feather-adorned Madeleine Eastoe flutters around her. It's unequivocally Obarzanek, from the

confronting choreography to the deliciously awkward text delivery.

Traditionalists may squirm at the work's

narcissistic nature but there's no denying Obarzanek knows how to entertain.

Page's *Waramuk: In The Dark Night* closed the evening. A retelling of Dreamtime stories, it built slowly, relying heavily on David Page's sensual score to establish context. While the dancing was flawless the piece felt less emotionally stirring than Bangarra's usual offerings. But that's the wonderfully greedy thing about a triple bill — there's something for every preference.

**VANESSA KEYS**

Until March 25, \$33-\$186, 9250 7777, [sydneyoperahouse.com](http://sydneyoperahouse.com)



*There's Definitely A Prince Involved*. Picture: Jeff Busby

**REVIEW**  
**Infinity**  
Sydney Opera House



**READING CINEMAS**  
[readingcinemas.com.au](http://readingcinemas.com.au)



**AUBURN**  
9647 0900

**DD DOLBY 3D**

**3D TITANIC (M)**  
NO FREE TIX DAILY: 8.20PM  
**3D THE LORAX (G)**  
NO FREE TIX DAILY: 9.45 2.00  
**3D WRATH OF THE TITANS (M)** NO FREE TIX DAILY: 11.45 4.00 6.10

**AMERICAN PIE REUNION (MA 15+)** NO FREE TIX DAILY: 11.00 1.30 4.00 7.00 9.30

**2D PIRATES: BAND OF MISFITS (G)** NO FREE TIX DAILY: 10.00 12.00 2.00 4.15 6.15 9.00

**2D THE LORAX (G)** NO FREE TIX DAILY: 10.45 12.45 2.45 4.45 6.45 8.45

**2D WRATH OF THE TITANS (M)** NO FREE TIX DAILY: 10.00 2.30 9.15

**MIRROR MIRROR (PG)** DAILY: 10.30 1.00 3.30 6.30

**21 JUMP STREET (MA 15+)** DAILY: 12.10 4.45 7.10 9.30

**THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL (PG)** DAILY: 10.15 1.00 3.45 6.20

**THE HUNGER GAMES (M)** DAILY: 10.15 1.15 4.00 6.30 8.15 9.15

**BOLLYWOOD**

**HOUSEFULL 2 (CTC)** NO FREE TIX DAILY: 2.15 8.45

**MIRZA (CTC)** DAILY: 11.00 5.30

**GOLD LOUNGE**

**AMERICAN PIE REUNION (MA 15+)** NO FREE TIX DAILY: 7.00 9.30

**2D WRATH OF THE TITANS (M)** NO FREE TIX DAILY: 9.15PM

**THE HUNGER GAMES (M)** DAILY: 6.30PM

**RHODES**  
9736 7900

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**THE HUNGER GAMES (M)** DAILY: 12.00 3.00 6.00 8.30 9.00

**GOLD LOUNGE**

**AMERICAN PIE REUNION (MA 15+)** NO FREE TIX DAILY: 6.30 9.00

**THE HUNGER GAMES (M)** DAILY: 8.30PM

**ROUSE HILL**  
9830 2800

**DD DOLBY 3D**

**3D TITANIC (M)**  
NO FREE TIX DAILY: 8.15PM  
**3D PIRATES: BAND OF MISFITS (G)** NO FREE TIX DAILY: 1.00 3.30  
**3D THE LORAX (G)** NO FREE TIX DAILY: 12.00 2.00 6.10  
**3D WRATH OF THE TITANS (M)** NO FREE TIX DAILY: 6.15 8.30

**AMERICAN PIE REUNION (MA 15+)** NO FREE TIX DAILY: 10.00 2.00 4.30 7.00 9.30

**2D PIRATES: BAND OF MISFITS (G)** NO FREE TIX DAILY: 9.45 11.45 7.10

**2D THE LORAX (G)** NO FREE TIX DAILY: 10.50AM

**2D WRATH OF THE TITANS (M)** NO FREE TIX DAILY: 9.50 4.00

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**THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL (PG)** DAILY: 12.30PM

**THE HUNGER GAMES (M)** DAILY: 3.10 6.00 9.00