## 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 theatremaker 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 fovers 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 strippedback 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 featheradorned Madeleine Eastoe flutters around her. It's unequivocally Obarzanek, from the confronting

REVIEW

**Infinity** 

**Sydney Opera** 

choreography to the deliciously awkward text delivery. Tradition-

alists may squirm at the work's narcissistic nature but there's

no denying Obarzanek knows how to entertain.

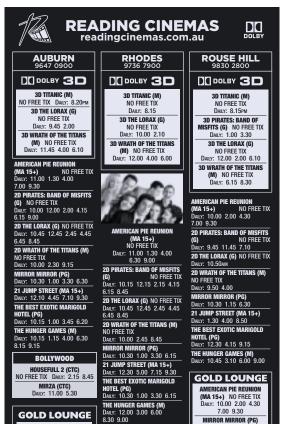
Page's Waramuk: In The Dark Night closed the evening. A retelling of Dreamtime stories, it built slowly, relying heavily on David Page's sensual score to establish context. While the dancing was flawless the piece felt less emotionally stirring than Bangarra's usual offerings. But that's the wonderfully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

## VANESSA KEYS

Until March 25, \$33-\$186, 9250 7777. sydnevoperahouse.com



There's Definitely A Prince Involved, Picture: Jeff Busby



**GOLD LOUNGE** 

AMERICAN PIE REUNION

(MA 15+) NO FREE TIX

DAILY: 6.30 9.00

THE HUNGER GAMES (M)

DAILY: 8 30PM

**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

7.00 9.30

MIRROR MIRROR (PG)

DAILY: 10.30 1.15

21 JUMP STREET (MA 15+)

DAILY: 11.00 4.00 6.30 8.50

THE REST EXOTIC

MARIGOLD HOTEL (PG)

DAILY: 12.30PM

THE HUNGER GAMES (M)

DAILY: 3.10 6.00 9.00