

THE
BALLET
TEAM

THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE

9-10 August 2024

Illawarra Performing Arts Centre

WELCOME

It is our privilege to welcome you to The Ballet Team's 2024 production, "The Sorcerer's Apprentice". As an original ballet, this work embodies the core values of our company; community, excellence and storytelling.

Both dance and music are universal languages. They are ways in which we can communicate, evoke emotion and express ourselves. As the lights dim, the music starts and our dancers emerge in this performance, we hope to take you on an unforgettable journey full of magic, humour and heart.

Whether you are new to ballet or a seasoned attendee, thank you for taking the time to support our independent company, dancers and musicians.

A NOTE FROM THE CHOREOGRAPHER

The Sorcerer's Apprentice has been a long time coming. Conceived in 2018 with musical scribbles, choreography work beginning in 2019, our first two attempts to stage the work in 2020 and 2021 were unsuccessful due to covid shutdowns. Finally, after a few years on the back burner, The Ballet Team opened auditions to dancers across the Illawarra and Shoalhaven in February this year.

The amazing thing about The Ballet Team's productions is that we accept all levels of abilities from ages 8 to 80. If you have a passion to dance, even with no formal dance training, we can find a spot for you in our ballets. It is also wonderful to see so many dance studios represented, dancing together as one company and to see the many new friendships formed.

This colourful production is full of exciting scenes, lots of crazy antics and some beautiful dancing. The storyline is easy to follow and will delight all ages.

It is a pleasure to finally present The Sorcerer's Apprentice and we hope you enjoy the tale about to unfold.

Meryl Dalton

THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE

The Sorcerer's Apprentice, is symphonic ballet adaptation of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's 1797 poem *Der Zauberlehrling*.

A young Apprentice more interested in daydreaming than actually completing chores gets in to all sorts of enchanted trouble when their master, the Supreme Sorcerer, is called away on an important wizard summit. Getting a hold of an ancient spell book and magic wand, the Apprentice gets lost in the Sorcerer's grand library, bringing to life all sorts of fictional characters that wreak havoc on the Castle. It's up to the Apprentice to carefully clean up the magical mess he's created.

THE POEM

*That old sorcerer has vanished
And for once has gone away!
Spirits called by him, now banished,
My commands shall soon obey.
Every step and saying
That he used, I know,
And with sprites obeying
My arts I will show.*

*Flow, flow onward
Stretches many
Spare not any
Water rushing,
Ever streaming fully downward
Toward the pool in current gushing.*

*Come, old broomstick, you are needed,
Take these rags and wrap them round you!
Long my orders you have heeded,
By my wishes now I've bound you.
Have two legs and stand,
And a head for you.
Run, and in your hand
Hold a bucket too.*

*Flow, flow onward
Stretches many,
Spare not any
Water rushing,
Ever streaming fully downward
Toward the pool in current gushing.*

*See him, toward the shore he's racing
There, he's at the stream already,
Back like lightning he is chasing,
Pouring water fast and steady.
Once again he hastens!
How the water spills,
How the water basins
Brimming full he fills!*

*Stop now, hear me!
Ample measure
Of your treasure
We have gotten!
Ah, I see it, dear me, dear me.
Master's word I have forgotten!*

*Ah, the word with which the master
Makes the broom a broom once more!
Ah, he runs and fetches faster!
Be a broomstick as before!
Ever new the torrents
That by him are fed,
Ah, a hundred currents
Pour upon my head!*

*No, no longer
Can I please him,
I will seize him!
That is spiteful!
My misgivings grow the stronger.
What a mien, his eyes how frightful!*

*Brood of hell, you're not a mortal!
Shall the entire house go under?
Over threshold over portal
Streams of water rush and thunder.
Broom accursed and mean,
Who will have his will,
Stick that you have been,
Once again stand still!*

*Can I never, Broom, appease you?
I will seize you,
Hold and whack you,
And your ancient wood
I'll sever,
With a whetted axe I'll crack you.*

*He returns, more water dragging!
Now I'll throw myself upon you!
Soon, O goblin, you'll be sagging.
Crash! The sharp axe has undone you.
What a good blow, truly!
There, he's split, I see.
Hope now rises newly,
And my breathing's free.*

*Woe betide me!
Both halves scurry
In a hurry,
Rise like towers
There beside me.
Help me, help, eternal powers!*

*Off they run, till wet and wetter
Hall and steps immersed are lying.
What a flood that naught can fetter!
Lord and master, hear me crying! –
Ah, he comes excited.
Sir, my need is sore.
Spirits that I've cited
My commands ignore.*

*"To the lonely
Corner, broom!
Hear your doom.
As a spirit
When he wills, your master only
Calls you, then 'tis time to hear it."*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1797)
translated by Edwin Zeydel (1955)

THE MUSIC

This adaptation of *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* written by Ryley Gillen has been composed for a chamber orchestra of 14 musicians. Consisting of only 4 string players (2 violins, 1 cello and 1 double bass), 4 woodwind players (flute/piccolo, oboe/cor anglais, clarinet/bass clarinet and bassoon), 3 brass players (trumpet, french horn and trombone/tuba), 1 keyboardist and 2 percussionists, the ballet has been written to feature each musician and the varying tone colours of the sections of the ensemble throughout the duration of the work.

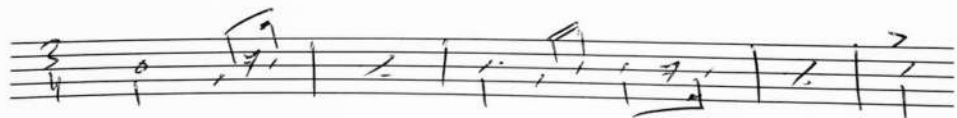
The most famous musical iteration of *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* was the symphonic poem by French composer Paul Dukas, completed in 1897. The work became iconically recognisable when it appeared in the Walt Disney animated film *Fantasia* in 1940 with Micky Mouse as the young and cheeky Apprentice.

In paying homage to Dukas' score, Gillen uses musical cells by Dukas throughout his ballet as motifs to identify the Apprentice, magical spells and the broom dance. These music cells morph into new ideas as Gillen shifts the time signature, moves the motifs into minor and major keys and introduces new chordal accompaniment.

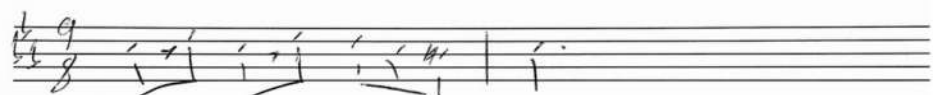
The Apprentice theme



The Spell theme



The Broom theme



A good example of the Apprentice theme is used in the Enchanted Ball scene, where the simple phrase is stretched into a grand waltz, the spell theme is noticeable at the start of many scenes and the broom theme takes place at the beginning of Act 2 as well as in the Overture.

Also listen out for the many sound effects created by the percussion section, including pigs (pig dog toys), the ocean (popcorn kernels/dried chickpeas on drum skins), rain (rainsticks), and thunder (various devices).

ACT 1

Overture
A Wizarding Summit
You'll Be a Sorcerer One Day
The Library
3 Pigs, Lil Red and the Big Bad Wolf
The Enchanted Ball
Apprentice and the Princess
The Not So Good Witch
The Forest/Entry of the Flamingo
The Bluebird Waltz
Cranes
The Bird Hunters
Trashing the Library

ACT 2

Entr'acte
Cleaning the Library
Transition to the Sea
The Deepsea Divers
Lots of Crabs
Jellyfish Dance
Bioluminescent Fish
Return to the Castle

ORCHESTRA

Flute/Piccolo
Sandra Mitten

French Horn
Michael Dixon

Violin 1
Bonita Silva

Oboe/Cor Anglais
Noeleen Neideck

Trumpet
Robyn Mackay

Violin 2
Klara Morrison

Clarinet/Bass Clarinet
Daniel Blanch

Trombone/Tuba
Des Cannings

Cello
Jenean Lee

Bassoon
Peter Lavilles

Percussion/Drums
Max Moessis

Double Bass
Ethan Ireland

Keyboard
Tim Verdon

Percussion/Timpani
Izac Sadler

Conductor
Ryley Gillen

CREW

Sound Engineer
John Harman

Operator
Tibet Leung

Lighting Design
Liam Woods

Costumes
Elizabeth Gillen
Meryl Dalton

Projection Design
Adam Ring

SPECIAL THANKS

Adrenaline Academy of the Arts
Albatross Musical Theatre Company
Darren Lester
iDance Studios
KJDance
St Marys Star of the Sea College
Woods-Ray Theatricals

CREATIVES

MERYL DALTON (CHOREOGRAPHER)



Meryl's dance career spans almost 60 years, 44 of which have been as a dance teacher and choreographer. Since retiring from teaching in 2013, Meryl has remained as an in demand guest teacher, choreographer and adjudicator.

Dedicating her time to her local community, Meryl has been actively involved in theatrical and dance productions in the Shoalhaven, Shellharbour and Wollongong regions. These have included musicals with Albatross Musical Theatre Company (AMTC) as either choreographer or performer: *Guys & Dolls*, *Snugglypot and Cuddlepup*, *Swing Fusion*, *Great Australian Rock Musical* and *Mary Poppins*, and various other productions with Roo Theatre, Nowra Players and Tall & Short Productions.

For The Ballet Team Meryl appeared as Mother Ginger in *The Nutcracker* (2016) and as Smee in *Peter Pan* (2018) before taking on the choreographer roles for *At The Ballet* (2022) and *Swan Lake... but with Cows* (2023).

RYLEY GILLEN (COMPOSER/CONDUCTOR)



Ryley Gillen is a composer, performer and music educator. Having graduated from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in 2015, Ryley founded Wollongong based ballet company The Ballet Team (BT). Ryley is currently an academic lecturer in classical trumpet at the Australian Institute Of Music (AIM) and Associate Artist with the Australian Music Centre. He holds the positions of Artistic Director & Chief Conductor of the Sutherland Shire Symphony Orchestra, principal trumpet with the NSW Department of Justice Band and is currently on the Trumpet chair for the 2024 season of *In The Heights* at the Sydney Opera House.

Ryley has conducted past BT productions including *The Nutcracker* (2016), *Peter Pan* (2018) and *Swan Lake... but with Cows* (2023). In 2024 Ryley also completes two conducting residencies with Queensland Ballet for their season of *Coppelia* and West Australian Ballet for their season of *Sleeping Beauty*.

For his involvement in the creative arts in regional areas, Ryley was recognised as a finalist in the 2018 NSW Creative Achievement Awards: Young Creative and was appointed to the Classical Music Advisory Board for Create NSW in 2019, holding the role for 4 years. Ryley has previously worked as an educator and conductor at the Wollongong Conservatorium and assistant conductor for the Sydney Conservatorium.

COMPANY

AMELIA DE PAIVA (APPRENTICE)



Amelia commenced ballet lessons at the age of 3. She currently dances at Joanne Grace School of Dance.

She would like to thank her teachers past & present for helping her to grow and refine her skills. Amelia has been performing with The Ballet Team since 2018, she has appeared in their performances of *Peter Pan*, *At The Ballet* and is grateful to be the Apprentice in *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*.

BRENT HELM (APPRENTICE)



Brent is 13 years old and has been dancing with Vanessa Lee Dance Academy since the age of 6.

He's been a part of The Australian Ballet School Interstate Program since 2020 and has previously performed in The Ballet Team's *Swan Lake... but with Cows*. Brent is excited to be stepping onto the stage for this production of *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*.

TONY PURDON (SUPREME SORCERER)



Tony has been performing for 65 years. He studied all styles of dance in his youth, performed in many musical theatre shows and has always been involved in the dance community as a performer, parent or an event organiser. A champion of community arts and supporting local talent, Tony has been involved with the Wollongong Eisteddfod since 2010, and is the current President.

This production holds a special significance, as Tony is dedicating his performance to the memory of a past cast member.

Aaliyah Isabel



Alaina Cunningham



Audrey Turner



Ava Clempson



Ava Marsden



Blake Thurling



Bronte Ireland



Carissa Petrou



Catherine Geenty



Chelsea Allitt



Effie Petrou



Evelyn Geenty



Isabelle Fielding



Ivy Flack



Ivy Taylor



Jaida Gagnuss



Jordan Chapman



Lachlan Ganderton



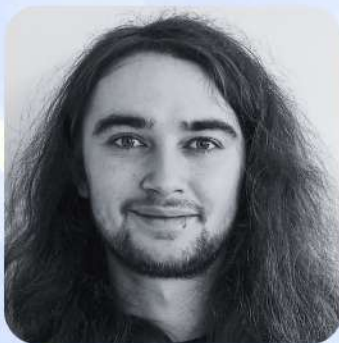
Londyn Baulch



Luca Butler



Luke Boyes



Lyndel Elliott



Marni Ledwidge



Mathew Girdlestone



Nicola Ryan



Paul Fraser



Phoenix Shelton



Piper Hayward



Ruby Valentino



Scott Bowcher



Katrina Samaras



Violet Brandon



Zaria Spreitzer

