

The Australian Ballet School Summer Season 2015

What an exceptional opening by Simon Dow. The Australian Ballet School filled the stage ready to present what was exceptional technique and first class performance quality. The Australian Ballet School's presence extended to the back row of the audience and beyond; they were engaging to watch. Every step was executed perfectly. Despite the challenging pointe work and petit allegro, these ballerinas made the hard stuff look easy. The Australian Ballet School make their work look effortless through poised upper bodies and a calm, controlled and strong exterior.

One in Five by Ray Powell was a fun and quirky ballet that had a cast of one female and 4 male. The dancers had great characterisation throughout, which was matched with neat and precise technique. Their jumps were light and buoyant. Ray Powell showcased the dancer's personalities, technique and strengths cleverly.

Extro by Tim Harbour was a striking contemporary piece. The dancers were strong and in controlled despite the intricate choreography. The boys had great agility that was exciting to watch. The girls were en pointe, however this did not limit the creative and daring choreography that was set out for them. The lighting and costumes were modern injections into the classical ballet steps shown; and it was this that gave Tim Harbour's piece an edge. The cast of Extro were spectacular and exhilarating to watch.

Swan Lake Act III was a brilliant conclusion to the performance. A curtain opened to reveal a jaw dropping set and costumes. The detail was great. Sky high leaps and exquisite extension were apparent throughout. The soloists were remarkable, all staying true to the individual style of the repertoire. The cast owned the stage and their confidence and grace was apparent throughout. They had dead straight pirouettes, elongated extensions and sky high leaps. It was breathtaking.

Darcie Virtue

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