Building on the many successes of 2016, it has been a joy to compose the Royal New Zealand Ballet’s 2017 season with a bold programme that will take the RNZB around New Zealand for more than 70 performances, in 16 cities and towns.

Our performing year begins early, in Christchurch, with two ballets by one of the great choreographers of the 20th century: Roland Petit. Carmen and L’Arlésienne, never before staged in New Zealand, are as exciting to perform as they are to watch, with complex characters and emotions, and Bizet’s wonderful music. I was lucky to work with Roland Petit during my career as a dancer, and his creativity and passion were an inspiration. Our grateful thanks go to the Roland Petit Trust and Director Luigi Bonino, for permission to stage these wonderful ballets in eight centres around New Zealand.

Alexander Ekman’s Cacti was a hit with audiences in 2016, and Alex and his team brought a rush of energy into the rehearsal studio as they shared it with our dancers. I am thrilled to be able to present a world first: a full programme of three works by Ekman, created between 2010 and 2012, but never before staged together. Tuplet, Episode 31, and a very welcome return for Cacti, again featuring the New Zealand String Quartet, make up Three by Ekman. We will be touring to five centres in May - June, including a week in residence at the new ASB Waterfront Theatre in Auckland.

Work is already underway on our third season for 2017: Romeo and Juliet, to have its world premiere in Wellington on 16 August before touring to a further seven centres. It is an amazing opportunity for me, as a choreographer, to create a new version of this iconic work, with Prokofiev’s incredible music and designs by Academy Award winner James Acheson, creating his first-ever ballet. We are delighted to be sharing this season with major sponsor Ryman Healthcare, and with their residents and staff around New Zealand.

Outside our main stage seasons, we will be increasing our regional touring, with ‘Tutus on Tour’ performances and ‘Ballet in a Box’ education events planned for seven centres. We celebrate the 50th birthday of the New Zealand School of Dance, with a gala in November, and the Harry Haythorne Award, showcasing young choreographers, will return for a short series of studio performances. Plans are advancing for an international tour later in the year, and our community and education offering goes from strength to strength with an expansive programme of events including schools’ workshops, post-matinee Q&As, open days and more.

It’s a year bursting with excitement, and our grateful thanks go to our partners who are with us every step of the way. Along with Executive Director Frances Turner and the RNZB Board, I would particularly like to acknowledge the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Te Manatū Taonga, Pub Charity Limited, the Lion Foundation, Ryman Healthcare, Wellington City Council, Foundation North, MediaWorks and Vodafone.

Special thanks are also due to our many personal supporters, including members of the Dress Circle, the Friends of the RNZB and the Ballet Foundation of New Zealand, and those who support us through initiatives such as our Annual Appeal and Partner a Dancer programme. In the coming year, I hope that you will share performances and events with us, with your family and friends, create new memories and enjoy old favourites.

Francesco Ventriglia, Artistic Director
2016 BY NUMBERS

65 PERFORMANCES
308 MUSICIANS ACCOMPANIED PERFORMANCES
301 COSTUMES
3,786 STUDENTS ATTENDED PERFORMANCES FOR SCHOOLS
27,500 PEOPLE CAME TO COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION EVENTS
1,585 SUPPORTERS, SPONSORS AND FUNDING BODIES
74,000 AUDIENCE MEMBERS
654 METRES OF TULLE

AND NOW FOR 2017

3 NATIONAL TOURS
7 SPECIAL REGIONAL PERFORMANCES
16 CENTRES
Immerse yourself in living art with the RNZB, and experience a year of wild beauty and powerful stories. The stage is set. Please take your seats. 2017 is about to begin.
Save 20% when you book for two seasons or more, and enrich your experience with community events and memberships.
"Love is a gypsy child. 
It has never known the rules; 
If you don’t love me, I love you; 
And if I love you, watch out!"

CARMEN, ACT I

16 February – 1 April
New Zealand premieres
Christchurch, Invercargill, Dunedin, Blenheim, Rotorua, Palmerston North, Wellington, Auckland.
“The most important question I always ask myself before I begin creating a new work is, why do we need this piece?”

ALEXANDER EKMAN

17 May – 15 June
Two New Zealand premieres plus a welcome return
Wellington, Auckland, Napier, Christchurch, Dunedin.
“Sweet, good night. This bud of love, by summer's ripening breath, may prove a beauteous flower when next we meet.”

ACT II SCENE ii

16 August – 24 September
A world premiere from Francesco Ventriglia
Wellington, Christchurch,
Auckland, Rotorua, Dunedin,
Invercargill, Palmerston North, Napier.

Katherine wears dress by HAILWOOD, Joseph wears suit by Studio W and shirt by Abelard, available from DAVID JONES
Carmen with L’Arlésienne

**L’ARLÉSIENNE**

It is high summer in Provence. On his wedding day, a young man is captivated, then obsessed, by an unknown, unseen woman – the ‘girl from Arles’. Consumed by his vision, he abandons his bride, losing his reason and ultimately, his life.

Drawing on Provençal folk music as well as original themes, Georges Bizet composed incidental music for the premiere of *L’Arlésienne*, a play by Alphonse Daudet, in 1872. While the play is now seldom performed, Bizet’s *L’Arlésienne* Suites are frequently heard on the concert platform. Roland Petit’s intense one-act ballet, based on Daudet’s play, was created for the Ballet National de Marseille, the company founded by Petit, in 1974.

**Ballet by** Roland Petit  
**Staged by** Luigi Bonino  
**Music** Georges Bizet  
**Set design** René Allio  
**Costume design** Christine Laurent  
**Lighting** Jean-Michel Désiré

**CARMEN**

Who is Carmen? Temptress, free spirit, victim or villain, she lives and loves on her own terms. Whatever claims a man makes on her body, her heart and mind are her own.

Bizet’s opera based on Prosper Mérimée’s novella, was first performed in Paris in 1875. Its story and working class setting, created a scandal, but Carmen is now one of the most popular works in the operatic canon, inspiring works in other genres, from musicals to notable ballets.

Roland Petit’s *Carmen* was created for Les Ballets de Paris, and premiered in London in 1949 with his wife, Zizi Jeanmaire in the title role and Petit himself as Don José, Carmen’s jealous lover. It has become Petit’s signature work, eagerly performed by dancers with a flair for drama.

**Ballet by** Roland Petit  
**Staged by** Luigi Bonino  
**Music** Georges Bizet  
**Set and Costume design** Antoni Clavé  
**Lighting** Jean-Michel Désiré

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**TWO BALLETs BY ROLAND PETIT**

Two landmark works of 20th century dance, never before performed in New Zealand, are given their first performances by the Royal New Zealand Ballet. Combining explosive drama with high-voltage technique, these iconic works by French master-choreographer Roland Petit (1924 – 2011) will be a white-hot start to the RNZB’s 2017 season.

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**CHRISTCHURCH**  
Isaac Theatre Royal, 16 – 18 February  
**INVERCARGILL**  
Civic Theatre, 22 February  
**DUNEDIN**  
Regent Theatre, 25 – 26 February  
**BLENHEIM**  
ASB Theatre Marlborough, 3 – 4 March

**ROTORUA**  
Civic Theatre, 9 – 10 March  
**PALMERSTON NORTH**  
Regent on Broadway, 17 – 18 March  
**WELLINGTON**  
St James Theatre, 22 – 25 March  
**AUCKLAND**  
ASB Theatre, Aotea Centre, 29 March – 1 April

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Abigail wears dress by HAILWOOD
Alexander Ekman’s Cacti captivated audiences during the RNZB’s Speed of Light tour in 2016, with The New Zealand Herald hailing its ‘cheeky effervescence, irrepressible energy and beguiling wit.’

New Zealanders now have the opportunity to see Cacti again, together with two additional works by Ekman: Tuplet, created for Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet and premiered at The Joyce Theater, New York, in 2012; and Episode 31, made for the Senior Graduation Class at The Juilliard School and premiered in New York in 2011. The RNZB is the first company in the world to present these works together.

All three works showcase the hallmarks of Ekman’s style: exuberant and complex rhythms in which the dancers are at one with the music; a deep pleasure in the human interactions of dance; and witty, stylish staging. Tuplet, for just six dancers, is the most intimate of the three works, riffing off the split-second precision of contemporary ballet dancers at the top of their game. Episode 31 is larger in scale, a torrent of youthful vigour harnessing the energy of New York City. Cacti (2010) brings it all together, combining hilarious insights into the dancers’ innermost thoughts with a mesmerising musicality. Once again, the RNZB will be joined by the New Zealand String Quartet onstage for all performances. The RNZB is delighted to be presenting nine performances of Three by Ekman at the brand new ASB Waterfront Theatre in Auckland.

**Three by Ekman**

**CACTI – TUPLET – EPISODE 31**

Choreography Alexander Ekman
Staging Ana Maria Lucaciu
Répétiteur, Episode 31 Fernando Troya

**CACTI**

Set and costume design Alexander Ekman
Lighting and co-set design, technical supervision Tom Visser
Music Joseph Haydn, Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Schubert
Performed by the New Zealand String Quartet
Text written and spoken by Spenser Theberge

**TUPLET**

Video and set design Alexander Ekman
Costume design Nancy Haeyung Bae
Lighting design Amith Chandrashaker
Music Mikael Karlsson, Victor Feldman, Bart Howard

**EPISODE 31**

Video and set design Alexander Ekman
Costume design Luke Simcock
Lighting design Nicole Pearce
Music Mikael Karlsson, Erik Satie, Ane Brun

**Veronika wears top and trousers by HAILWOOD, Loughlan wears jacket and shirt by Hugo Boss and trousers by Studio W, available from DAVID JONES**
Artistic Director and choreographer Francesco Ventriglia creates a new version of the world's greatest love story, especially for the Royal New Zealand Ballet; the company's first new production of Romeo and Juliet since 2003. Inspired by Franco Zeffirelli's classic 1968 film, this will be a hot-blooded, passionate re-telling of Shakespeare's play that is sure to resonate with lovers of dance, drama and pure romance.

Three-time Academy Award winning designer James Acheson (The Last Emperor, Dangerous Liaisons, Restoration) will bring Renaissance Verona to life in all its vitality and splendour, from the blazing battles of the Capulets and Montagues to the lovers' heart-breaking youth and beauty.

Prokofiev's instantly recognisable score will be performed live in Wellington, Christchurch, Auckland and Dunedin; a specially-made recording will accompany performances in other centres.

In a first for the RNZB, and thanks to Auckland Live, we are delighted to offer a live audio description of Romeo and Juliet for blind and visually impaired patrons at the performance on Sunday 3 September. Details are available at rnzb.org.nz

The Ryman Healthcare Season of Romeo and Juliet is a Partner Event of Christchurch Arts Festival.
On 6 March 1967, the New Zealand School of Dance (then the National School of Ballet) opened its doors to aspiring young dancers, to provide training for the dance profession. Many dancers trained at the School have gone on to careers at the RNZB; artistic staff and dancers from the RNZB have in turn contributed to the School as teachers and choreographers: a pas de deux lasting half a century. Celebrating 50 years of achievement, our national dance school, now recognised as the Official School of the Royal New Zealand Ballet, will present a season of visionary choreography at the St James Theatre. Saluting the many teachers, choreographers and dancers who have left their mark upon the School, and upon dance in New Zealand, performances will feature students of the School alongside dancers from the RNZB. This programme of ballet and contemporary dance honours the School’s rich heritage, looking towards a vibrant future.

For 50 years the New Zealand School of Dance has played a leading role in shaping New Zealand’s ever-evolving dance culture. The RNZB is delighted to feature the 50th Anniversary Graduation Season as part of the 2017 subscription season*, and to celebrate this special milestone with the School and students past and present. We look forward to memorable performances!

Repertoire will be announced in 2017.

WELLINGTON
St James Theatre, 24 - 25 November

*20% subscriber discount will apply when purchased with at least two other RNZB seasons.

Paul Matthews (pictured) graduated from the New Zealand School of Dance in 2005 and joined the RNZB, as the Todd Scholar, the following year.
New choreography is pure oxygen for any dance company.

Creating a new work together can be an intoxicating voyage of discovery, and for some, the realisation of a long-held ambition. At the same time, the process of creation can bring a fresh appreciation of repertoire and technique, and the challenges and joys of capturing ideas in motion.

From its earliest days, the RNZB has supported choreographers from within its ranks, with works by Cameron Macmillan, Andrew Simmons, Brendan Bradshaw and Catherine Eddy, and Loughlan Prior, coming to the fore in recent years.

The Harry Haythorne Choreographic Award, in memory of the RNZB’s longest serving Artistic Director, Harry Haythorne MBE (1926 – 2014) was inaugurated in 2015. Through Harry’s personal generosity and that of his many friends and professional colleagues, the Award was established, with the support of the Ballet Foundation of New Zealand, to provide opportunities for emerging choreographers to take ‘first steps’, creating a short work for studio performance by dancers of the RNZB.

Details of the 2017 Harry Haythorne Choreographic Award, including entry criteria and performance dates, will be announced in mid-2017, via rnzb.org.nz.
Working in partnership with our Community and Education programme, Tutus on Tour 2017 will take dancers from the RNZB into seven regional centres, with performances tailor-made for smaller venues, and suitable for all ages. Where performances are on weekdays, local schools will have the opportunity to get up close to the RNZB during the day with Ballet in a Box: observing the dancers’ daily warm up, watching them perform brief works, and then exploring their world via a Q&A session. In the evening, the dancers will present a performance of classic and contemporary repertoire, in full costume. For weekend dates, members of the public will be invited to watch the dancers prepare with class on stage, earlier in the same day.

Repertoire may vary from centre to centre, and will be announced in advance of each mini-tour. Tutus on Tour is not part of the RNZB’s 2017 subscription season; for booking dates and box office information please see rnzb.org.nz.

NELSON
Theatre Royal, 1 March
NEW PLYMOUTH
TSB Showplace, 15 March
QUEENSTOWN
Memorial Centre, 18 June
OAMARU
Opera House, 20 June
TIMARU
Theatre Royal, 21 June
ASHBURTON
Ashburton Trust Event Centre, 23 August
GISBORNE
Memorial Theatre, 27 September

Schools and teachers: to find out more about Ballet in a Box and other RNZB Education opportunities in your area, see rnzb.org.nz/education.

A special thank you to NZ Van Lines – keeping the RNZB on the road since 1986.
**RNZB Education**

_Increase your knowledge • Enhance your enjoyment • Learn and be inspired_

### FOR AUDIENCES AND COMMUNITIES

**At performances**

Get the most out of your trip to the ballet with Warm Up, Curtain Up! (gold coin entry), free post-matinee Q&A sessions with dancers and free pre-performance music and choreography talks on selected dates. Details for all centres are marked in the performance listings at the back of this guide.

**All year round**

Visit the website, sign up for our e-newsletter, and follow us on Facebook for updates – including community events, open days and more. There’s something for everyone. Look out for our open day at Te Papa on Saturday 22 July, taking you behind the scenes of rehearsals for the world premiere of _Romeo and Juliet_.

Find out more: visit [rnzb.org.nz/education](http://rnzb.org.nz/education) or contact Education and Community Manager, Pascale Parenteau: pascale@rnzb.org.nz / 04 381 9001.

### FOR SCHOOLS

Let us come to you. Our RNZB Dance Educator delivers tailor-made curriculum-linked workshops throughout New Zealand. Content is aligned to each of our productions and supplemented by free online classroom and NCEA resources.

Our popular ‘Ballet in a Box’ events will be visiting even more regions in 2017, offering schools the chance to experience the RNZB up close. School groups can also take advantage of discounted RNZB tickets and attend special school matinees.

We are also proud to be involved with the MOOVIT Dance Project again, an innovative collaboration with the Vodafone Events Centre bringing creative dance to New Zealand schools.

RNZB Education gratefully acknowledges additional support from the Rata Foundation, the Four Winds Foundation and the Les and Sonia Andrews Cultural Foundation for work with New Zealand schools.

### FOR DANCERS AND DANCE TEACHERS

Pursue your dreams with open classes for aspiring dancers taught by RNZB artistic staff and company members. Ballet for Boys classes give male students a special chance to learn from male teachers, including members of the RNZB. Dedicated senior students can also apply to the RNZB’s national mentor programme, pairing talented students with company dancers for a year of mentoring insight and support.

Following the success of events in 2016, dance teachers will again have the opportunity, with their students, to observe the RNZB’s company class on stage.
Join the dance

Fall in love with dance and enjoy the many pleasures of a lifetime of involvement with your national ballet company. Take your first steps with a ticketing subscription and discover all that the RNZB can bring you in 2017.

Be inspired.
Enhance your enjoyment of performances with pre- and post-performance events and share your love of dance with fellow audience members, friends and family.
rnzb.org.nz/education

Make it happen.
Get behind a project with our Annual Appeal. In 2017, donations will help to support our commitment to dancers’ wellness.
rnzb.org.nz/appeal

Work with us.
Begin a dynamic corporate partnership with the arts.
rnzb.org.nz/sponsors

Join the movement.
Become a Friend; join people around New Zealand who love dance and the RNZB, with a range of benefits for all ages.
rnzb.org.nz/friends

Invest in the future.
Include the Ballet Foundation of New Zealand Trust in your will – a lasting commitment that will see the RNZB you love today flourishing in the future.
balletfoundation.org.nz

Come closer.
Enjoy special opportunities as a Dress Circle supporter – a further level of involvement for patrons wanting a closer relationship with the company.
rnzb.org.nz/dresscircle

Strengthen your community.
Create solutions through trust and foundation grants. From the Far North to the Deep South, our trust supporters help to make the RNZB a truly national company.
rnzb.org.nz/trusts

Champion an artist.
Partner an RNZB company dancer – enjoy following your chosen dancer onstage and off.
rnzb.org.nz/partners

Share the magic.
Sign up a young dancer or dance lover as a Young Friend and inspire a lifetime of enjoyment.
rnzb.org.nz/friends

Join our supporter programmes with your subscription form now or get in touch to talk about deepening your connection to the RNZB. Visit rnzb.org.nz/getinvolved to find out more.

Georgia Powley (pictured) joined the Royal New Zealand Ballet in 2016, as the Todd Scholar. The scholarship is awarded each year to an outstanding student from the New Zealand School of Dance, for their first year as a member of the RNZB.
The heart of the RNZB beats strongly through the commitment of our supporting cast:

Our loyal subscribers, our special family of Friends, Dress Circle members and Partner a Dancer supporters, and the incredible team of corporate sponsors, trusts and funding bodies who work with us.

THIS IS YOUR SEASON. THIS IS YOUR COMPANY. THANK YOU.

To discuss how your organisation could benefit from a strategic partnership with the RNZB, please contact Diane Field, Corporate Development Manager, on 09 379 4004.
Subscribe in 2017

(If Romeo had got there earlier, could he have saved Juliet? Don’t be like Romeo. Get in early and SAVE.)

THE MIND KNOWS WHAT THE HEART WANTS – SUBSCRIBE AND SUPPORT YOUR NATIONAL BALLET COMPANY.

A subscriber, or season ticket holder, is a patron who buys tickets in advance for at least two RNZB productions in a given year. Subscribers are incredibly valuable supporters of the RNZB and play a central role in helping us achieve our goals—keeping the RNZB onstage and on the road. If you love ballet and want to see everything the RNZB has to offer, then becoming a subscriber is the perfect choice for you.

SUBSCRIBER BENEFITS

Buy tickets to two or more productions in the same venue and you’ll receive:

- 20% discount on full priced tickets
- Priority Booking period: Subscribe early and get first access to the best seats in the house before they go on sale to the general public
- Complimentary programmes: One programme voucher will be supplied with every two tickets purchased
- The flexible payment option: Make smaller payments towards the cost of your subscription

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

All you need to do is fill in the subscription form enclosed with this brochure (you can also download the form from rnzb.org.nz/subscribe) and send it back to us at:

RNZB Subscriptions
Royal New Zealand Ballet
PO Box 27050
Wellington 6141

Or you can fax your form to 04 381 9003, or scan and email it to subscribe@rnzb.org.nz

We’ll check the details, process any memberships or donations, and then forward your form onto the relevant box office to process your tickets. You can also purchase your subscription in person at your local box office or over the phone by calling the subscriptions sales number listed in our pricing table.

If you have any questions about becoming a subscriber, please telephone us on 0800 4 DANCE (0800 432 623) or email subscribe@rnzb.org.nz

KEY DATES FOR SUBSCRIBERS

- 25 October 2016 Priority booking opens for 2016 subscribers purchasing subscriptions for 2017
- 7 November 2016 Priority booking opens for new subscribers for 2017
- 14 November 2016 Sales to the general public open for all performances in all centres

(We all know Carmen moves quickly. So should you. Get your subscription tickets now!)
Who can become a subscriber?
Anyone can become a subscriber. Subscription tickets are available at both adult and child prices and are perfect for anyone who wants to see multiple shows at a discounted price.

How much does a subscription cost?
This is dependent on how many tours and performances you wish to attend, your desired venue and preferred seating reserve. Our subscription tickets start as low as $28 for an adult and $20 for a child, so an adult subscription for the minimum two performances during 2017 can be purchased from just $56 (or from $40 for a child).

Do I have to pay upfront for the full year?
No, you can take advantage of the flexible payment option and pay in instalments to split the cost.

Can I purchase a subscription across different venues?
Yes you can purchase a subscription that covers different venues. Please contact the RNZB prior to submitting your subscription form to discuss your requirements (additional fees may apply).
The Royal New Zealand Ballet sincerely thanks the creative partners who have assisted in bringing this vision of our 2017 season to life:

Photography by Ross Brown
rossbrownphoto.com

Creative by Homegrown Creative
homegrowncreative.co.nz

Women’s clothing by Adrian Hailwood
hailwood.co.nz

Men’s clothing supplied by David Jones
davidjones.com.au

Makeup by Kiekie Stanners
and Grace Howarth for M.A.C

Hair by Amy McLennan

A big thank you also goes to those members of the RNZB who are featured in the guide: Abigail Boyle, Fabio Lo Giudice, Georgia Powley, Joseph Skelton, Katherine Grange, Katherine Minor, Kohei Iwamoto, Laura Saxon Jones, Loughlan Prior, Massimo Margaria, Mayu Tanigaito, Paul Mathews, Tonia Looker and Veronika Maritati.