

The Early Years of the West Australian Ballet Company: A Journey of Transformation, 1953-1973

The establishment of the West Australian Ballet Company (WABC) in 1953 marked a significant milestone in the development of dance in Australia. Over the course of its first 21 years, the company underwent a remarkable transformation, evolving from a small, locally focused group to a respected and internationally recognized artistic force.



Kira's Legacy: The First 21 Years of the West Australian Ballet Company, 1953 to 1973 by Rupert Everett

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 7665 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 354 pages
Lending	: Enabled
Item Weight	: 1.01 pounds



Humble Beginnings

The roots of the WABC can be traced back to the early 1950s, when a group of dance enthusiasts led by Monica Glenn and Betty Kessell established the Perth Academy of Ballet. In 1953, under the patronage of

the Earl of Stradbroke, the academy evolved into the West Australian Ballet, with a modest repertoire and a small company of dancers.

The early years of the WABC were characterized by financial challenges and limited resources. Rehearsals were often held in cramped studios, and the company struggled to secure funding for productions. Despite these obstacles, the dancers remained dedicated and passionate about their craft.

Artistic Vision and Leadership

In 1958, Dame Margaret Scott was appointed as the WABC's first artistic director. Scott, a renowned choreographer and dancer, brought a strong artistic vision and a commitment to developing the company's repertoire.

Under Scott's leadership, the WABC began to develop a distinctive style that blended traditional ballet techniques with contemporary influences. The company also expanded its repertoire, introducing works by renowned choreographers such as Sir Kenneth MacMillan, Jerome Robbins, and Rudolf Nureyev.

International Collaborations

As the WABC's reputation grew, it began to attract attention from international dance companies and choreographers. In 1964, the company collaborated with the Royal Ballet on a production of "Swan Lake," marking the first time an Australian ballet company had worked with a major international ensemble.

The WABC also established relationships with other notable companies, including the Australian Ballet, the San Francisco Ballet, and the Kirov

Ballet. These collaborations provided opportunities for the WABC's dancers to learn from and perform with some of the world's leading artists.

Repertoire Development

Throughout its early years, the WABC played a vital role in developing the Australian ballet repertoire. Scott and other choreographers created a number of innovative works that incorporated Australian themes and imagery.

One of the most iconic works from this period was "Corroboree," created by Scott in 1965. Inspired by the ritual dances of Aboriginal Australians, "Corroboree" became a signature piece for the WABC and showcased the company's unique blend of cultural influences.

Education and Outreach

The WABC also recognized the importance of dance education and outreach. In 1959, the company established its own ballet school, which provided training for aspiring dancers of all ages.

The company also embarked on a number of outreach programs, performing in schools and community centers throughout Western Australia. These initiatives helped to foster a love of dance among young people and promote the company's work to a broader audience.

Challenges and Triumphs

The early years of the WABC were not without their challenges. The company faced financial difficulties, limited resources, and periods of artistic uncertainty. However, through the dedication and determination of

its dancers, choreographers, and supporters, the WABC emerged as a resilient and thriving artistic force.

By the early 1970s, the WABC had established itself as one of Australia's leading ballet companies. The company had a strong repertoire, a talented roster of dancers, and a reputation for artistic excellence.

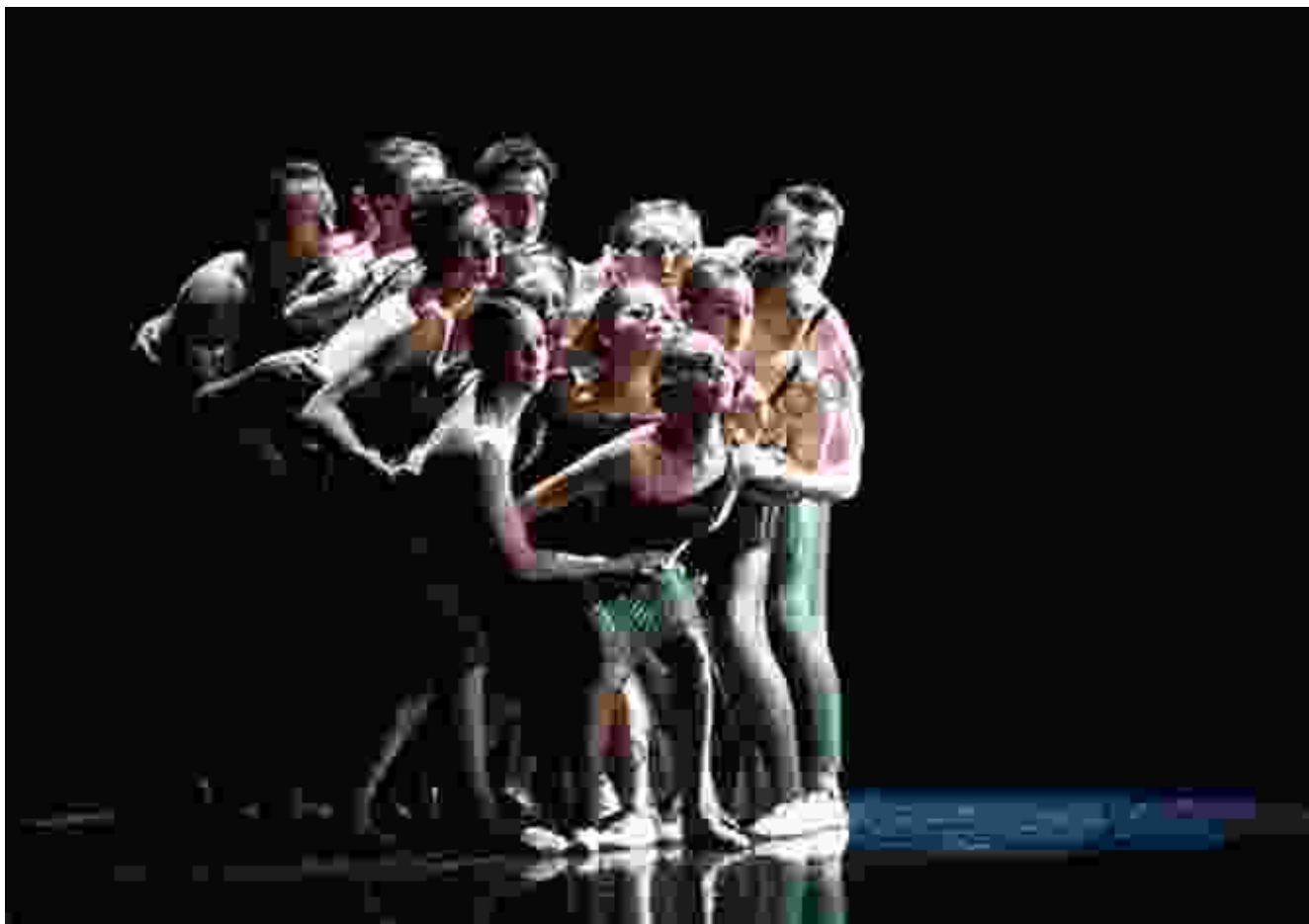
The first 21 years of the West Australian Ballet Company were a period of remarkable growth and transformation. From its humble beginnings as a small local group, the WABC evolved into an internationally recognized artistic force.

The company's journey was shaped by the vision and leadership of artistic directors such as Dame Margaret Scott, the dedication of its dancers, and the support of the community. Through its innovative repertoire, international collaborations, and commitment to education, the WABC played a vital role in the development of dance in Australia and established a legacy that continues to inspire audiences today.





Dame Margaret Scott, first artistic director of the West Australian Ballet Company



Kira's Legacy: The First 21 Years of the West Australian Ballet Company, 1953 to 1973 by Rupert Everett

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 7665 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 354 pages
Lending : Enabled
Item Weight : 1.01 pounds

FREE

DOWNLOAD E-BOOK





The Complete Guide for Startups: How to Get Investors to Say Yes

Are you a startup founder looking to raise funding from investors? If so, then you need to read this guide. We'll cover everything you need to know...



Your 30 Day Plan To Lose Weight, Boost Brain Health And Reverse Disease

Are you tired of feeling tired, overweight, and unhealthy? Do you wish there was a way to lose weight, boost your brain health, and reverse disease without having to...