

Graeme Murphy AO – Director/Choreographer

Graeme Murphy was born in Melbourne and studied at The Australian Ballet School. He danced with The Australian Ballet, Sadler's Wells Ballet (London) and Ballets Félix Blaska (France). In 1971, he received an Australia Council Grant to study overseas. He returned to Australia in 1975 as a freelance choreographer. The following year, he was appointed artistic director of Sydney Dance Company (then known as The Dance Company NSW), a position he held until 2007. During his 31-year tenure, he created more than 50 works, including 30 full-length productions.

Graeme is the recipient of an AO (2012) for distinguished service to the performing arts (having received an AM in 1982) and three honorary doctorates – Hon. D. Lit. Tas (1990), Hon. D. Phil. Qld (1992) and Hon. D. Lit. UNSW (1999). He was honoured at the Inaugural Sydney Opera House Honours (1993) and named a National Living Treasure (1999) by the National Trust of Australia. He received a Helpmann Award for Best Choreography, *Body of Work – a Retrospective* (2001); the prestigious James Cassius Award (2002); the Green Room Award for Concept and Realisation, *Swan Lake* (2003) and the Centenary Medal for services to society and dance (2003). He was named Cultural Leader of the Year by the Australian Business Arts Foundation, receiving the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Award (2004); was listed among Australia's 50 Most Glamorous Exports at a special celebration hosted by the Australian Government and Austrade (2005) and received the Australian Dance Award for Lifetime Achievement (2006). He received the Award for Contribution to Cultural Exchange by the Ministry of Culture, the People's Republic of China (2008) and the Fred & Adele Astaire Award for Excellence in Choreography in Film for *Mao's Last Dancer* (New York, 2011).

Graeme's directing and choreographic credits include *Beyond Twelve*, *Nutcracker – The Story of Clara*, *Swan Lake*, *Firebird*, *The Silver Rose*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Narrative of Nothing*, *Murphy*, *The Happy Prince* (The Australian Ballet); *Tivoli* (Sydney Dance Company and The Australian Ballet co-production); *VAST* (The Australian Bicentennial Authority); *Hua Mulan* (Sydney Dance Company and Shanghai Song and Dance Ensemble co-production); *Die Silberne Rose* (Bayerisches Staatsballett, Munich); *Giselle* (Universal Ballet, Seoul); *Water* (Shanghai Ballet); *Forty Miles – A River of Dreams*, *The Time Together* (Tasdance); *The Frock*, *7 Deadly Sins* (MADE); *Embodied* (Mikhail Baryshnikov); The Torvill and Dean World Tour Company; *Metamorphosis*, *Turandot*, *Salome*, *The Trojans*, *Aida*, *The Merry Widow*, *Madama Butterfly* (Opera Australia); *Turandot* (Opera de Montreal) and *Ainadamar* (Adelaide Festival). He also choreographed *Death in Venice* (Canadian Opera Company); *Samson et Dalila* (The Metropolitan Opera, New York); the movie *Mao's Last Dancer* and the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical *Love Never Dies*.