



International Ballet Competition
亞洲國際芭蕾舞大賽

MASTERCLASSES

WITH LEANNE BENJAMIN

AND

LISA MACUJA ELIZALDE

Saturday 28th April, 2018

The Concourse Theatre Chatswood

Class with Lisa Elizalde (7 -12 years) 9.30am - 10.45am

Class with Leanne Benjamin (13 -14 years) 11.00am – 12.15pm

Class with Leanne Benjamin (15 to 19) 12.30pm – 1.45pm

Then after Q&A with the AGP Jury

LEANNE BENJAMIN OBE AM

Leanne Benjamin was born in Rockhampton, Australia and began dancing at the age of three. At 16 she moved to London to train at The Royal Ballet School and while at the School won the Adeline Genée gold medal, the Prix de Lausanne and at the age of 18 performed Giselle at the Royal Ballet School's performance at The Royal Opera House.

In 1983 Leanne joined Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet and was promoted to principal in 1987; the following year she joined London Festival Ballet as a principal and in 1990, the Deutsche Oper Ballet in Berlin. It was there that Kenneth Macmillan asked her to join the Royal Ballet and in 1992 she joined as a Soloist and promoted to Principal within the year.

Benjamin's wide repertory included most of the Classical and Neo-Classical repertoire, and she created new roles for choreographers including, Wayne McGregor, Alexei Ratmansky, Christopher

Wheeldon and Twyla Tharp. She was one of the last dancers of The Royal Ballet to work with Ninette de Valois, Frederick Ashton and Kenneth MacMillan.

In both 2004 and 2009, she was recognised as Best Female Dancer in the National Dance Awards as determined by the prestigious Critic's Circle.

Benjamin retired at the end of the 2012/13 Season, after 20 years as a Principal with The Royal Ballet and in 2013 she was awarded the De Valois Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance.

In 2005 Benjamin received the OBE in recognition of her services to dance and in 2015 she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia.

In December 2014 Ms Benjamin was awarded the degree of Honorary Doctor of Performing Arts by Central Queensland University and in March 2016 Leanne was appointed a Governor of The Royal Ballet Companies.

Benjamin is a Patron of the Tait Memorial Trust where an annual award is given in her name to support a young Australian Dancer to train in the UK.

Presently, Ms Benjamin works with a number of international ballet companies as a coach to their principals, She has coached for American Ballet Theatre at the MET, *Mayerling* at Houston Ballet, and most recently, the principal dancers at the Royal Ballet for their production of *Giselle*. Ms Benjamin also acts as a coach and mentor to the Royal Ballet Apprentices, and coaches young aspiring pre-professional dancers.

Lisa MACUJA-ELIZALDE

Member of Jury in Hong Kong Final

Member of Jury in AGP Regional

Founder and Artistic Director of Ballet Manila

Lisa Macuja-Elizalde is the first foreigner to be invited as soloist at the historic Kirov (Mariinsky) Ballet in 1984 and has achieved a dream that is generally believed to be impossible for a classical ballerina in the Philippines – bringing ballet to the people and people to the ballet. Undoubtedly the most phenomenal and most celebrated prima ballerina the Philippines has ever produced, she has had an unparalleled career best summed up by these numbers: 30 years of dancing lead roles in over 300 full-length ballets, performed in 90 cities that span five continents around the globe. She is also the first Filipino ballerina to bring home a laureate prize – a silver medal – from the 1987 Asia-Pacific Ballet Competition in Tokyo.

Offstage, Macuja-Elizalde is recognized for her vision and leadership in the local arts community. As an arts educator and advocate, she has also received multiple awards for her groundbreaking art and culture radio talk show, Art 2 Art.

In 1995, she established her own company, Ballet Manila, together with perennial partner Osias Barroso and ten other young dancers. Ballet Manila has since grown and flourished into the most sought-after and most prolific professional Filipino ballet company, clocking more than 4,700 local and 170 foreign performances in the past 19 years.