

Media Release
16 August 2011

**NEW
ZEALAND
SCHOOL
OF
DANCE**

Tradition and Innovation

New Zealand School of Dance Graduation Season 2011

November in Wellington sees the return of the highly popular New Zealand School of Dance Graduation Season. Showcasing the school's graduating students these performances of ballet classics and newly-created choreography cast light on both tradition and innovation.

This vibrant season of dance from the 1800s to today features works by some of history's greatest choreographers. Danish ballet master August Bournonville's charming *Napoli Divertissements* of 1842 is invested with captivating light and shade while EMERALDS by the great 20th century choreographer George Balanchine simply sparkles with modernism.

Particular highlights are three absorbing, gutsy and thought-provoking new works by New Zealanders Maria Dabrowska and Ross McCormack and influential Australian choreographer Lina Limosani. An NZSD graduate, Ross McCormack is well known in Europe for his performances with Belgium's Les Ballet C de la B. He has now returned to base himself in New Zealand.

Set to the big band era songs of the Andrews Sisters, legendary US choreographer Paul Taylor's *Company B* provides a riveting finale to the programme. This work illuminates dominant social issues of the 1940s and the uplifting or sorrowful emotions surrounding them. *Company B* will be staged by former Paul Taylor Dance Company member Richard Chen See, who will visit New Zealand in September to teach the work to the NZSD students.

The New Zealand School of Dance annual Graduation Season gives the public an insight into the excellence fostered at the School and a chance to see dancers on the brink of professional careers. "The students graduating this year are quite extraordinary", says NZSD Director Garry Trinder, "they are in peak condition and well equipped to assume careers as performing artists".

New Zealand School of Dance students train full-time for up to three years to gain a qualification in dance performance. With many of its graduates reaching the heights of the dance world, the School is internationally recognised as one of the southern hemisphere's leading dance conservatoires.

"[Emeralds] must rank with Balanchine's most imaginative choreography" New York Times

"Carefully crafted dance theatre with the emphasis firmly on the dance." Dance Australia on Ross McCormack

"Taylor stands amongst the pantheon of American dance giants." Dance Magazine USA

New Zealand School of Dance Graduation Season 2011

**at Te Whaea: National Dance & Drama Centre, 11
Hutchison Road, Newtown, Wellington
7.30pm, 16 – 26 November
Sunday performance 2pm, no performance Monday**

Dancers on the brink of professional careers perform captivating contemporary choreography and ballet classics.

**\$26 adult / \$21 student or senior / \$16 child under 12
Book tickets online at www.nzschoolofdance.ac.nz or at
the venue
phone 04 381 9252**



"A superb and beautifully danced programme that deserves an accolade"
Dominion Post
(Graduation Season 2010)

Photography by Stephen A'Court:

New Zealand School of Dance students Zoë Dunwoodie, Samantha Hines and Simone Lapka.

New Zealand School of Dance student Laura Jones.