

BALLETS RUSSES

IN AUSTRALIA OUR
CULTURAL REVOLUTION

A TIMELINE



1909 May 19
Paris Premiere
season of
Diaghilev's
Ballets Russes
at Théâtre de
Châtelet

1926 & 1929
Anna Pavlova,
billed by JC
Williamson as
'The greatest
dancer of all time',
visits Australia.

1929 August 19
Diaghilev dies.
Ballets Russes
disbanded

1931
René Blum and Léonide
Massine plan a new Monte
Carlo company; de Basil
offers the Opera Russe troupe
to Blum. De Basil appoints
former Diaghilev dancers,
Serge Grigoriev (regisseur),
George Balanchine (ballet
master) and Boris Kochno.
Balanchine appoints
Irina Baronova, Tatiana
Riabouchinska and Tamara
Toumanova, the 'baby
ballerinas'

1932 April 12 Monaco,
Ballets Russes de
Monte Carlo opens with
Les Sylphides, *Cotillon*,
Le Concurrence. Later
Kochno and Balanchine
defect citing artistic
differences with direction

1936
Final Ballets
Russes season
in Monte Carlo.
De Basil loses
contract

1933 April 13
Monaco,
Massine's first
symphonic ballet
Les Présages
premieres

October 1936 - July 1937
First Australasian tour of
Colonel W de Basil's Monte Carlo
Russian Ballet, entrepreneured
by JC Williamson Ltd

1936 October 10 Adelaide,
company arrives

1936 October 13 - 28 Adelaide,
Theatre Royal, first Ballet Russes
season in Australia

1936 October 31 - December 22
Melbourne, His Majesty's Theatre,
first Melbourne season

1936 December 26 -
February 26 1937 Sydney,
Theatre Royal,
first Sydney season

1937 February 3 - April 30
Tour of New Zealand, North
and South Islands (Auckland,
Hamilton, Wanganui,
Palmerston North, Hastings,
Masterton, Wellington,
Christchurch, Timaru,
Oamaru, Dunedin)

1937 May 8 - 27 Brisbane,
company returns to Australia.
His Majesty's Theatre,
first Brisbane season

1937 May 29 - June 18
Sydney, Theatre Royal,
return season

1937 June 19 - July 6
Melbourne, His Majesty's
Theatre, return season

1938 September 28 -
November 21 Melbourne,
His Majesty's Theatre season

1938 September - April 1939
Second Australasian tour
of Covent Garden Russian
Ballet, entrepreneured by JC
Williamson Ltd. Choreographer
Mikhail Fokine tours with the
company. Dancer Hélène
Kirsova returns to marry Danish
consul. Travelling on a Nansen
passport, like many of the
dancers, Anna Volkova visits
Australia for the first time,
returning in 1940 with the
Original Ballet Russe. 'Baby
ballerina' Irina Baronova also
visits Australia for the first
time. Dancer Anton Dolin flies
London to Sydney to join the
company, the first person in
the world to fly this route and
the first performing artist ever
to fly into Australia

1938 November 25 -
January 26 1939 Sydney,
Theatre Royal Season

1909

1914 - 1918
World War 1

1917-21
Russian
Revolution
and Civil War

1919 June 28
Signing of the
Treaty of
Versailles

1922 Formation
of Soviet Union

1921 July 29
Adolf Hitler
becomes leader
of National
Socialist 'Nazi'
Party

1933

1933 January 30
Adolf Hitler becomes
Chancellor of Germany

1933 February 27
The Reichstag burns

1932 January 6
Joseph Aloysius Lyons,
PC, CH (United Australia
Party) becomes Prime
Minister of Australia

1932 November 8
Franklin D Roosevelt
elected President
of the United States

1924 Death of Lenin,
emergence of Stalin

1929 October 29
Stock Market on
Wall Street crashes

1934 August 2
German President
Hindenburg dies

1936

1936 March 7
German troops
occupy the Rhineland

1936 May 9
Mussolini's Italian
forces take Ethiopia

1936 July 18
Civil war erupts
in Spain. Franco declared
head of Spanish State

1936 December 11
United Kingdom, abdication
of King Edward VIII

1935 March 16
Hitler violates the Treaty of Versailles
by introducing military conscription

1935 September 15
German Jews stripped of rights
by Nuremberg Race Laws

1934 August 19
Adolf Hitler becomes
Führer of Germany

1937

1938 March 12 - 13
Germany announces
'Anschluss' (union) with
Austria

1938 September 30
British Prime Minister
Chamberlain appeases
Hitler at Munich

1938 October 15
German troops occupy
the Sudetenland; Czech
government resigns

1938 November 9 - 10
Germany 'Reichskristallnacht'
(Crystal Night or Night of
Broken Glass), 20,000
German and Austrian Jews
sent to concentration camps

1937 May 12
United Kingdom, Coronation
of King George VI

1937 June 11
Soviet leader Stalin begins a
purge of Red Army generals

1938

Anton Dolin as the Golden
Slave in *Schéhérazade*,
Covent Garden Russian
Ballet Australian tour,
1938-1939.
Photography unknown.
National Library of Australia
nla.pic-an11855452-s17a1

Valrene Tweedie
(14 years old) with Colonel
de Basil after being
accepted for his ballet
company, Sydney 1940.
Photographer unknown.
National Library of Australia
nla.pic-an13711129-3

Portrait of Hélène Kirsova
as *Colombine* in *Carnaval*,
1936-1937.
Photography Jack Cato.
National Library of Australia
nla.pic-vn3509573

Serge Boustloff in costume
for *Fantasy* on Grieg's
Concerto in A minor, 1940s
Photography Ritter-Jepessen
Studios. Geoffrey Ingram
archive of Australian ballet.
National Library of Australia
nla.pic-an24830127

Irina Baronova as the
Ballerina in *Petrouchka*,
Ballets Russes, 1930s.
Photography unknown.
National Library of Australia
nla.pic-vn3410548

For more information about Ballets Russes
celebrations, activities and events visit:
nla.gov.au/balletsrusses, australianballet.com.au
and adelaide.edu.au/library/special/brusses.html

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<p>1939 February 1 - March 20 Second tour to New Zealand (Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, Invercargill)</p> <p>1939 March 29 - April 12 Company returns to Melbourne, His Majesty's Theatre</p> <p>1939 April 12 Dancers, Edouard and Xenia Borovansky, decide to remain in Australia</p> <p>1939 April 13 - April 26 Adelaide, Theatre Royal season. Dancers Tamara Tchinarova, Raisse Kouznetsova, Valery Shaievsky and Edouard Sobichevsky also decide to remain in Australia at the end of the tour</p> <p>1939 May 1 The Borovanskys open the Academy of Russian Ballet in Elizabeth St, Melbourne</p>	<p>1939 December 30 - August 1940 Third Australasian tour of Colonel W de Basil's Ballet Company or The Original Ballet Russe, entrepreneured by JC Williamson Ltd. Charity performances and gala concerts featuring Ballet Russe dancers are staged as fundraisers for the war effort in every city. At the age of 14, Australian dancer Valrene Tweedie auditions for Colonel de Basil in Sydney and is the only Australian to be accepted into the company during its three tours. Dancer Serge Lifar flies Paris to Sydney, entering Australia via Darwin</p> <p>1939 December 30 - March 13 1940 Sydney, Theatre Royal season includes world premiere of David Lichine's <i>Graduation Ball</i></p> <p>1940 March 14 - June 4 Melbourne, His Majesty's Theatre season</p> <p>1940 June 5 - June 22 Adelaide, Theatre Royal season</p> <p>1940 June 26 - July 11 Melbourne, His Majesty's Theatre season</p> <p>1940 July 13 - August 21 Adelaide, Theatre Royal season</p> <p>1940 September 19 Sydney, Theatre Royal, Farewell Original Ballet Russe, Midnight Performance</p> <p>1940 September 20 Company departs Australia for North America. Eventually de Basil takes the company to South America until World War 2 ends</p>	<p>1944 Melbourne JC Williamson Ltd signs on Borovansky ballet</p> <p>1941 July 8 Sydney, First performance of the Kirsova Ballet company</p>
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1939	1940	1941	1944
<p>1939 March 15 - 16 Nazis take Czechoslovakia</p> <p>1939 March 28 Spanish Civil war ends</p> <p>1939 April 26 Robert Gordon Menzies, PC, KC (United Australia Party) becomes Prime Minister of Australia</p> <p>1939 September 1 Nazis invade Poland</p> <p>1939 September 3 Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand declare war on Germany</p> <p>1939 May 22 Nazis sign 'Pact of Steel' with Italy</p> <p>1939 August 23 Nazis and Soviets sign Pact</p> <p>1939 September United States proclaims neutrality. Canada declares war on Germany; Battle of the Atlantic begins. All Scandinavian countries declare neutrality. Nazis and Soviets divide up Poland. Soviets attacked Finland</p>	<p>1940 April 9 Nazis invade Denmark and Norway</p> <p>1940 May Nazis invade France, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Winston Churchill becomes British Prime Minister. Holland surrenders to the Nazis. Belgium surrenders to the Nazis</p> <p>1940 June Germans bomb Paris. Norway surrenders to the Nazis; Italy declares war on Britain and France. Germans enter Paris. France signs an armistice with the Nazis. Britain recognizes General Charles de Gaulle as the Free French leader</p> <p>1940 July Battle of Britain begins. Soviets take Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia</p> <p>1940 October German troops enter Romania. Italy invades Greece</p> <p>1940 November 5 Roosevelt is re-elected as US president</p>	<p>1941 January 22 Tobruk in North Africa falls to the British and Australians</p> <p>1941 May 1 German attack on Tobruk is repulsed</p> <p>1941 July 12 Mutual Assistance agreement between British and Soviets</p> <p>1941 August 14 Roosevelt and Churchill announce the Atlantic Charter. Nazi siege of Leningrad begins</p> <p>1941 August 29 Arthur William Fadden (Country Party) becomes Prime Minister of Australia</p> <p>1941 October 7 John Curtin, PC (Australian Labor Party) becomes Prime Minister of Australia</p> <p>1941 December 7 Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor. United States and Britain declare war on Japan. Germany declares war on the United States</p>	<p>1942 February 19 First Japanese attack on the Australian mainland: air raid on Darwin. Two weeks later, more aircraft attack Broome in Western Australia</p> <p>1942 May 31 Three Japanese midget submarines enter Sydney Harbour. In June a submarine lightly shells the eastern suburbs of Sydney and then Newcastle</p>

Hélène Kirsova as Princess Florine in *Aurora's Wedding*, Monte Carlo Russian Ballet 1936-1937. Photography Jack Cato. National Library of Australia nla.pic-vn3457188

Anton Dolin in costume for *Le Spectre de la rose*, Covent Garden Russian Ballet Australian tour, 1938-1939. Photography unknown. National Library of Australia nla.pic-an1185452-s8-a1

Les Sylphides, featuring Marguerite Gontcharova, Galina Razoumova, Anna Volkova, Phyllida Cooper, Therese Moulin and Sonia Orlova. 1936-1940. Geoffrey Ingram archive of Australian ballet. National Library of Australia nla.pic-an24142489

Portrait of Serge Lifar in costume for *Icare*, Ballets Russes 1939-1940. Geoffrey Ingram archive of Australian ballet. National Library of Australia nla.pic-vn3413383

Portrait of Anna Volkova as the principal angel in *Francesca da Rimini*, Ballets Russes. Photography Maurice Seymour. Chicago. Geoffrey Ingram archive of Australian ballet. National Library of Australia nla.pic-vn3415329



The Australian Ballet

