

Australia's Performing Arts

# WE ALL PLAY A PART

Wednesday 9 July, 2008

## CASE STUDY



QUEENSLAND BALLET  
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS WITH  
FRANCOIS KLAUS  
Artistic Director

### Queensland Ballet and Southside Education

Queensland Ballet believes in the important role that live dance performance can play in youth development. Educating the community about the art of dance and its artists is central to the Company's operations. The Queensland Ballet has developed a strong partnership with Southside Education as part of its Education and Access program.

Southside is an Independent School for young women with a mission to remove barriers to education and to nurture students with difficult family circumstances. The school provides a caring social community to support study and entry into adulthood.

Queensland Ballet arranged for a group of 13 Southside students to attend a performance of François Klaus's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in March 2008. All but one of the girls had never seen a ballet performance, and many had never been inside a theatre. As preparation, Nicole Galea, a former QB dancer who is currently the Company's Artistic Administration Assistant, visited the school to talk with the girls about what to expect on the night. They discussed the story of the ballet, the sets and costumes, how the music would be played by a live orchestra, theatre etiquette and expressing appreciation through applause.

Intensely curious and excited about going to the ballet, the students were eager to take in as much as Nicole could offer. She was happy to share her own personal stories about life as a dancer, and the athleticism and rigorous training required of professional dancers. Pointe shoes proved to be particularly fascinating!

Attending the ballet was an event that the young women will never forget. They "simply loved it" – not just the performance itself, but the whole experience of going to the theatre and being part of an audience, interacting with a live art form. Their enjoyment was definitely heightened by the preparatory workshop.

This initiative has been so successful that more workshops and visits to the ballet are planned. In September 2008, another group from Southside will attend a performance in the Company's contemporary season, ...*with attitude.*

Nurturing Talent • Participation & Enjoyment • Building Stronger Communities • National Pride



AUSTRALIAN  
MAJOR PERFORMING  
ARTS GROUP