



## BALLET DU GRAND THÉÂTRE DE GENÈVE'S MIXED BILL

**Mixed Bill will complete its season with performances tonight, Thursday, February 19 and tomorrow Friday, February 20. Shows are at His Majesty's Theatre starting at 7.30pm. For more information visit [perthfestival.com.au](http://perthfestival.com.au)(.)**

At the tender age of eight years old, Grant Aris' dance teacher mother took her screaming son to his first dance class here in Perth. By the end of the lesson the passion inside had awoken and three years later he was accepted to train at The Royal Ballet School in London, on a full scholarship, and then continued his studies at The Australian Ballet School in Melbourne. Now his career has come full circle as Aris takes to the stage for the last time before retirement, performing in Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève's contemporary dance production *Mixed Bill*, which is part of the PIAF program.

After being accepted by the Geneva Ballet via a video audition, Aris has been performing for the company over the last 10 years.

"Dance as an art form for me is an instinctive joy that I give to others while I am on stage. The thing that attracted me the most to the Geneva Ballet was the diverse repertoire that it had to offer and the fact that the company invited world renowned choreographers to create for them on regular intervals. I was very drawn to the thought of working with choreographers in the creative process," Aris says.

"*Mixed Bill* is a fully entertaining, diverse and dynamic venture into the world of contemporary dance today. Each choreographer has integrated a different concept or ideology into his work. Saburo Teshigawara's *Para-Dice* is a piece where we are interpreting the endless transformation of a breath. *Selon Desir* by Andonis Foniadakis is a work where we are striving, through exhaustion, to reach the sky and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's *Loin* is a piece where the mixture of cultures comes into play."

Aris performs in *Para-Dice* and *Loin* and admits to favouring the Teshigawara number, having worked with the choreographer on many occasions previously and learning a great deal about the art form from him. Although widely divergent in mood and movement, all three pieces are vividly theatrical and united by a common concern

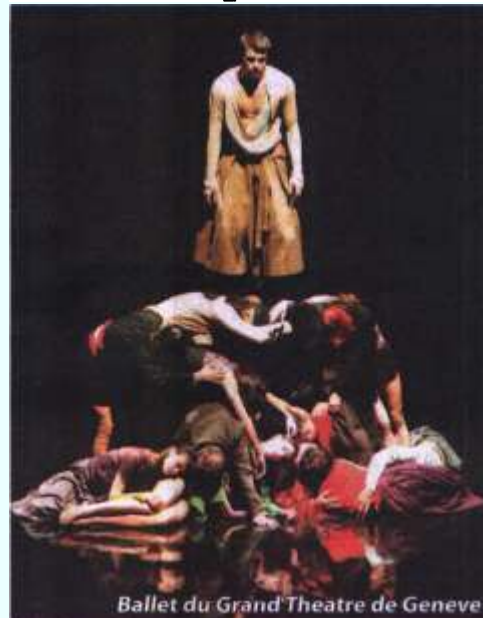
with humanity, exploring themes of spirituality, brotherhood and humour.

Directed by Philippe Cohen, the Geneva Ballet is known for its exciting artistic collaborations which began in the 1970s by George Balanchine. Since then it has been a company dedicated to great contemporary works and become 'a home of essential creative energy'.

"It will be an honour to come home to Perth and dance with the company, showing my home town what we have been showing to packed houses around the world. My mother and sister will be coming to watch the performances as well as many friends from Sydney and Melbourne who are travelling over," Aris shares.

"The thrill I get from performing for others was one of the main reasons I chose to pursue dance as a profession. However, as from next season, I have been promoted to Ballet Master and will be retiring from the stage to aid the company as a member of the artistic staff. I could not have hoped for a better ending to my performing career and it will be a great pleasure to finish where I started it."

**TANYA MACNAUGHTON**



Ballet du Grand Theatre de Geneve