

# La Trobe and The Australian Ballet bring Oscar Wilde's story to the stage

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La Trobe University first partnered with [The Australian Ballet](https://www.latrobe.edu.au/industryand-community/partnerships/ballet) (<https://www.latrobe.edu.au/industryand-community/partnerships/ballet>) in 2015. As one of Australia's leading higher education providers, La Trobe has never shied away from radical thinking for over 60 years.

As such, we are very proud to join with The Australian Ballet in a groundbreaking collaboration that brings both organisations' commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion to life on stage.

## La Trobe academics consult on Oscar©

The worlds of literature and dance are colliding this year as La Trobe University experts work with The Australian Ballet ahead of their world-first production of a ballet exploring the life and writings of literary giant Oscar Wilde.

While most ballets are fantasies, The Australian Ballet's 2024 production Oscar© intends to be something else.

Oscar© has been carefully crafted with consultation by La Trobe academics with expertise in history, sexuality, and creative writing. The team worked with The Australian Ballet to bring Oscar Wilde's life, times and works to the stage with integrity and compassion.



The team, comprised of Professor Dennis Altman AM, Dr Timothy Jones, Dr Alexis Harley and Dr Noel Maloney, provided a White Paper about 'queer communities' in late-19th Century Britain and Wilde's life within it, including the impact of his famous trial for gross indecency.

The team also held a workshop with dancers from The Australian Ballet to help inform character development and historical setting.



Dr Timothy Jones, Associate Professor History and expert in histories of sexuality and religion, said: "It was a real joy taking the dancers through the sexual worlds that Oscar Wilde inhabited, helping them to better understand Wilde's time and their characters' senses of self."

## More about Oscar©



Two monumental creative forces collide in the world premiere of Christopher Wheeldon's Oscar©, a full-length production commissioned exclusively for The Australian Ballet.

Weaving the playwright's personal experiences through his beloved stories and characters, Wheeldon brings Wilde's biting wit and flamboyant style to the stage in a powerful production.