

## **Peter Clemenger AO and The Australian Ballet win 2019 Melbourne Achiever Award**

The Committee for Melbourne's prestigious 2019 Melbourne Achiever Awards were last night announced, honouring Peter Clemenger AO and The Australian Ballet for their outstanding contribution to Business and Arts and Culture in Melbourne.

The recipients accepted the award at the Committee's annual gala dinner on Wednesday night at the recently redeveloped Goldfields Theatre at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre in the presence of Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria and Committee for Melbourne Patron.

The Award celebrates contributions to Melbourne that will leave a lasting legacy.

Committee for Melbourne CEO Martine Letts applauded Mr Clemenger's significant innovation in creating a world-renowned agency Clemenger BBDO, the Melbourne Food & Wine Festival and over 60 consecutive years of philanthropic work. Peter is also a notable patron of the arts, establishing foundations and grants at the National Gallery of Victoria and the Victorian Arts Centre and an Honorary Life Member of The Australian Ballet and Life Patron of the Melbourne Theatre Company.

"Peter is an inspirational Melburnian, and he has enriched Australian business and cultural life through Clemenger BBDO and his support of the visual and performing arts and his philanthropic work. Peter's generosity and involvement in so many worthy causes have been exemplary. In honouring Peter, we also honour the extraordinary contribution of Joan Clemenger, Peter's wife and the work of the Joan and Peter Clemenger Trust established in 2001", said Ms Letts.

"I am a little surprised to have won such a prestigious Committee for Melbourne award. Whatever I have done to deserve it, I have been very happy to support the Arts in Melbourne" said Peter Clemenger."

The Australian Ballet was awarded the Melbourne Achiever Award for an outstanding organisation as one of the world's most renowned ballet companies that has delivered celebrated performances for over 50 years.

"The Australian Ballet continues to evolve, caring for tradition but daring to be different. The recent renovation was 'en pointe' with their Southbank home providing world-class facilities to not only dancers, but the talented sports medicine team, onsite costumiers and staff, which truly showcases their commitment to excellence here in Melbourne" noted Ms Letts.

"We are absolutely honoured to be receiving the Committee for Melbourne's Melbourne Achiever Award and even more so, delighted to be acknowledged as a Melbourne-born company which has contributed to and loved being based in this wonderful city for the past 56 years.

From the formation of the company in 1962 – when we worked out of somewhat modest our first ever studio in East Melbourne - to today when we are based in our newly refurbished Primrose Potter Australian Ballet Centre in Southbank, we have been proud to call this city home as we travel around Australia and the world each year. It is wonderful to be based in Melbourne, and to work here from our state of the art "Headquarters of Australian Ballet". Melbourne and The Australian Ballet attract

Australia's most talented dancers and that inspires creativity, a place where extraordinary people can dream and achieve" said Libby Christie, Executive Director of The Australian Ballet.

Since 1993, Committee for Melbourne annually recognises and celebrates significant and sustained contributions to our city that will leave a lasting legacy. Previous winners include the late Dame Elizabeth Murdoch AC DBE and Ron Walker AC CBE, National Gallery of Victoria, VicHealth, Melbourne and Olympic Parks and Naomi Milgrom AO.

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