Queensland Ballet presents

Doña Perón: The Story of Evita

Choreographed by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, music by British composer Peter Salem







6th October, 2026: Queensland Ballet proudly presents *Doña Perón*, the colourful rags-to- riches story of Eva 'Evita' Peron. Choreographed by Belgian-Colombian, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, with music by British composer, Peter Salem, *Dona Peron* will run for 14 shows from 30th July - 28th August, 2027, Thomas Dixon Centre.

Following on the from sell out success of *Elegantly Wasted*, and *Coco Chanel: The Life of a Fashion Icon*, choreographer Annabelle Lopez Ochoa turns her attention to another extraordinary woman in history, Dona Eva Peron, one of Argentina's most captivating and controversial figures.

"Eva Peron was real, and she was controversial. She tells us something about being a woman living in these times, about life and death, about love, loss, pain and rejection. These are all elements that we recognise in our lives, and instead of judging her, now we, you and I, understand her."

"As a Latina choreographer, I bring a different essence and a different sensibility about what it is to be a woman to survive in a male orientated society that was Argentina during that time."

"The Peronistas really see her as an icon, and a saint for the fact that she tried to eradicate poverty, and the anti-Peronistas see her as a demagogue and a dictator because both Eva and Juan Peron abused their power. So, to encapsulate the good and the bad, and the reasons why they did that, was a challenge," Lopez Ochoa said.

Queensland Ballet Artistic Director Ivan Gil-Ortega said *Doña Perón* offered audiences the opportunity to encounter one of the 20th century's most powerful and controversial women through the emotional language of dance.

"Eva Perón was a woman of extraordinary ambition, charisma and influence who continues to inspire both admiration and fierce debate. What makes her such a compelling figure for the stage is that she cannot easily be defined as either heroine or villain, a complexity that makes her profoundly human."

Claire Vince
PR and Communications Manager, cvince@queenslandballet.com.au
0468 726 910

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“For Queensland Ballet, presenting works such as *Doña Perón* is also about showing what ballet can be. It can explore difficult histories, powerful personalities and complicated ideas, while creating an experience that is deeply theatrical, physical and emotionally immediate.”

“Annabelle Lopez Ochoa does not ask us to judge Eva Perón, but to look more closely at the woman behind the mythology. Through her choreography and Peter Salem’s evocative score, we see her determination to rise beyond the circumstances of her birth, her connection with Argentina’s working class, her pursuit of power and acceptance, and ultimately her vulnerability,” Gil-Ortega said.

Originally created in 2022 for Ballet Hispanic’s 50th Anniversary, *Doña Perón* explores Eva’s journey from illegitimate daughter to dancehall performer, acclaimed radio personality to Argentina’s First Lady, and her untimely death in her early thirties from cancer.

Composer Peter Salem has used traditional Argentine music from the era with motifs and thematic melodies relating to characters and events to anchor the period and story.

Head of Wardrobe, Lauryn Jackson said that *Doña Perón* features more than 80 costumes.

“With more than 80 costumes in the production, every piece has its own detail and purpose, contributing to the story and the world Annaelle has created," Jackson said.

Ends

Editors’ Note:
Interviews: Claire Vince, Communications Manager, cvince@queenslandballet.com.au / 0468 726 910.
Images and biographies here:

Event details
Dates: 30th July - 28th August, 2027
Venue: Talbot Theatre, Thomas Dixon Centre, Brisbane.

Fast Facts about *Doña Perón*

- Eva Peron was the youngest of five illegitimate children and faced significant social rejection that shaped her world view growing up. She later destroyed her birth certificate and replaced it to make her three years younger and legitimise her birth.
- Her sixth-grade teacher, Miss Palmira Repetti, remembered her as "unique, intelligent, and beautiful."
- Perón married Juan Domingo Perón, the president of Argentina and used her position to become the most powerful and influential woman in the country.
- Perón championed women's suffrage which led to the passage of the Women's Civil Rights Act. By mobilising women through the Peronist Party and through her radio broadcasts, Peron reached millions of Argentines, establishing herself as the spiritual mother of the nation's dispossessed.
- Perón’s famous phrase "my shirtless ones" (mis descamisados) became a rallying cry for Argentina's working class.
- On November 11, 1951, Eva cast her vote from her hospital bed as Argentine women exercised their voting rights for the first time, helping to re-elect Perón for a second term.

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- Choreographer Annabelle Lopez Ochoa said, “She’s not a fairytale character, she’s not a literary character, she’s a real woman. I want to give female dancers real roles, not always the nice roles.”
- LopezOchoa blends classical and contemporary ballet with Argentine tango styles in her choreography to reflect the culture and time period.
- The original production by Ballet Hispanico for their 50-year anniversary was performed with live music composed by Peter Salem.
- The score incorporates Argentine tango rhythms and melodies that draw the audience into the culture. It was written for a five-piece ensemble consisting of bandoneon, piano, percussion, violin, and cello.
- Andrew Lloyd Webber created the musical *Evita,* which premiered on Broadway on the 25th September 1979 and won seven Tony Awards in 1980/
- The musical featured the world-famous song ‘Don’t Cry for Me Argentina’ written by Webber and Tim Rice. The song was featured at the beginning and end of the production, not as a phrase Peron said but to evoke the generosity of her spirit in death by asking the public not to mourn her.
- The musical *Evite* was made into a film by Alan Parker in 1996 starring Madonna as Eva Perón.

About Queensland Ballet Queensland Ballet's mission is to contribute to Australia's cultural landscape by being an integral part of the national and international ballet ecology - striving for artistic excellence, pathways for emerging artists, and impact through our community outreach, education, and Dance Health programs. We aim to enrich lives and contribute to wellness across society through the magic of ballet.

About Academy of Queensland Ballet
Queensland Ballet provides industry-informed ballet and dance training pathways through our world-class Academy, developing dancers towards professional careers in Australia and overseas. Together, we are nurturing the dancers of the future. Under the direction of Academy Director, Christian Tátchev, Queensland Ballet Academy provides comprehensive professional ballet and dance training programs and events for students from age 6 through to career employment.

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