



VALE



Dame Margaret Scott AC DBE

LPA was very saddened to hear of the passing of Dame Margaret Scott AC DBE who died last week in Melbourne at the age of 96.

Margaret or "Maggie" as she preferred to be called was a pioneer of Australian dance. She had been involved in most, if not all, of the major developments in dance education in Australia since the mid 1960s, including the establishment of the country's dance organisation, Ausdance and The Australian Ballet Foundation. In 1964 she was appointed Founding Director of The Australian Ballet School and continued this role until 1990. During her time as Director she transformed the school from humble beginnings to an internationally recognised training institution discovering and nurturing elite performers.

Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, Maggie moved to London initially accepted into the Sadler's Wells Ballet School but joined the Sadler's Wells Ballet shortly after. Dissatisfied with her prospects she resigned and successfully auditioned for Ballet Rambert. She arrived in Australia in 1947 as part of Ballet Rambert's overseas tour and chose to stay. Passionate about dance and education she was an advocate for Australian dance and

taught many dancers and choreographers including Graeme Murphy AO and Meryl Tankard.

Maggie changed the landscape of dance in Australia and was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1977 and made a Dame in 1981. Maggie received Live Performance Australia's James Cassius Williamson Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007.

Our thoughts and sincerest condolences are with Maggie's family, friends and colleagues.

'Dame Margaret Scott was a woman of vision and passion,' said David McAllister AM, Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet.

Graeme Murphy AO a former student of The Australian Ballet School said: *'Dame Margaret Scott (Maggie) enhanced our lives in so many ways. She was our teacher, our mentor and the greatest champion of choreographers I know. Her legacy reaches into eternity, everyone she worked with has spread her wisdom, love and incredible insight; into the profession that we love so much, the world of dance. She has changed the landscape of the arts forever in our country and we're eternally grateful.'*



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