



# SA Ballet helps build a nation

The South African Ballet Theatre was the proud recipient of the 2007 Nation Builder of the Year Award on Saturday, 21 June 2008. The glittering event was hosted by Proudly South African in conjunction with the Department of Trade and Industry as well as PetroSA. In attendance were dignitaries such as the Minister of Trade and Industry Mr Mandisi Mphahlele, Dr Popo Molefe and Mr Siphon Mkhize.

The South African Ballet Theatre has been a member of the Proudly South Africa family since 2005 and was recognised as "an important contributor to the promotion of South African innovation, quality, employment and economic development" at the

ceremony. The South African Ballet Theatre's co-Director Ms Fiona Budd said "The South African Ballet Theatre is greatly honoured to have been chosen to receive this award and we celebrate it as a reflection of the personal commitment and passion of each and every member of SABT, whether a student or teacher at one of the Outreach Programmes, the SABT Ballet Schools and Ballet Academy or part of the wonderful behind-the-scenes staff or world-class ballet dancers of SABT. SABT is not only Proudly South African but is also Passionately South African! We would like to dedicate this award to our fellow arts organisations in South Africa, who struggle against the same financial and operational odds as we do, to bring their art forms to all

South Africans - we firmly believe that the arts are the soul of a Nation."

The South African Ballet Theatre has established itself as a leader in the performing arts arena and in just seven years, has become the country's largest professional ballet company. Based at The Johannesburg Civic Theatre in Braamfontein, it employs a total of 61 employees from dancers to teachers and administrative staff. The South African Ballet Theatre also runs two SABT Schools (in Pretoria and Johannesburg) as well as five Outreach programmes (in Soweto, Katlehong, Mamelodi, Eersterus and Alexandra) where young dancers are exposed to the magic of classical ballet.

The South African Ballet Theatre was

seen in Don Quixote on the main programme at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown (July 2-5) and can soon be seen in FNB's La Traviata-the ballet (August 16- September 7 2008) at the Johannesburg Civic Theatre.

Both productions are accompanied by full orchestra. To reserve tickets, please contact Mr Moagi on (011) 877-6898 or admin@saballettheatre.co.za

**Photo:** Dancers from the SA Ballet Theatre Outreach, School and Academy programmes at their annual year end concert at the SA State Theatre. **Photographer:** Susanne Holbaeck - Bergh.

