



Star turn ...
Maria Kowroski
and Edwaard Liang
in Christopher
Wheeldon's *Fool's
Paradise*, which is
coming to Sydney.
Photo: Erin Baiano/
Morphoses

remarkable 15-year-old American Beatriz Stix-Brunell, who travels with her mother and teacher and who will perform in Sydney.

So, Wheeldon has the confidence of dancers and creative drive, now all he needs is money: \$US5 million (\$8 million) to form a permanent company. "I can't say honestly we're absolutely on track. But the important thing is, even if the finances don't place us in a luxurious position, that we grow artistically."

Wheeldon does much of the money-seeking himself, with executive director Lopez and an administrator, all based in donated offices

in Manhattan. "I think our hopes were far greater than our gains as far as money from foundations is concerned" but Morphoses will remain New York-based, as New York is "a very wealthy city and there's a great understanding of philanthropy and the arts".

When Morphoses becomes a permanent company, "we would start to think about company auditions. It's important for me to work with dancers who understand the philosophy of this company. They have to come into the Morphoses experience knowing that it's going to be really, really, really

intense work. A group this size really has to bust themselves up every day."

"Bust themselves up" brings to mind injuries. What happens, then, with such a small ensemble?

"Nobody can get injured," Wheeldon says. And he smiles as he knocks the wooden table seven times.

Morphoses is part of the Sydney Festival. Performances are at the Theatre Royal, January 22 to February 1. Tickets to all festival events go on sale on Monday. See www.sydneymfestival.org.au.

Tickets, please

Five Sydney Festival must-haves.



THE TELL-TALE HEART

A murderer sits alone on his stairway to hell, pursued by his demons. He thought he'd committed the perfect crime. But beneath the floorboards he hears the beat of the victim's heart. Barrie Kosky creates compelling theatre based on a short story by Edgar Allan Poe. It stars Austrian actor and singer Martin Niedermaier (pictured).

GRACE JONES

She once slapped a chat show host because he talked to another guest. The diva has always had attitude. She also has a new album, her first in nearly two decades. She will headline the festival's free opening-night event, which will take over the city centre with international stars in the Domain, a dance party in Martin Place and music in Angel Place and Hyde Park.

ALL TOMORROW'S PARTIES

Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds have invited their favourite performers to play at an alternative music festival. They're curating the one-day event on Cockatoo Island. Catch a ferry across to see Spiritualized, James "Blood" Ulmer, Silver Apples and Michael Gira alongside the homegrown Laughing Clowns, the Necks and special guests the Saints.

LIPSYNCH

The Canadian creator of *The Andersen Project* and *The Far Side Of The Moon* returns. Robert Lepage's new theatre work is a marathon nine hours long, spans 70 years and travels the globe. It links nine lives from wartorn Vienna, pre-revolutionary Nicaragua and contemporary London.

FRIEL-GATE

Dublin's Gate Theatre presents three works to mark the 80th birthday of Ireland's leading playwright, Brian Friel, including his best-known play *Faithhealer* as well as *Afterplay* and *The Yalta Game*. Joyce Morgan

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