# Australian Ballet Condemns Critic's Body Shaming Remarks in Review of 'Études and Circle Electric'



The Australian Ballet responded strongly to a review by critic Chantal Nguyen published in the Sydney Morning Herald on May 5th. The review awarded the ballet’s performance at the Sydney Opera House of "Études and Circle Electric" 1.5 stars out of five, with a remark stating that the dancers appeared “unusually thin.”

Australian Ballet Artistic Director David Hallberg condemned the comments about the dancers' physiques, stating such remarks about body image are unacceptable and harmful. Hallberg emphasized that professional ballet dancers are vulnerable to issues related to body image and disordered eating, and he stressed the need to eradicate these kinds of comments in the arts, sports, and society at large.

Hallberg highlighted the Australian Ballet's commitment to fostering a positive environment for dancers. The company collaborates with the National Eating Disorders Collaboration and has established guidelines to support healthy habits and prevent eating disorders among dancers. Despite requesting the Sydney Morning Herald to remove the contentious line, the publication declined, maintaining the stance that discussions about body image are appropriate in reviews.