

## **Dance Academy: final**

**ABC1, 5.20pm**

NOT, we hope, the final episode ever. Because this terrific teen drama is just warming up. Other shows are going to get more press this year but *Dance Academy* has been one of the real standouts of local drama in 2010, getting pretty much everything right. The junior cast are never less than convincing and Xenia Goodwin as our heroine, Tara, has been particularly charming. If you don't mind the regular establishing shots of the Opera House framed by a glittering harbour, it never looks anything less than gorgeous. Best of all, it's taken a pretty tired idea — "I want to be a ballerina!" — and given it life, and teeth. All manner of genuine teen issues, from who-likes-whom to controlling or absent parents, are dealt with in a sophisticated and believable manner.