



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

OCTOBER 2012

PRESS RELEASE

**THREE WORLD PREMIERES FROM
WAYNE MCGREGOR | RANDOM DANCE**

Life's Witness by Robert Binet

Hertz by Alexander Whitley

Alpha Episodes by Paolo Mangiola

22, 23 November at 7.45pm, 24 November at 2.30pm and 7.45pm

In 2002, **Wayne McGregor** (now Resident Choreographer of The Royal Ballet) created an evening of work on his company for ROH2 in collaboration with dancers from The Royal Ballet. **Wayne McGregor | Random Dance** return to the Linbury Studio Theatre with three world premieres from emerging choreographic talents, **Robert Binet**, **Alexander Whitley** and **Paolo Mangiola** performed by dancers from McGregor's company and **The Royal Ballet**. Wayne McGregor | Random Dance will also present **McGregor's** incredible work *FAR* for three performances from 15-17 November.

Hertz by **Alexander Whitley** (a dancer with Wayne McGregor | Random Dance and a Royal Ballet Affiliate Choreographer), is a work for eight dancers from Wayne McGregor | Random Dance. Originally an exploration of scientific theories of light, in *Hertz* Whitley also seeks to question what light is in relation to experience, considering how, rather than just being a

phenomenon of the observable physical world, light is the medium in which the world is made visible to us. *Hertz* is set to *Allow the Light* by the Icelandic composer **Hildur Gudnadottir**. *Hertz* is co-commissioned by Wayne McGregor | Random Dance and ROH2.

Royal Ballet Choreographic Apprentice **Robert Binet's** new work *Life's Witness* examines states of "being" and "non-being" and how our relationships with other people, as witnesses to our lives, prove our being. The musical concept was inspired by the idea that every person has their own musical score that is developed and altered over the course of their life. This score is affected by various internal and external factors but most profoundly by their relationships with others. The work for eight dancers from Wayne McGregor | Random Dance is performed to music by **Peteris Vasks, Johann Johannsson, Olafur Arnalds** and **Hildegard von Bingen** played live by a string quartet from **Southbank Sinfonia** and accompanied by singer **Melanie Pappenheim**. *Life's Witness* is commissioned by ROH2 in association with Wayne McGregor | Random Dance

Paolo Mangiola, a dancer with Wayne McGregor | Random Dance has created *Alpha Episodes*, three solos and a trio for **Edward Watson, Eric Underwood** and **Paul Kay** from **The Royal Ballet**. These interlocked chapters explore new expressions of masculinity which move away from recognised models of manhood. Set to an original lyrical electro-acoustic score by Swedish composer **Dag Rosenqvist**, blended with text from **Virginia Woolf's** *The Waves*, and fuelled by the dynamic languages of both ballet and observed behaviour, Mangiola investigates ways of reaching beyond a familiar view of gender and presents a contemporary take on the alpha male. *Alpha Episodes* is co-commissioned by Wayne McGregor | Random Dance and ROH2.

Wayne McGregor comments: "Ten years ago, I was commissioned by Deborah Bull and the newly formed ROH2 to create an evening of collaborative work in the Linbury Studio Theatre with Random and The Royal Ballet. It was an artistic adventure and a total pleasure. This year we

wanted to celebrate the 20th birthday of Random by returning to the Linbury Studio Theatre with an evening of new work which captures the same spirit of exchange and exploration. Dancers and choreographers from both Random and The Royal Ballet have worked together and outside of their comfort zones on their own artistic adventures - we are delighted to share them here."

Wayne McGregor | Random Dance will also present **McGregor's** incredible work *FAR* for three performances from 15-17 November. McGregor's anatomy-defying choreography and ground-breaking approach across dance, science, film, music, visual art and technology has fuelled a string of truly unique works. *FAR* is no exception. Inspired by the controversial **Age of Enlightenment**, *FAR* mines an era that first placed 'a body in question'. Ten incredible dancers confront the distortions, sensuality and feeling of the 18th Century's searing contemporary sensibility to a haunting score by the critically-acclaimed composer **Ben Frost**. Staged in a mesmerizing environment of shadow and light (**rAndom International, Lucy Carter**), object and film (**Moritz Junge, Ravi Deepres**), *FAR* binds cutting edge design with choreography made from a radical cognitive research process.

Ends

For further information please contact:

Sara Parsons

Press Officer

Tel: 020 7212 9504

sara.parsons@roh.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

WAYNE MCGREGOR | RANDOM DANCE

FAR

15, 16, 17 November at 7.45pm

Life's Witness by Robert Binet

Hertz by Alexander Whitley

Alpha Episodes by Paolo Mangiola

22, 23 November at 7.45pm, 24 November at 2.30pm and 7.45pm

Linbury Studio Theatre

Tickets: £23, £19, £17, £11 standing, £14 students.

www.roh.org.uk / 020 7304 4000

Hertz is co-commissioned by Wayne McGregor | Random Dance and ROH2.

Life's Witness is commissioned by ROH2 in association with Wayne McGregor | Random Dance

Alpha Episodes is co-commissioned by Wayne McGregor | Random Dance and ROH2.

FAR is co-produced by Sadler's Wells, London, UK and by Peak Performances @ Montclair State University, Montclair, USA and is made possible in part by a grant from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters Creative Campus Innovations Grant Program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

FAR is co-commissioned by Maison de la Danse, Lyon, FR; Fondazione I Teatri, Reggio Emilia, IT; Belgrade Dance Festival, Belgrade, SE; Belfast Festival, Belfast, UK; Brighton Dome and Festival Ltd, Brighton, UK; Laban Theatre, London, UK and DanceEast, Suffolk, UK.