



ROYAL  
BALLET

10 JUNE 2016

## Four Royal Ballet dancers promoted to Principal from the start of the 2016/17 Season

Kevin O'Hare, Director of The Royal Ballet, has made the following promotions for the forthcoming 2016/17 Season.

**Alexander Campbell, Francesca Hayward, Ryoichi Hirano and Akane Takada** have been promoted to Principal, the Company's highest rank.

O'Hare says, 'I am delighted to promote these four talented members of the Company to the rank of Principal following their wonderful work with The Royal Ballet this Season. Alexander, Francesca, Ryoichi and Akane each possess singular theatrical gifts which have enriched the artistry of the work we present and I very much look forward to seeing them flourish further at this exciting stage in their careers.'

Australian dancer Alexander Campbell joined the Company as a Soloist in 2011 from Birmingham Royal Ballet having previously trained at The Royal Ballet School. His first major role as a Principal will be Colas in *La Fille mal gardée* on Saturday 15 October.

English dancer Francesca Hayward joined the Company in 2011 from The Royal Ballet School. Her first major role as a Principal will be Lise in *La Fille mal gardée* on Thursday 29 September.

Japanese dancer Ryoichi Hirano joined the Company in 2002. His first major role as a Principal will be Rasputin in *Anastasia* on Saturday 29 October.

Japanese dancer Akane Takada danced with the Company on a **Prix de Lausanne** scholarship in 2008 and joined permanently the following Season. Her first major role as a Principal will be Mathilde Kschessinska in *Anastasia* on Saturday 29 October.

**Claire Calvert, Yasmine Naghdi and Beatriz Stix-Brunell** have been promoted to First Soloist. **Matthew Ball and Mayara Magri** are promoted to Soloist. **Tierney Heap** was promoted to First Artist mid-season and is also now promoted to Soloist.

**Reece Clarke, David Donnelly, Benjamin Ella, Isabella Gasparini, Anna Rose O'Sullivan and Demelza Parish** are promoted to First Artist.

Joining the Company at the start of the Season will be **Joseph Sissens** from The Royal Ballet School. All the **2015/16 Aud Jebsen Young Dancers - Lukas Bjørneboe Brændsrød, Harry Churches, Leo Dixon, Isabel Lubach and Julia Roscoe** - will join the Company on permanent contracts as Artists. All trained at The Royal Ballet School.

**Vincenzo Di Primo** joins the Company as **Prix de Lausanne** dancer for the 2016/17 Season.

The Royal Ballet welcomes seven dancers to the Company for the **2016/17 Aud Jebsen Young Dancers Programme**. The programme provides recently graduated dancers a year's contract to work and perform alongside the *corps de ballet* of The Royal Ballet and receive mentoring and coaching. Next Season's Aud Jebsen Young Dancers are **Joseph Aumeer, Estelle Bovay, Maria Luisa Castillo Yoshida, Arianna Maldini, Giacomo Rovero, Francisco Serrano and Charlotte Tonkinson**, all from The Royal Ballet School.

**Charlotte Edmonds** will continue with The Royal Ballet for the 2016/17 Season for a second year on **The Royal Ballet Young Choreographer Programme** mentored by **Kevin O'Hare and Wayne McGregor**. The Young Choreographer Programme is a position for an emerging choreographer to shadow Royal Ballet and visiting choreographers and utilise the Company resources to create work.

— ENDS —

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