



ROYAL
BALLET

19 APRIL 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BALLET WORLD PREMIERE

OBSIDIAN TEAR BY WAYNE MCGREGOR

Saturday 28 May – Saturday 11 June

Tickets £4 - £67 roh.org.uk

Obsidian Tear is **Wayne McGregor**'s latest work for The Royal Ballet. It is part of a mixed programme which includes a major revival of **Kenneth MacMillan**'s *The Invitation* and the return of **Christopher Wheeldon**'s *Within the Golden Hour*.

Obsidian Tear is the first piece created on an all-male cast for The Royal Ballet. This ensemble piece is danced by two casts featuring established dancers of The Royal Ballet, including Principal dancer **Edward Watson**, and exciting rising talent in the Company. *Obsidian Tear* is McGregor's latest work following the success of his *Wolf Works* last year which won the 2016 **Olivier Award** for Best New Dance Production.

McGregor brings together two works for violin by renowned Finnish composer **Esa-Pekka Salonen**, who will conduct three performances of this unique collaboration. *Obsidian Tear* crafts the solitary despair of Salonen's *Lachen Verlernt* and the nihilistic symphonic grandeur of *Nyx* into a visceral exploration of myth and modernity. The set is designed by McGregor himself, with **Katie Shillingford** (Fashion Editor for *Dazed and Confused* Magazine and Fashion Director for *AnOther Magazine*) as Fashion director. Lighting is by McGregor's long-term collaborator **Lucy Carter**.

Kenneth MacMillan's stark emotional drama *The Invitation* returns to The Royal Ballet for the first time in 20 years. Created in 1960, it marked a shocking departure from the conventions of ballet. This one-act work is an exploration of emotional boundaries and sexual violence, portraying a young couple's sexual initiation by an older married couple, ending with the onstage rape of the girl by the older man. *The Invitation* was one of the first fruits of MacMillan's conviction that ballet needed grit and realism and is a powerful reminder of his genius for expressing, in dance, life's most difficult issues.

Christopher Wheeldon's *Within the Golden Hour*, which had its Company premiere in the New Year, makes a welcome return this Season. Set to an original score by Italian minimalist composer **Ezio Bosso**, it presents a series of intricately crafted duets and ensembles of contrasting colours and tones. A lyrical work, it has been hailed as one of Wheeldon's finest ballets.

-- ENDS --

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Obsidian Tear / The Invitation / Within the Golden Hour

Saturday 28 May – Saturday 11 June, Royal Opera House

Obsidian Tear is a co-production with **Boston Ballet**

Evening Performances

28 May, 11 June at 7pm

31 May, 3 June at 7.30pm

Matinee Performances:

4 June at 12.30pm

11 June at 1.30pm

Student Performance

The performance on 28 May 2016 is a **Student Amphitheatre Performance**, where Amphitheatre tickets are only available to members of the ROH Students scheme.

The Royal Opera House Student performances are generously supported by the Bunting Family and Simon Robey.

Insight Event - Obsidian Tear

Clore Studio Upstairs

11 May, 7.15pm

Wayne McGregor reveals his plans for the world premiere.

£17/£7

Box Office:

0207 304 4000

www.roh.org.uk

Tickets £4 - £67

OBSIDIAN TEAR

Generous philanthropic support from Linda and Philip Harley and Victoria Robey

Choreography	Wayne McGregor
Music	Esa-Pekka Salonen
Set designer	Wayne McGregor
Fashion director	Katie Shillingford
Lighting designer	Lucy Carter

Casting*

28 May / 31 May / 3 Jun / 11 Jun (eve) **Edward Watson, Ryoichi Hirano,
Alexander Campbell, Luca Acri, Tristan Dyer,
Paul Kay, Eric Underwood, Matthew Ball,
Calvin Richardson**

4 Jun (mat) / 11 Jun (mat) **Nicol Edmonds, Reece Clarke, James Hay,
Sander Blommaert, Fernando Montaña,
Marcelino Sambé, David Donnelly,
Benjamin Ella, Lukas Bjørneboe Brændsrød**

*All role debuts

THE INVITATION

Generous philanthropic support from Richard and Delia Baker and The Friends of Covent Garden

Choreography	Kenneth MacMillan
Music	Mátyás Seiber
Designer	Nicholas Georgiadis
Lighting designer	John B. Read

Casting TBA

WITHIN THE GOLDEN HOUR

Choreography	Christopher Wheeldon
Music	Ezio Bosso
Original Costume Designer	Martin Pakledinaz
Costume designs re-created by	Lynette Mauro
Lighting designer	59 Productions
Projection designer	59 Productions

Casting

28 May / 3 Jun / 11 Jun (eve)

**Sarah Lamb, Steven McRae,
Lauren Cuthbertson, Matthew Golding, Beatriz
Stix-Brunell, Vadim Muntagirov**

31 May / 4 Jun (mat) / 11 Jun (mat)

**Akane Takada, Tristan Dyer,
Francesca Hayward, Valentino Zucchetti,
Yuhui Choe, Alexander Campbell**

Obsidian Tear is conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen with the **Orchestra of the Royal Opera House** on 28, 31 May and 3 June.

The Invitation and *Within the Golden Hour* are conducted by Tim Murray with the **Orchestra of the Royal Opera House**. Tim Murray also conducts *Obsidian Tear* on 4 and 11 June.

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