



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

SUMMER SEASON 2017

MAY-JUNE

BALLET AND DANCE

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THE VERTIGINOUS THRILL OF EXACTITUDE / TARANTELLA / STRAPLESS / SYMPHONIC DANCES

18-31 May 2017

Tickets £4- £68

This May sees the world premiere of **Liam Scarlett's** new one act ballet *Symphonic Dances*. An abstract work set to **Sergey Rachmaninoff's** score of the same name, the piece is designed by **Jon Morrell**, with lighting design by **David Finn**, returning to collaborate with Liam Scarlett following his previous work on *Sweet Violets* and *Frankenstein*.

This mixed bill also features the first revival of **Christopher Wheeldon's** *Strapless*, a one act narrative ballet inspired by the scandal surrounding **John Singer Sargent's** *Portrait of Madame X*. With music by **Mark-Anthony Turnage** and designs by **Bob Crowley**, Wheeldon's ballet explores the themes of desire and ambition against the backdrop of Paris Salon society.

Additionally, **William Forsythe's** modern masterpiece *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude* makes a welcome return to The Royal Ballet repertory. Last performed by The Royal Ballet 15 years ago, this dizzying display of speed, colour and precision is set to the final movement of **Franz Schubert's** Symphony No 9.

Completing this bill is another virtuoso showpiece- **George Balanchine's** *Tarantella*. A new addition to The Royal Ballet repertory, this energetic *pas de deux* is loosely inspired by itinerant southern Italian dancers and incorporates exacting classical technique.

With generous philanthropic support from The Royal Opera House Endowment Fund.
Symphonic Dances: generous philanthropic support from Simon and Virginia Robertson, Victoria Robey and the New Scarlett Production Syndicate

With additional philanthropic support from the JP Jacobs Charitable Trust.

Strapless: Christopher Wheeldon's position as Artistic Associate is generously supported by Kenneth and Susan Green. Generous philanthropic support from Kenneth and Susan Green and Mr and Mrs Edward Atkin CBE

The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude

Choreography	William Forsythe
Music	Franz Schubert
Set designer	William Forsythe
Costume designer	Stephen Galloway
Original lighting designer	William Forsythe
Revival lighting designer	John B. Read

Tarantella

Choreography	George Balanchine
Music	Louis Moreau Gottschalk
Orchestration	Hershy Kay
Costume designer	Karinska

Strapless

Choreography	Christopher Wheeldon
Scenario	Christopher Wheeldon and Charlotte Westenra after Deborah Davis
Music	Mark-Anthony Turnage
Designer	Bob Crowley
Lighting designer	Natasha Chivers

Symphonic Dances

Choreography	Liam Scarlett
Music	Sergey Rachmaninoff
Designer	Jon Morrell
Lighting designer	David Finn

THE DREAM / SYMPHONIC VARIATIONS / MARGUERITE AND ARMAND

2 – 10 June 2017

BP Big Screen and ROH Live Cinema Screening Wednesday 7 June at 7.15pm

Tickets £4 - £80

In June The Royal Ballet presents a triple bill of one act ballets by **Frederick Ashton**, the Company's founding choreographer. *The Dream*, *Symphonic Variations* and *Marguerite and Armand* will be revived as the 2016-17 Season comes to an end.

Created in 1964, *The Dream* is Ashton's much loved distillation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, capturing the comic sensibility of **William Shakespeare's** play through inventive choreography and characterisation. Concluding with a powerful *pas de deux* for Oberon and Titania, *The Dream* is set to music by **Felix Mendelssohn**, and remains an enduring favourite more than 60 years after its first performance at Covent Garden.

Widely regarded as one of Ashton's greatest works, *Symphonic Variations* is a cornerstone of The Royal Ballet repertory, created as one of the Company's first works for the Royal Opera House stage following World War II. An abstract piece loosely inspired by the four seasons and accompanied by **César Franck's** *Variations symphoniques* for piano and orchestra, this one act ballet is an enduring testament to Ashton's vision and legacy.

Created for **Margot Fonteyn** and **Rudolf Nureyev** in 1963, *Marguerite and Armand* is based on **Alexandre Dumas fil's** semi-autobiographical novel *La Dame aux camélias*. Featuring hauntingly intense choreography and opulent designs by **Cecil Beaton**, Ashton's ballet depicts this tragic love story in poignant detail, and is considered one of his most poignant pieces.

This triple bill will feature a number of exciting debuts from across the Company.

The Dream

Choreography	Frederick Ashton
Music	Felix Mendelssohn
Musical arrangement	John Lanchberry
Designer	David Walker
Lighting designer	John B. Read

Symphonic Variations

Choreography	Frederick Ashton
Music	César Franck
Designer	Sophie Fedorovitch
Lighting designer	John B. Read

Marguerite and Armand

Choreography	Frederick Ashton
Music	Franz Liszt
Designer	Cecil Beaton
Lighting designer	John B. Read

INSIGHT EVENTS AT THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

New Liam Scarlett

Tuesday 25 April 2017

7.15-8.45pm

The Royal Ballet's Artist in Residence, Liam Scarlett introduces his new one act abstract ballet just weeks ahead of its world premiere. See dancers of The Royal Ballet in rehearsal and hear members of the creative team discuss the creation of this exciting new work.

Clore Studio Upstairs

£17 / £7 (concs.)

Dance with The Royal Ballet

Thursday 27 April, 7.30-8.45pm, Friday 28 April, 6.15-7.30pm, Friday 28 April, 7.45-9pm

Join Assistant Ballet Mistress and former First Artist of The Royal Ballet Sian Murphy as you learn choreography inspired by the works of Founding Choreographer, Frederick Ashton. No dance experience is required.

Clore Studio Upstairs

£17 / £7 (concs.)

The Dream / Symphonic Variations / Marguerite and Armand

Wednesday 3 May 2017

7.15-8.45pm

Frederick Ashton, The Royal Ballet's Founding Choreographer is considered one of the most influential British choreographers and creator of the English Style. Join Kevin O'Hare and dancers of The Royal Ballet as they discuss and demonstrate Ashton's style and prepare to perform three of his most characteristic works.

Clore Studio Upstairs

£17 / £7 (concs.)

In Conversation with Liam Scarlett

Friday 19 May 2017

7.30-8.45pm

Acclaimed as 'Ballet's fastest rising star' (Evening Standard), Liam Scarlett has choreographed for many of the world's leading ballet companies. To mark the premiere of his new one act abstract work for The Royal Ballet Liam discusses his career to date and his plans for the future.

Clore Studio Upstairs

£14 / £7 (concs.)

In Conversation with Zenaida Yanowsky

Thursday 22 June 2017

7.15-8.30pm (concs.)

As her 22 years at The Royal Ballet come to an end join Principal Zenaida Yanowsky as she reflects on the triumphs and challenges of her glittering career and shares her plans for the future.

Clore Studio Upstairs

£14 / £7 (concs.)

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