



ROYAL BALLET

APRIL 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BALLET WORLD PREMIERE

SYMPHONIC DANCES BY LIAM SCARLETT

Thursday 18 – Wednesday 31 May

Tickets £4 - £68 roh.org.uk

Receiving its premiere this May, *Symphonic Dances* is **Liam Scarlett**'s latest work for The Royal Ballet. Set to **Sergey Rachmaninoff**'s 1940 score of the same name, the ballet is created on Principal dancer **Zenaida Yanowsky**, who retires at the end of this Season after 23 years with the Company. This will be Yanowsky's first collaboration with Scarlett.

Scarlett's previous work for the Company includes his award-winning *Asphodel Meadows* (2010), *Hansel and Gretel* (2012), *The Age of Anxiety* (2014) and his 2016 three-act ballet *Frankenstein*. *Symphonic Dances* is an abstract work designed by **Jon Morrell**, with lighting design by **David Finn**.

Known for her remarkable dramatic facility and impressive range, Yanowsky has performed leading roles in the classical and contemporary repertory and has worked with a wealth of leading contemporary choreographers in new creations and existing works, including **Christopher Wheeldon**, **Will Tuckett** and **Kim Brandstrup**.

Symphonic Dances is part of an exciting mixed programme which also includes the revival of **William Forsythe**'s *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude*, last performed by The Royal Ballet in 2002. **George Balanchine**'s *Tarantella*, a new addition to the Company repertory, and the first revival of **Christopher Wheeldon**'s *Strapless* complete the bill.

Strapless is inspired by **Deborah Davis**'s book and set to an original score by **Mark-Anthony Turnage**, with designs by **Bob Crowley** and lighting by **Natasha Chivers**. The ballet explores the background to **John Singer Sargent**'s infamous painting of *Madame X* unveiled at the 1884 Paris Salon. With one strap painted hanging suggestively off her shoulder, the portrait shocked Parisian society and humiliated the beautiful and sophisticated society belle **Virgine Amélie Gautreau**. Sargent hastily repainted the portrait, but by that point Gautreau had been outcast by society, her reputation in ruins. Royal Ballet Principals **Lauren Cuthbertson**, **Natalia Osipova**, **Federico Bonelli**, and **Edward Watson** reprise their roles in **Christopher Wheeldon**'s production for this revival.

William Forsythe's modern masterpiece *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude* makes a welcome return to The Royal Ballet repertory as part of this bill. This dizzying display of speed, colour and precision is set to the final movement of **Franz Schubert**'s Symphony No 9. With stylish costume designs by **Stephen Galloway**, this run of performances features debuts from across the Company.

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. During this run, *Tarantella* will be danced by **Francesca Hayward** and **Marcelino Sambé**, **Meaghan Grace Hinkis** and **Alexander Campbell**, and **Yasmine Naghdi** and **Valentino Zucchetti**, all making their debuts in this explosive, engaging display of virtuoso technique and skill.

-- ENDS--

Generous philanthropic support from The Royal Opera House Endowment Fund

New Liam Scarlett: 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

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude / Tarantella / Strapless / Symphonic Dances

Thursday 18 – Wednesday 31 May, Royal Opera House

Evening Performances at 7.30pm

Thursday 18 May, Saturday 20 May, Tuesday 23 May, Wednesday 24 May,
Wednesday 31 May

Matinee Performances:

Saturday 27 May, 12.30pm

Box Office:

0207 304 4000

www.roh.org.uk

Tickets £4 - £67

THE VERTIGINOUS THRILL OF EXACTITUDE

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Choreography | William Forsythe |
| Music | Franz Schubert |
| Costume designer | Stephen Galloway |
| Lighting designer | Tanja Rühl |

TARANTELLA

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

STRAPLESS

| | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Choreography | Christopher Wheeldon |
|--------------|----------------------|

Scenario **Christopher Wheeldon and Charlotte Westendra**
inspired by the book by Deborah Davis

Music **Mark-Anthony Turnage**

Additional Orchestrations **Christopher Austin**

Designer **Bob Crowley**

Lighting Designer **Natasha Chivers**

SYMPHONIC DANCES

Choreography **Liam Scarlett**

Music **Sergey Rachmaninoff**

Designer **Jon Morrell**

Lighting designer **David Finn**

CASTING

THE VERTIGINOUS THRILL OF EXACTITUDE

18 May, 23 May, 25 May **Marianela Nuñez*, Sarah Lamb*, Lauren Cuthbertson*, Vadim Muntagirov*, Steven McRae***

20 May, 24 May, 31 May **Itziar Mendizabal*, Beatriz Stix-Brunell*, Francesca Hayward*, Marcelino Sambé*, James Hay**

27 May (mat) **Tierney Heap*, Mayara Magri*, Akane Takada*, Valentino Zucchetti*, Tristan Dyer***

TARANTELLA

18 May, 23 May, 25 May **Francesca Hayward*, Marcelino Sambé***

20 May, 27 May (mat) **Meghan Grace Hinkis*, Alexander Campbell***

24 May, 31 May **Yasmine Naghdi*, Valentino Zucchetti***

STRAPLESS

18 May, 23 May, 27 May (mat),
31 May

**Natalia Osipova, Edward Watson, Federico Bonelli,
Matthew Ball**

20 May, 24 May, 25 May

**Lauren Cuthbertson, Valeri Hristov, Reece Clarke,
Calvin Richardson**

SYMPHONIC DANCES

18 May, 20 May, 23 May, 25 May

Zenaida Yanowsky*

24 May, 27 May (mat), 31 May

Laura Morera*

***Role Debut**

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