



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

**BP BIG SCREENS, WORLD-CLASS OPERA AND BALLET
SCREENED LIVE FROM THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE TO
VENUES ACROSS THE UK**

The Royal Opera House and BP celebrate their 30-year partnership

Monday 16 April 2018



La bohème, Act II, The Royal Opera (2017) ©2017 ROH. Photographed by Catherine Ashmore

Audiences across the entire country are invited to bring a blanket, pack a picnic and head to one of the free Royal Opera House BP Big Screens as part of the Royal Opera House's dazzling summer programme.

Now in its 30th year, the partnership between BP and the Royal Opera House enables more than half a million people across the UK to experience world-class opera and ballet in locations ranging (in 2018) from Aberdeen to the Isle of Wight.

This year's programme begins with **The Royal Ballet's** brand new production of *Swan Lake* (12 June) with new choreography by **Liam Scarlett**, followed by **Puccini's** iconic and romantic *La bohème* (26 June) and **Mozart's** dazzling tragi-comic opera *Don Giovanni* (12 July).

With exclusive backstage footage, competitions and a chance to enjoy the great British outdoors in summer, the screenings continue to be a part of the summer social calendar. Last year more than 33,500 people attended a BP Big Screen performance.

Swan Lake is one of the best-loved of classical ballets, with a sublime score by **Tchaikovsky**. The Royal Ballet's new production (12 June) is set to enchant audiences. The ballet follows the story of Prince Siegfried who one night encounters a flock of swans, one of whom reveals herself to be a beautiful woman called Odette. Odette is being held under a spell by the evil Von Rothbart, who later disguises his daughter Odile as Odette to trick Prince Siegfried into breaking his vow of love. But Siegfried is determined to save Odette, whatever the cost .

Puccini's ever-popular opera *La bohème* (26 June) depicts life in 19th-century bohemian Paris and explores the love affair between the penniless poet Rodolfo and the seamstress Mimì, which is threatened by Mimì's tuberculosis. The couple eventually separate so that Mimì can find a richer lover to provide her with the care she needs, but are reunited in her final hours when she returns to the only man she ever loved.

We move from romantic tragedy to tragi-comedy with *Don Giovanni* (12 July), which follows the story of the seductive and swaggering anti-hero Giovanni as his womanizing leads him to murder the father of one of his victims – with devastating results..

Alex Beard, Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House said:

‘With the partnership between BP now in its 30th year, our BP Big Screens have become a staple of the summer diary. Over the years, this collaboration has enabled more than half a million people to experience ballet and opera – many for the first time – and BP’s ongoing commitment means that together we are able to continue bringing the best the Royal Opera House has to offer to an ever-wider audience.’

Des Violaris, Director – UK Arts and Culture at BP said:

“BP remains committed to the long-standing support of the arts and culture sector and is pleased to celebrate the 30 years partnership with the Royal Opera House. We hope to welcome new and bigger audiences to see world-class opera and ballet at sites all over the country in 2018 building on the success of the past three decades.”

Visit <http://www.roh.org.uk/about/bp-big-screens/whats-on> for more information.

The 2017/18 BP Big Screen Season is as follows:

Swan Lake, Tuesday 12 June, 7.30pm (pre-screening starts at 7pm)

Showing at Canada Square in Canary Wharf, Trafalgar Square, General Gordon Square, Woolwich (all London), Tattershall Lakes Country Park (Lincolnshire), Bristol Millenium Square (Bristol), Sandy Balls Holiday Village (New Forest, Hampshire), Portsmouth Guildhall Square (Portsmouth), Exmouth, Swansea Castle Square (Swansea, Wales) and The Piazza, University of Warwick (Warwick).

La bohème, Tuesday 26 June, 7.30pm (pre-screening starts at 7pm)

Showing at Whitecliff Bay Holiday Park, Bembridge (Isle of Wight), Lyric Square in Hammersmith, Canada Square in Canary Wharf, Trafalgar Square, General Gordon Square in

Woolwich (all London), Duthie Park (Aberdeen), Bristol Millennium Square (Bristol), Portsmouth Guildhall Square (Portsmouth), Exmouth, Swansea Castle Square (Swansea, Wales), Barmouth Bay Holiday Park (Tal-Y-Bont, Gwynedd, Wales) The Piazza, University of Warwick (Warwick) and Castle Howard (Yorkshire).

Don Giovanni, Thursday 12 July at 7pm (pre-screening starts at 6.30pm)

Lyric Square in Hammersmith, Canada Square in Canary Wharf, Trafalgar Square, General Gordon Square in Woolwich (all London), Tattershall Lakes Country Park (Lincolnshire), Latitude Festival (Henham Park, Southwold, Suffolk), Brighton Marina (Brighton), Bristol Millennium Square (Bristol), Sandy Balls Holiday Village (New Forest, Hampshire), Portsmouth Guildhall Square (Portsmouth), The Forum (Southend-on-Sea), Exmouth, Swansea Castle Square (Swansea, Wales) and The Piazza, University of Warwick (Warwick).

-ENDS-

Notes for Editors

The sites across the UK include Whitecliff Bay Holiday Park (Bembridge, Isle of Wight), Lyric Square in Hammersmith, Canada Square in Canary Wharf, Trafalgar Square, General Gordon Square in Woolwich (all London), Tattershall Lakes Country Park (Lincolnshire), Latitude Festival (Henham Park, Southwold, Suffolk), Duthie Park (Aberdeen), Brighton Marina (Brighton), Bristol Millennium Square (Bristol), Sandy Balls Holiday Bark (New Forest, Hampshire), Portsmouth Guildhall Square (Portsmouth), The Forum (Southend-on-Sea), Exmouth, Swansea Castle Square (Swansea, Wales), Barmouth Bay Holiday Park (Tal-y-Bont, Gwynedd, Wales), The Piazza, University of Warwick (Warwick) and Castle Howard (Yorkshire) with more more locations to be announced.

BP AND ROH

BP has been the longest running supporter of the Royal Opera House. The relationship began in 1988 with initiatives including the Schools' Matinee programme and the Chance to Dance scheme. BP have supported the Big Screen live relays of opera and ballet performances direct from Covent Garden since

2000. The generous ongoing support of BP has enabled the Royal Opera House to reach as many people as possible around the country with live performances, allowing them to experience the very best of opera and ballet in their home town, for free. As always, BP has combined support for the screenings with studies and analysis of the benefits of the screenings and associated education work.

BP SUPPORT FOR UK ARTS & CULTURE

In the UK, BP is a major supporter of the arts with a programme that spans over 50 years. In that time over 50 million people have engaged and connected with cultural experiences supported by the company. BP's investment in long term partnerships with the British Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal Opera House represent one of the most significant long-term corporate investments in UK arts and culture www.bp.com

THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

The Royal Opera House presents more than 400 performances at the iconic Covent Garden theatre in London, each year and reaches an audience of more than 700,000. Beyond that people enjoyed our work across the globe through our ROH Cinema Season, World Ballet Day, Royal Opera House YouTube Channel (which has more than 322,000 subscribers), BP Big Screens and other online and interactive projects. The Royal Opera House also plays a leading role through our Learning and Participation Department, community engagement, skills development, professional training and cultural regeneration in the UK.

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