



ROYAL BALLET

MARCH 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MANON

**KENNETH MACMILLAN'S MASTERPIECE, MANON, RETURNS TO
THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE**

Thursday 29 March – Wednesday 16 May

Tickets £4 - £105 | roh.org.uk

Live Cinema Relay - Thursday 3 May 2018 at 7.15pm



Kenneth MacMillan's masterpiece, *Manon*, regarded as a signature work of The Royal Ballet repertory, returns to the Royal Opera House this March. *Manon* premiered in 1974 with **Antoinette Sibley** and **Anthony Dowell**, and is adapted from Abbé Prévost's 1731 novel, *Manon Lescaut*. This revival continues the tribute to MacMillan on the 25th anniversary of his death.

Royal Ballet Principals **Lauren Cuthbertson**, **Francesca Hayward**, **Sarah Lamb**, **Laura Morera**, **Marianela Nuñez**, **Natalia Osipova** and First Soloist **Melissa Hamilton**, will dance the lead role, with Principal **Akane Takada** making her debut. Guest Artist **David Hallberg**, a Principal of American Ballet Theatre, will make his Royal Ballet debut in the role of Des Grieux, partnering Natalia Osipova. **Reece Clarke** will also make his debut as Des

Grioux, while there are debuts from **James Hay** and **Marcelino Sambé** as Lescaut and from **Yasmine Naghdi**, **Beatriz Stix-Brunell** and **Meaghan Grace Hinkis** as Lescaut's Mistress.

Manon explores the themes of greed, obsession and doomed love as its heroine is torn between her passionate love for the student Des Grioux and her desire to escape poverty.

For the ballet's score, **Leighton Lucas** and his assistant **Hilda Gaunt** arranged a selection of **Jules Massenet's** orchestral music including *Elégie* and *Méditation* as well as a selection of Massenet's operas, oratorios, orchestral suits, melodies and piano works. Set designs by **Nicholas Georgiadis** recreate the opulent salons of Paris and the inhospitable swamps of Louisiana.

Piggy in the Middle by **Charlotte Edmonds**

Prior to performances on 29 March and 26, 28 April, **Charlotte Edmonds** creates a new work in the Clore Studio Upstairs. *Piggy in the Middle* portrays the intensity of adolescence and young love, and engages with themes of identity and friendship. The performance is followed by a 10 minute Q&A with Charlotte Edmonds, and concludes with a screening of **Sink or Swim**, a short film directed by Louis-Jack with choreography by Edmonds and featuring Royal Ballet Principal **Francesca Hayward**.

-- ENDS--

Generous philanthropic support from Sarah and Lloyd Dorfman, John and Susan Burns, The Gerald Ronson Family Foundation, Lindsay and Sarah Tomlinson and the Friends of Covent Garden.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

MANON

29 March, 5, 11, 13, 16, 19, 26, 28 April, 1, 3, 16 May at 7.30pm

19 April, 7 May at 1.30pm

5, 7 May at 7pm

12 May at 12.30pm

ROH Live Cinema Relay – Thursday 3 May at 7.15pm

CASTING

29 March, 19 April (eve)

Laura Morera, Federico Bonelli, Alexander Campbell, Claire Calvert,
Christopher Saunders

5, 13 April

Natalia Osipova, David Hallberg, Marcelino Sambé, Yasmine Naghdi, Gary
Avis

11, 16 April

Marianela Nuñez, Roberto Bolle, Valentino Zucchetti, Beatriz Stix-Brunell,
Christopher Saunders

19 April (mat), 7 May 7pm

Melissa Hamilton, Nehemiah Kish, Valentino Zucchetti, Meaghan Grace
Hinkis, Bennet Gartside

26 April, 3 May

Sarah Lamb, Vadim Muntagirov, Ryoichi Hirano, Itziar Mendizabal, Gary
Avis

28 April, 5 May

Akane Takada, Steven McRae, James Hay, Yuhui Choe, Thomas Whitehead

1 May, 12 May (mat)

Francesca Hayward, Edward Watson, Alexander Campbell, Claire Calvert,
Thomas Whitehead

7 May (mat), 16 May

Lauren Cuthbertson, Reece Clarke, Ryoichi Hirano, Itziar Mendizabal,
Bennet Gartside

KENNETH MACMILLAN

Kenneth MacMillan (1929-92) was one of the leading choreographers of his generation. His close association with The Royal Ballet began when he joined Sadler's Wells School (now The Royal Ballet School) aged 15. He was Director of the Company 1970-77 and Principal Choreographer 1977-92. His ballets are distinguished by their psychological insight and expressive use of classical language. These qualities are demonstrated in his many works for the Company, which include *Romeo and Juliet*, *Gloria*, *Manon*, *Mayerling* and *Requiem*.

Choreography	Kenneth MacMillan
Music	Jules Massenet
Orchestration	Martin Yates
Conductor	Martin Yates
Designer	Nicholas Georgiadis
Lighting designer	John B. Read
Orchestra of the Royal Opera House	

PIGGY IN THE MIDDLE

29 March, 26, 28 April at 6.15pm

Clore Studio Upstairs

Tickets £8

CASTING

29 March, 26, 28 April

Mayara Magri, Kevin Emerton, Joshua Junker

CHARLOTTE EDMONDS

Charlotte Edmonds became the first participant of the The Royal Ballet Young Choreographer Programme in 2015. In addition to her work with The Royal Ballet, she has choreographed for companies including Yorke Dance Project, Dutch National Ballet Junior Company, Studio Wayne McGregor and Opera Holland Park.

Choreography **Charlotte Edmonds**

Music **Katya Richardson**

Box Office:

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www.roh.org.uk

Royal Opera House

Bow Street

London

WC2E 9DD

Tickets for Manon £4 - £105

Tickets for Piggy in the Middle £8

Image credits:

Manon. Federico Bonelli as Des Grieux and Marianela Nuñez as Manon. © ROH, 2014. Photographed by Alice Pennefather.

Manon. Gary Avis as Monsieur G.M., Lauren Cuthbertson as Manon, Christina Arestis as Madam and Artists of The Royal Ballet. © ROH / Tristram Kenton, 2011.

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