



ROYAL  
BALLET

MARCH 2018

PRESS RELEASE

## CONTEMPORARY, CLASSICAL AND CARNIVALESQUE DANCE COLLIDE AT THE ROYAL BALLET THIS SPRING

**Obsidian Tear, Marguerite and Armand and Elite Syncopations**

Saturday 14 April – Friday 11 May

Tickets £4 - £70 | [roh.org.uk](http://roh.org.uk) | [#ROHobsidiantriple](https://twitter.com/ROHobsidiantriple)



This April, The Royal Ballet presents a distinctive triple-bill featuring works from three of its Resident Choreographers- **Wayne McGregor**, **Frederick Ashton** and **Kenneth MacMillan**. *Obsidian Tear*, *Marguerite and Armand* and *Elite Syncopations* are revived on the Covent Garden stage in a unique showcase of the diversity of The Royal Ballet repertory and virtuosity of the Company.

Premiered at the Royal Opera House in 2016, McGregor's *Obsidian Tear* is inspired by **Essa-Pekka Salonen**'s score *Nyx*, and set to his haunting violin solo, *Lachen varlernt*. Performed by an all-male ensemble cast, the ballet

explores notions of tribalism and conflict, deploying McGregor's unique style to stunning dramatic effect. This first revival will feature debuts from **William Bracewell** and **Joseph Sissens**.

Ashton's classical masterpiece *Marguerite and Armand* was created on **Margot Fonteyn** and **Rudolf Nureyev** in 1963, as a celebration of their unique stage partnership. Inspired by *La Dame aux camélias* by Alexandre Dumas fils, Ashton's ballet encompasses passionate *pas de deux*, and is set against the backdrop of sweeping designs by **Cecil Beaton**. This run sees **Alessandra Ferri** and **Natalia Osipova** returning to the role of Marguerite, alongside **Federico Bonelli** and **Vladimir Shklyarov** as Armand respectively. **Lauren Cuthbertson**, **Marianela Nuñez**, **Matthew Ball** and **Vadim Muntagirot** also make their debuts during this revival.

A favourite from The Royal Ballet repertoire, *Elite Syncopations* is revived having most recently been performed as part of the *Kenneth MacMillan: A National Celebration* festival in October 2017. A sassy and stylish celebration of a myriad of different social dances, MacMillan's ballet incorporates an array of ragtime rhythms, composed by **Scott Joplin** and performed by an on-stage band. **Melissa Hamilton**, **Beatriz Stix-Brunell**, **Nehemiah Kish** and **Reece Clarke** all debut in *Elite Syncopations* throughout the course of this run.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

14 April at 7pm

18, 25 and 30 April, 2, 4, 8 and 11 May at 7.30pm

### Box Office

+44 (0)20 7304 4000

Tickets £4-£70 | [roh.org.uk](http://roh.org.uk) | [#rohobsidiantriple](https://twitter.com/rohobsidiantriple)

Generous philanthropic support from Lady Ashcroft.

*Obsidian Tear*: Generous philanthropic support from Victoria Robey and an anonymous donor. Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor is generously supported by Linda and Philip Harley.

*Marguerite and Armand*: Generous philanthropic support from Aud Jebsen and Lindsay and Sarah Tomlinson.

*Elite Syncopations*: Generous philanthropic support from Lindsay and Sarah Tomlinson and Peter Lloyd.

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

## **OBSIDIAN TEAR**

Choreography	Wayne McGregor
Music	Essa-Pekka Salonen
Set designer	Wayne McGregor
Fashion director	Katie Shillingford
Lighting designer	Lucy Carter
Dramaturgy	Uzma Hameed
Conductor	Tom Seligman

**Orchestra of the Royal Opera House**

## **MARGUERITE AND ARMAND**

Choreography	Frederick Ashton
Music	Franz Lizst
Orchestration	Dudley Simpson
Designer	Cecil Beaton
Lighting designer	John B. Read
Conductor	Tom Seligman

**Orchestra of the Royal Opera House**

## **ELITE SYNCOPATIONS**

Choreography	<b>Kenneth MacMillan</b>
Music	<b>Scott Joplin</b>
Costume designer	<b>Ian Spurling</b>
Lighting designer	<b>William Bundy</b>
Revival lighting designer	<b>John B. Read</b>

### **Orchestra of the Royal Opera House**

#### **Image credits: (L-R)**

Obsidian Tear. Calvin Richardson. ©ROH, 2016. Photographed by Bill Cooper

Marguerite and Armand. Alessandra Ferri and Federico Bonelli. ©ROH, 2017. Photographed by Tristram Kenton.

Elite Syncopations. Ryoichi Hirano and Yasmine Naghdi. ©ROH, 2017. Photographed by Bill Cooper.

## **PRESS OFFICE CONTACTS**

### **Ashley Woodfield**

Head of Ballet Press

Tel: +44(0)20 7212 9165

[Ashley.Woodfield@roh.org.uk](mailto:Ashley.Woodfield@roh.org.uk)

### **Sarah Farrell**

Ballet Press and Communications Officer

Tel: +44(0)20 7212 9241

[Sarah.Farrell@roh.org.uk](mailto:Sarah.Farrell@roh.org.uk)

### **Katharine Morgan**

Ballet Press Administrator

Tel: +44(0)20 7726 296

[Katharine.Morgan@roh.org.uk](mailto:Katharine.Morgan@roh.org.uk)