



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL  
10AM, 20 MARCH 2018

BALLET AND DANCE 2018/19 SEASON

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# THE ROYAL BALLET 2018/19 SEASON

## Highlights:

This season is a celebration of The Royal Ballet's rich repertoire spanning three centuries of heritage, contemporary and new works.

- Five World Premieres
  - New one-act ballet by **Alastair Marriott** in collaboration with designer **Es Devlin** to a commissioned score by **Dario Marianelli**
  - New work by **Aletta Collins** set to a commissioned score by **David Sawer** as part of the new Royal Ballet Linbury Theatre season
  - New one-act ballet by **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui**
  - New one-act ballet by **Liam Scarlett** especially choreographed for The Royal Ballet School
  - First part of a new full-length ballet by Resident Choreographer **Wayne McGregor** to receive its world premiere in LA as part of the summer tour 2019 with a commissioned score by **Thomas Adès** and designs by **Tacita Dean**.
- Revival of 19<sup>th</sup> century classics
  - *La Bayadère*
  - *Don Quixote*
  - *The Nutcracker*
- 20<sup>th</sup> century revivals
  - **Frederick Ashton** – *Les Patineurs*, *The Two Pigeons*, *A Month in the Country*
  - **Kenneth MacMillan** – *Maryerling*, *Winter Dreams*, *Romeo and Juliet*
  - **Jerome Robbins** – *The Concert*
  - **George Balanchine** – *Symphony in C*
  - **Mikhael Fokine** – *The Firebird*

- Modern day revivals
  - **Wayne McGregor** – *Infra*
  - **Christopher Wheeldon** – *Within the Golden Hour* – new designs by Jasper Conran
  - **Liam Scarlett** – *Asphodel Meadows, Frankenstein*
  - **Crystal Pite** – *Flight Pattern*
- Guest Coaches
  - **Natalia Makarova** to coach *La Bayadère*
  - **Carlos Acosta** to coach *Don Quixote*
  - **Darcey Bussell** and **Irek Mukhamedov** to coach *Winter Dreams*
  - **Leanne Benjamin** to coach *Mayerling*
- World Ballet Day returns Tuesday 2 October
- The Linbury Theatre season announced summer 2018
- Six cinema screenings as part of ROH Live Cinema Season
- Summer 2019 The Royal Ballet tours to Japan and Los Angeles

**Kevin O'Hare, Director of The Royal Ballet** presents the 2018/19 season, a celebration of the Company's repertory past and present. The Season features revivals of heritage and modern works as well as five world premieres, showcasing the breadth and talent of the Company. The Royal Ballet has one of the broadest repertories in the world spanning the 19<sup>th</sup> century classics, the heritage masterpieces of **Frederick Ashton** and **Kenneth MacMillan** and the modern ballets of today. Revivals provide the perfect moment to showcase the Company's technical and dramatic dancing capabilities while new works this Season by **Wayne McGregor**, **Alastair Marriott**, **Liam Scarlett**, **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui** and **Aletta Collins** demonstrate the ever-evolving face of ballet.

## Revivals and Classical Repertory

The traditions of 19<sup>th</sup> century ballet are celebrated this season with **Natalia Makarova's** production *La Bayadère*, **Carlos Acosta's** *Don Quixote* and **Peter Wright's** *The Nutcracker*. 20<sup>th</sup> century works include **Mikhael Fokine's** *The Firebird* and **Frederick Ashton's** *Les Patineurs*, receiving its first revival since 2010. Ashton's romantic ballets *The Two Pigeons* and *A Month in the Country* also return. **Kenneth MacMillan** was inspired by **Anton**

**Chekhov's** play *The Three Sisters* for his one-act ballet *Winter Dreams*, which premiered in 1991. The lead roles were created on **Darcey Bussell** and **Irek Mukhamedov** and both will coach the Company in rehearsals. MacMillan's *Mayerling* and *Romeo and Juliet* also return this Season. The Royal Ballet honours American choreographers **George Balanchine** and **Jerome Robbins** with Robbins' hilarious ballet *The Concert* and Balanchine's *Symphony in C*, a dialect in pure dance.

Royal Ballet associate choreographers **Wayne McGregor**, **Christopher Wheeldon** and **Liam Scarlett** are celebrated with revivals of some of their recent works. McGregor's iconic ballet *Infra* was created in 2008, and features music by **Max Richter** and set design by **Julian Ope**. Christopher Wheeldon's *Within The Golden Hour*, originally created for San Francisco Ballet in 2008, was first staged by The Royal Ballet in 2016. This revival will feature new designs by **Jasper Conran**.

**Liam Scarlett's** *Asphodel Meadows* was his first work for the Company in 2010. Scarlett's adaptation of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* also returns this Season.

New work remains at the heart of The Royal Ballet. **Crystal Pite's** Olivier Award-nominated *Flight Pattern* received critical acclaim at its premiere in 2017. This groundbreaking ballet offered a moving response to the refugee crisis and receives its first revival.

## **World Premieres**

This Season The Royal Ballet presents five world premieres. **Alastair Marriott's** new ballet *The Unknown Soldier* commemorates the centenary of the end of The First World War. The ballet takes inspiration from **The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**, an unknown British soldier killed during the first war who is buried at Westminster Abbey, honouring the hundreds of thousands who died in service. The ceremony to intern the soldier was a landmark moment of national mourning, the scale of which had not been seen before. Featuring archive film footage and designs by **Es Devlin**, the ballet is set to a newly commissioned score by Oscar-winning film composer **Dario Marianelli** (Oscar winner Best film Score *Atonement*, Oscar-nominated film scores *Pride and Prejudice* and *Anna Karenina*). Marianelli recently composed the score for *Darkest Hour* for which **Gary Oldman** won the Oscar for Best Actor for his portrayal of **Sir Winston Churchill**.

**Aletta Collins** presents her first ballet for the Company as part of *New Work, New Music* in the Linbury Theatre. This collaboration brings together new choreography and music with

dancers of The Royal Ballet. Together with the **London Sinfonietta** *New Work, New Music* features a score by **David Sawer**. Further details of the Linbury Theatre Season will be announced later this summer.

In another first for the Company, **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui** creates his first work for The Royal Ballet. Regarded as one of the world's leading contemporary choreographers, Cherkaoui has established himself as a dance innovator, working on a multitude of projects from contemporary dance to theatre, ballet, opera and musicals. **Liam Scarlett** presents a new work for **The Royal Ballet School** to be performed as part of a mixed bill alongside The Royal Ballet, demonstrating the important link between School and Company.

Royal Ballet Resident Choreographer **Wayne McGregor** premieres a new full-length ballet, his first full-length work for the Company since the Olivier Award-winning *Wolf Works*. Renowned for his innovative collaborations, McGregor continues to merge disciplines across the world of dance, art and music. This new ballet features two exciting firsts for The Royal Ballet: a commissioned score by **Thomas Adès**; and designs by acclaimed British artist **Tacita Dean**. Spanning over two years, the first part of this large-scale collaboration will receive its world premiere as part of The Royal Ballet 2019 Summer Tour to Los Angeles, presented in partnership with the LA Phil, Gloria Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center, The Royal Ballet and Company Wayne McGregor. In 2020 the ballet will be premiered as a full-length work at the Royal Opera House with the addition of a second part, performed for the first time in its complete form.

## **Audience Engagement**

**World Ballet Day**, the annual live stream behind the scenes of the world's leading ballet companies, returns on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Last year's event secured over 160 million views on social media and was broadcast to China for the first time, providing digital access into the world of ballet and engaging with new audiences.

**Cinema** audiences continue to grow with over 500,000 tickets sold across the UK last season. This year six ballets will be screened to cinemas around the world through ROH Live Cinemas.

The **ROH Student** scheme continues to grow and has over 18,000 members. The 2018/19 Season will offer full-time students tickets for *Mayerling* and *Flight Pattern* priced from £1 - £25 on selected performances.

# THE ROYAL BALLET 2018/19 SEASON

## *Mayerling*

Monday 8 October - Tuesday 30 October 2018

ROH Live Cinema, Monday 15 October 2018

## *La Bayadère*

Thursday 1 November - Saturday 17 November 2018

ROH Live Cinema, Tuesday 13 November 2018

## *Infra/The Unknown Soldier/Symphony in C*

Tuesday 20 November – Thursday 29 November 2018

- *Infra* – Wayne McGregor
- *The Unknown Soldier* – Alastair Marriott
- *Symphony in C* – George Balanchine

## *The Nutcracker*

Monday 3 December 2018 – Tuesday 15 January 2019

ROH Live Cinema, Monday 3 December 2018

## *Les Patineurs/Winter Dreams/The Concert*

Tuesday 18 December 2018 – Friday 4 January 2019

- *Les Patineurs* – Frederick Ashton
- *Winter Dreams* – Kenneth MacMillan
- *The Concert* – Jerome Robbins

## *Asphodel Meadows/The Two Pigeons*

Friday 18 January – Wednesday 13 February 2019

- *Asphodel Meadows* – Liam Scarlett
- *The Two Pigeons* – Frederick Ashton

## *The Royal Ballet School/The Two Pigeons*

Tuesday 12 February – Saturday 16 February 2019

- *NEW BALLET* – Liam Scarlett
- *The Two Pigeons* – Frederick Ashton

## *Don Quixote*

Friday 15 February – Thursday 4 April 2019

ROH Live Cinema, Tuesday 19 February 2019

## *Frankenstein*

Tuesday 5 March - Saturday 23 March 2019

## *Romeo and Juliet*

Tuesday 26 March - Tuesday 11 June 2019

ROH Live Cinema, Tuesday 11 June 2019

## *Within the Golden Hour/New Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui/Flight Pattern*

Wednesday 8 May - Tuesday 21 May 2019

- *Within the Golden Hour* – Christopher Wheeldon
- *NEW BALLET* – Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui
- *Flight Pattern* – Crystal Pite

ROH Live Cinema, Thursday 16 May 2019

*The Firebird/A Month in the Country/Symphony in C*

Tuesday 4 June - Friday 14 June 2019

- *The Firebird* – Mikhail Fokine
- *A Month in the Country* – Frederick Ashton
- *Symphony in C* – George Balanchine

The Royal Ballet School Summer Performance

Sunday 14 July 2019

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