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PRESS RELEASE

3 October 2018

Royal Opera House Thurrock Trailblazer schools go to the ballet

Royal Opera House Thurrock Trailblazer schools were treated to a visual and musical feast of passion, hope and remembrance on Friday 21 September when they saw the New English Ballet Theatre in performance at the Thameside Theatre in Grays.

300 students from four Thurrock Trailblazer schools: Corringham Primary, Grays Convent, Woodside Academy and Herringham Primary attended the show and saw a brand new ballet double bill: *Remembrance* and *The Four Seasons*.

Wayne Eagling's new ballet *Remembrance* set to Handel's masterpiece Ode to St Cecilia's Day, based on the life of Dame Marie Rambert during the Great War. A hugely influential figure on the British and international ballet scene, we follow her whirlwind romance with Ashley Dukes and her anguish at their separation as he is called back to the battlefield. Eagling created the ballet in commemoration of the Armistice.

Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* dynamically recomposed by Max Richter forms the musical foundation for choreographer Jenna Lee's bold, stylish ballet, complimented by dazzling costume designs representing each season.

Nasya Agodo, a Year 9 Student from Grays Convent High School said; "*I enjoyed the performance and the way the set design and the costumes complemented the dances. My favourite dance was the Four Seasons because I liked the way the music and the*

dance fitted together. I loved the effect of the smoke on the floor to create atmosphere!”

To find out more about opportunities for your school to take part in Thurrock Trailblazer, please go to: www.roh.org.uk/trailblazer.

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Notes for Editors

Royal Opera House Learning and Participation in Thurrock

Royal Opera House Learning and Participation in Thurrock has been offering innovative and creative projects and programmes in schools, colleges and across communities in the Thames Gateway since 2006.

Since then, more than 60,000 people have participated in activities ranging from schools' projects to teacher training, from work-based learning to fully-staged community operas. People in Thurrock have both been able to watch special performances at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden and gain a very special insight into the behind-the-scenes process.

The Learning and Participation team runs the Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus which currently has over 140 members of all ages and regularly performs across Thurrock and at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. For further information, please go to: www.roh.org.uk/learning/learning-in-thurrock/community-chorus. Details of future performances and taster session for the Community Chorus can be obtained by emailing getinvolved@roh.org.uk or calling 01708 891200.

In April 2012, the Royal Opera House agreed to become a [Bridge](#) organisation, working to connect children and young people to great art and culture across Essex, North Kent, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

The Learning and Participation team is based at the High House Production Park in Purfleet which is supported by a unique partnership including Arts Council England, Creative & Cultural Skills, the Royal Opera House and Thurrock Council: www.hhpp.org.uk