



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

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WINTER 2012/13

BALLET & DANCE

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THE FIREBIRD / IN THE NIGHT /

RAYMONDA ACT III

Mikhail Fokine / Jerome Robbins / Rudolf Nureyev after Marius Petipa

Conductor: Barry Wordsworth

22 December at 12.30pm / 29 December at 1.30pm / 29 December at 7pm / 4, 9, 11
January at 7.30pm

Generous philanthropic support from The Fonteyn Circle

In the Night: Generous philanthropic support from Mrs Charles Wrightsman

This enchanting Christmas-time mixed programme presents three one-act ballets by contrasting choreographers. This year marks the centenary of *The Firebird's* first performances at Covent Garden by Diaghilev's Ballet Russes. Shifting from classical ballet technique, Mikhail Fokine's groundbreaking choreography for *The Firebird* displays elements derived from the style of folk-dance. Coupled with Stravinsky's colourful, first ever ballet score which similarly incorporates folk song characteristics, and Natalia Goncharova's 1926 Ballets Russes designs, *The Firebird* is a bold and exotic opening to the evening.

Jerome Robbin's *In The Night* is a passionate contemporary exploration of the varying shades of love. Originally created for New York City Ballet in 1970, this one act ballet sees three *pas de deux* convey degrees of tenderness, restraint, and emotional reconciliation, to Chopin's exquisite Nocturnes.

Last performed on the main stage at Covent Garden in 2003, Rudolf Nureyev's staging of *Raymonda Act III* is adapted from Marius Petipa's original full length ballet for the Mariinsky Theatre. Dazzling snow white costumes, and opulent sets designed by Barry Kay lend a festive feel to the final work in this Christmas triple bill.

THE FIREBIRD:

Choreography	Mikhail Fokine
Music	Igor Stravinsky
Designs	Natalia Gontcharova
Lighting design	John B. Read
Original staging	Sergey Grigoriev and Lubov Tchernicheva
Staging	Christopher Carr

IN THE NIGHT:

Choreography	Jerome Robbins
Music	Fryderyk Chopin
Costume designs	Anthony Dowell
Lighting design	tbc
Staging	Christine Redpath
Solo Piano	Robert Clark

RAYMONDA ACT III:

Choreography	Rudolf Nureyev after Marius Petipa
Music	Alexander Glazunov
Designs	Barry Kay
Lighting design	John B. Read
Staging	Christopher Carr

CASTING

THE FIREBIRD:

22 / 29 mat December	Cuthbertson*, Gartside*, Bhavnani*, Avis
29 December / 9 January	Galeazzi, Watson, Arestis, Marriott
4 / 11 January	Marquez, Soares, Crawford, Saunders

IN THE NIGHT:

22 / 29 mat December / 4 January	Lamb*, Nuñez*, Cojocarú*, Bonelli*, Pennefather*, Kobborg*
29 December / 9 / 11 January	Cuthbertson*, Yanowsky*, Marquez*, Campbell*, Kish*, Acosta*

RAYMONDA ACT III:

22 December / 4 January	Yanowsky, Kish*, Arestis, Hirano*
29 mat December / 9 January	Cojocarú, McRae*, Crawford*, Cervera*
29 December / 11 January	Nuñez*, Pennefather*, McNally*, Whitehead*

* Role debut

INSIGHTS: *THE FIREBIRD / IN THE NIGHT / RAYMONDA ACT III*

4 December at 7.30pm

CLORE STUDIO UPSTAIRS

Tickets £17 / £7 students

Explore this exciting mixed programme with Royal Ballet dancers and coaches.

ONEGIN

John Cranko

Conductor: Dominic Grier

19 January, 2 February at 7pm / 22, 23, 25, 30[†], 31 January, 1, 5, 7, 8 February at 7.30pm / 26 January at 12.30pm / 2 February at 2pm

[†] For the performance on 30 January, the Amphitheatre is available only to members of the Student Standby scheme.

Generously supported by The Friends of Covent Garden

John Cranko's *Onegin*, based on the verse-novel by Alexander Pushkin is an emotional tale of infatuation and tragedy and was choreographed by him for Stuttgart Ballet in 1965. This dramatic three-act ballet tells of a young Tatiana's unrequited love for Eugene Onegin who, too late, tragically realises his true feelings for her. With intense duets, including the infamous 'letter scene' *pas de deux*, *Onegin's* central roles demand technical finesse and dramatic sensibility. This Season *Onegin* features important debuts from Royal Ballet Principal dancers Marianela Nuñez, Sarah Lamb, and Nehemiah Kish and First Soloist Valeri Hristov. Set to Tchaikovsky's glorious climactic score as arranged by Kurt Heinz Stolze, this full length ballet boasts glorious set designs by Jürgen Rose which perfectly capture the opulent settings of upper class nineteenth century Russia.

Choreography	John Cranko
Music	Kurt-Heinz Stolze after Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky
Designs	Jürgen Rose after original 1969 designs for Stuttgart Ballet
Lighting design	Steen Bjarke
Staging	Reid Anderson and Jane Bourne

CASTING

19 / 23 / 30 January / 2 mat February	Cojocar, Kobborg, Takada, McRae, Gartside
22 / 25 / 31 January / 5 February	Morera, Bonelli, Choe, Zucchetti*, Avis
26 January / 1 / 7 February	Nuñez*, Soares, Hinkis*, Trzensimiech*, Whitehead
2 / 8 February	Lamb*, Hristov*, Naghdi*, Kish*, Hirano

* Role debut

LA VALSE / MÉDITATION FROM THAÏS / VOICES OF SPRING / MONOTONES I AND II / MARGUERITE AND ARMAND

Frederick Ashton

Conductor: Emmanuel Plasson

12, 13, 15[†], 21[†], 23 February at 7.30pm

† Please note, there will be cameras filming in the auditorium.

Generous philanthropic support from Lady Ashcroft, Marina Hobson MBE and Lindsay and Sarah Tomlinson

In February, The Royal Ballet marks the 25th anniversary of the death of Frederick Ashton, the Company's Founder Choreographer, with a diverse mixed bill of his works. Created in 1958, *La Valse* is set to the rich, swooping melodies of Ravel. André Levasseur's designs of golden chandeliers, delicate ball gowns and dashing tailcoats evoke the lavish but mysterious atmosphere of a ghostly ballroom as the stage fills with swirling figures.

Following *La Valse*, The Royal Ballet performs two contrasting pas de deux. The first, *Méditation from Thaïs* is an ethereal, romantic duet, danced to the strains of Jules Massenet's *Méditation religieuse* from the opera *Thaïs*. It features bold, exotic costumes designed by former Director of The Royal Ballet Anthony Dowell. *Voices of Spring* is a joyous *pièce d'occasion* employing fast paced virtuoso technique to

Strauss's spirited waltz and was originally created by Ashton in 1977 for the Royal Opera's production of *Die Fledermaus*.

Monotones I and II are arguably Ashton's most modernist and abstract creations. To the gentle sounds of Erik Satie's *Trois Gnossiennes* and *Trois Gymnopédies*, these otherworldly *pas de trois* move through slow, serene and utterly captivating choreography which mirrors the harmonic and rhythmic shifts of the music.

The programme concludes with *Marguerite and Armand*, a passionate one act ballet best known for the romantic chemistry between the two Principal dancers, was originally created by Ashton for Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev. This Season The Royal Ballet welcomes back Tamara Rojo for her farewell performances at Covent Garden, partnered by Guest Artist Sergei Polunin, both of whom danced the leading roles to sensational acclaim in the 2011/12 Season.

LA VALSE:

Music	Maurice Ravel
Designs	André Levasseur
Lighting design	John B. Read
Staging	Christopher Carr

MÉDIATION FROM THAÏS:

Music	Jules Massenet
Costume designs	Anthony Dowell
Lighting design	John B. Read

VOICES OF SPRING:

Music	Johann Strauss II
Costume designs	Julia Trevelyan Oman
Lighting design	John B. Read

MONOTONES I AND II:

Music	Erik Satie
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Designs	Frederick Ashton
Lighting design	John B. Read
Staging	Lynn Wallis

MARGUERITE AND ARMAND:

Music	Franz Liszt
Designs	Cecil Beaton
Lighting design	John B. Read
Staging	Grant Coyle
Solo piano	Robert Clark

CASTING

LA VALSE:

12 / 15 / 21 February	Kobayashi, Raine, Crawford, Hirano, Gartside, Maloney*
13 / 23 February	Bhavnani*, McNally, McCulloch*, Hristov*, Kura*, Whitehead

MÉDITATION FROM THAÏS:

12 / 21 February	Benjamin, Hristov*
13 / 23 February	Lamb, Pennefather
15 February	Galeazzi, Soares

VOICES OF SPRING:

12 / 21 February	Cojocar, McRae
13 / 23 February	Morera, Campbell*
15 February	Choe*, Zucchetti*

MONOTONES I

12 / 15 / 21 February	Trzensimiech*, Maguire*, Takada*
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13 / 23 February

Dyer*, Naghdi*, Pajdak*

MONOTONES II

12 / 15 / 21 February

Nuñez*, Bonelli*, Watson*

13 / 23 February

Arestis*, Hirano*, Kish*

MARGUERITE AND ARMAND

12 / 15 / 21 February

Rojo, Polunin

13 / 23 February

Yanowsky, Bonelli

* Role debut

INSIGHTS: LA VALSE MIXED PROGRAMME

21 January at 7.30pm

CLORE STUDIO UPSTAIRS

Tickets £17 / £7 students

Discover the breadth and inspiration of Frederick Ashton's choreography.

APOLLO / NEW WHEELDON / NEW RATMANSKY

George Balanchine / Christopher Wheeldon / Alexei Ratmansky

Conductor: tbc

22 February, 7, 14 March at 7.30pm / 23 February at 12.30pm / 9 March at 12pm

New Ratmansky: Generous philanthropic support from Celia Blakey and Richard and Delia Baker

New Wheeldon: Generous philanthropic support from Celia Blakey and The New Ballet Works Syndicate

In February, The Royal Ballet will present an enticing triple bill of a classic George Balanchine ballet, and two new works by world renowned choreographers Christopher Wheeldon, and Alexei Ratmansky. Seats to this triple bill have a top price of just £63, making it an unmissable event for ardent fans and ballet newcomers alike.

Apollo is Balanchine's earliest surviving ballet, and launched his international career when it was first performed in 1928. This masterpiece offers an outstanding lead male role in the form of Apollo, Greek god of music, light and knowledge, and reinterprets classical choreography in harmony with Stravinsky's neoclassic score.

Two exciting world premieres complete this triple bill, the first by The Royal Ballet's Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon. Award winning Wheeldon has an impressive history of original and varied works, including the fantastic full length *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* which is also performed by the Company in March for the third successive Season. His new work for this Season promises to showcase his unique and exhilarating choreographic style.

Alexei Ratmansky, former director of the Bolshoi Ballet, and current artist in residence at American Ballet Theater, is another of the most celebrated names in contemporary ballet. The Royal Ballet is delighted to have commissioned what will be Ratmansky's first ever work for a British company which will offer audiences the chance to experience his trademark inventiveness and versatility in his approach to choreography.

APOLLO:

Choreography	George Balanchine
Music	Igor Stravinsky
Lighting design	John B. Read
Staging	Patricia Neary

NEW WHEELDON:

Choreography	Christopher Wheeldon
Music	tbc
Designs	Jean-Marc Puissant

NEW RATMANSKY:

Choreography	Alexei Ratmansky
Music	tbc
Designs	tbc

CASTING

APOLLO

22 February / 9 March	Acosta, Nuñez*
23 February / 7 March	Bonelli, Cuthbertson*
14 March	Pennefather*, Lamb*

* Role debut

ROH2

WIND IN THE WILLOWS

12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 Dec at 7pm
27, 28 Dec, 2, 3, 4 Jan at 2pm and 7pm
15, 22, 29, 30, 31 Dec, 5 Jan at 12.30pm and 5pm

To celebrate the 10th anniversary season, ROH2 will revive its first – and ever popular – Christmas production. Choreographed and directed by **Will Tuckett**, Kenneth Grahame's classic tale is magically brought to life through dance and a wonderful score by **Martin Ward** that draws inspiration from the music of Edwardian composer George Butterworth. The escapades of the reckless Toad and his long-suffering friends Ratty, Mole and the wise Badger are wittily brought to life by a cast of some of the best dance-actors around. Perfect family entertainment.

2013 LONDON INTERNATIONAL MIME FESTIVAL

Harlekin Derevo: 16, 17*, 18 January 2013 at 7.45pm 19 January 2013 at 6pm
The Old King Les Ballet C de la B: 21, 22*, 23 January 2013 at 7.45pm
Smashed Gandini Juggling: 24, 25* January 2013 at 7.45pm 26 January 2013 at 6pm
* performance followed by post-show discussion

Europe's leading annual season of contemporary visual theatre returns to the Linbury Studio Theatre with three groundbreaking shows: Les Ballets C de la B's visceral hit from the 2012 Avignon Festival, Russia's multi award-winning physical theatre ensemble, Derevo, and another chance to see last year's festival hit – Gandini Juggling's Pina Bausch-inspired, *Smashed*.

BALLET BLACK

27, 28 February, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 March 2013 at 8pm

Associate Company of the Royal Opera House, the award-winning **Ballet Black**, returns to the Linbury Studio Theatre for its eighth season with a showcase of work danced by some of the most exciting classically trained dancers of black and Asian descent around. Fans can expect more enticing dance with new works choreographed by **Javier De Frutos**, **Robert Binet**, **Ludovic Ondiviela** and **Christopher Marney**.

THE METAMORPHOSIS

16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22 March at 7.45pm
23 March at 2pm and 7.45pm

A revival of the critically acclaimed dance theatre work by Arthur Pita, based on the Kafka novella. Pita has translated into dance the emotional and physical changes experienced by salesman Gregor Samsa, danced by Olivier award-winning Royal Ballet principal dancer **Edward Watson**, when he inexplicably finds himself transformed into an insect, casting new light on the hapless young man's plight and the consequent reactions of his family. This is accompanied by Frank Moon's dramatic score, which he performs live, playing a number of instruments solo alongside his pre-recorded soundscape, and Simon Daw's stark design in traverse and Guy Hoare's atmospheric lighting.

The original performances of *The Metamorphosis* in September 2011 have attracted a number of honours: winner of the 2012 Southbank Sky Arts Award for Dance; **Edward Watson** won the Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance for his portrayal of Gregor Samsa; and ROH2 was nominated for the Olivier Award for Best New Dance Production for *The Metamorphosis*.

Edward Watson performs the role of Gregor Samsa, alongside other members of the original cast who portray his family and others whose lives are touched by his strange transformation.

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