



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

## BALLET AND DANCE 2012/13 SEASON

	PAGE
THE ROYAL BALLET	2
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE LIVE CINEMA SEASON	5
ROH2 SEASON OVERVIEW	6
EDUCATION PROJECTS	8
PRESS CONTACTS	9

## THE ROYAL BALLET 2012/13 SEASON

- Six world premieres
- Two works new to the Company
- Classics including *Swan Lake*, *La Bayadère* and *The Nutcracker*
- Other full-length ballets *Mayerling*, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Onegin*
- One act ballets by Balanchine, Fokine, McGregor, Nureyev, Robbins, Scarlett and Wheeldon
- The Royal Ballet in Northern Ireland, Suffolk, Monte Carlo and Japan
- Three ballets in Royal Opera House Live Cinema Season

Kevin O'Hare's inaugural season as Director of The Royal Ballet will showcase a wide breadth of the Company's repertory with a strong focus on new work. There will be six world premieres from some of today's finest choreographers, plus two works new to the Company's repertory. To complement this, there will be a mix of 19<sup>th</sup> Century classics, Royal Ballet heritage works from Ashton and MacMillan, and ballets by other internationally renowned choreographers.

Joining Kevin and current Associate Director **Jeanetta Laurence** on the artistic team will be **Christopher Wheeldon** and **Wayne McGregor** who become Artistic Associates (with Wayne also continuing in his existing role as **Resident Choreographer**). Christopher and Wayne will create new ballets for the Company and also be involved in creative decisions, working with the dancers and nurturing new choreographic talent. Music Director **Barry Wordsworth** will be conducting throughout the Season and continues the development of aspiring conductors and pianists.

The Royal Ballet is delighted to be the first British ballet company to commission acclaimed choreographer **Alexei Ratmansky** to create a new work which will premiere in February 2013. Formerly Artistic Director of

the Bolshoi and currently Artist in Residence at American Ballet Theatre, Ratmansky is known for his versatile and inventive approach to choreography whether in re-staging the classics, such as his 2007 production of *Le Corsaire* for the Bolshoi, or in creating his own work, such as *On the Dneiper*, his first work for ABT in 2009. His first work for The Royal Ballet will debut alongside another world premiere by Christopher Wheeldon and **George Balanchine's** masterpiece *Apollo*.

Other works by Christopher Wheeldon during the Season include his brilliantly inventive *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and, new to The Royal Ballet, *Fool's Paradise* which he created in 2007 for his Morphoses company.

There will be new work from **Alastair Marriott** for the autumn's Gala and more new work has also been commissioned from Wayne McGregor to premiere in May 2013 alongside another popular Balanchine ballet, *Symphony in C*. In a departure from his usual approach to working with the dancers of The Royal Ballet, McGregor's piece, set to a commissioned score and entitled *Raven Girl*, will be a narrative modern day fairytale. He will collaborate closely with author of *The Time Traveler's Wife*, graphic novelist and artist **Audrey Niffenegger**.

Royal Ballet First Artist **Liam Scarlett** is rapidly becoming one of the hottest choreographic talents around and will follow up his recent mainstage success to bring two new pieces to the Company. The first will be his production of *Viscera*, which he created for Miami City Ballet in January 2012, followed by his first full-length narrative work which will premiere in the Linbury Studio Theatre in May 2013.

*Viscera*, *Fool's Paradise* and Wayne McGregor's *Infra* will be shown together as a triple bill in November 2012.

Opening the Season in October is a Royal Ballet classic, **Anthony Dowell's** popular production of *Swan Lake*. Other full-length classics in the 2012/13

repertory include **Peter Wright**'s magical production of the perennial Christmas favourite *The Nutcracker* in December and **Natalia Makarova**'s magnificent production of *La Bayadère* in April.

Also for the Christmas season is a triple bill featuring Mikhail Fokine's *The Firebird* to mark the centenary of the ballet's first performances at Covent Garden, Jerome Robbins' *In the Night* (last danced by the Company in the 1970s) and Rudolf Nureyev's showcase divertissement, *Raymonda* Act III.

The 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the deaths of Kenneth MacMillan and Frederick Ashton will be commemorated in two mixed programmes celebrating their immense choreographic legacy. A triple bill of **Kenneth MacMillan**'s work will open in November; his sublime 1966 piece for Berlin Opera House *Concerto; Las Hermanas*, not performed by The Royal Ballet since 1994 and never before seen at the Royal Opera House, and his hauntingly beautiful tribute to his friend John Cranko, *Requiem*. A few months later, in April 2013, MacMillan's full length, emotionally charged drama *Mayerling* returns.

In February, the choreographic tribute continues with a programme of Founder Choreographer **Frederick Ashton**'s work. It opens with the glamorous, full Company ballet *La Valse* and two of his most celebrated *piece d'occasion*, the *Thais* and *Voices of Spring pas de deux*, followed by *Monotones I* and *II*, two *pas de trois* of striking simplicity set to the music of Satie. The evening finishes with *Marguerite and Armand*, revived in the 2011/12 season, and incredibly popular for the dramatic intensity of its principal roles and stunning designs by **Cecil Beaton**.

2013 sees a Royal Opera House-wide celebration of Pushkin's brilliant novel-in-verse, *Eugene Onegin*, with interpretations by both The Royal Ballet in John Cranko's *Onegin* from 19 January, and The Royal Opera's new production *Eugene Onegin* from 4 February.

There will be many opportunities to see The Royal Ballet away from the Royal Opera House with members of the Company performing in Northern Ireland and in collaboration with the Aldeburgh Festival and DanceEast, for the Britten Centenary in a new work by **Kim Brandstrup**. There will be international tours to Monte Carlo and Tokyo.

Kevin O'Hare, together with **Kasper Holten**, Director of Opera, The Royal Opera, is keen to bring about a closer working relationship with the Linbury Studio Theatre. As well as the annual choreographic showcase *Draft Works* in which Royal Ballet dancers are encouraged to explore and create new work themselves, there will be an increasing number of original dance projects involving the Company.

## **ROYAL OPERA HOUSE LIVE CINEMA SEASON**

Three ballets are part of the Royal Opera House Live Cinema Season presented in association with Bank of America Merrill Lynch:

Tuesday 23 October 2012  
SWAN LAKE (live)  
Casting tbc

December 2012  
THE NUTCRACKER (live)  
Casting tbc

Wednesday 28 March 2013  
ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND (live)  
Casting tbc

## ROH2 SEASON OVERVIEW

- Five world premieres
- Yinka Shonibare to curate the fifth Deloitte Ignite festival
- Return of the critically acclaimed, sell-out production *The Metamorphosis* with Royal Ballet Principal Edward Watson
- Revival of Will Tuckett's *Wind in the Willows*
- Phoenix Dance Theatre and Headspace Dance come to ROH2 for first time
- Random Dance returns to the Linbury Studio Theatre
- Annual residency of Associate Company Ballet Black
- Regular visitors Bern Ballett return with new full-length piece
- Exposure: Snapshots of new dance

The Royal Opera House Season begins with the fifth *Deloitte Ignite* curated by renowned artist **Yinka Shonibare**. The festival takes a unique and contemporary look at the traditions and heritage of the Royal Opera House, this year linking the cultures of Africa with those of Europe. Spaces throughout the building can be seen in new and unexpected ways as settings for concerts, club nights, drumming workshops, installations, film and more.

Throughout the 2012/13 Linbury Studio Theatre season, the Royal Opera House refreshes the association with a number of companies and artists who have made an impact during their earlier appearances, as well as forming new partnerships with some established dance companies and up and coming new talent.

In October **Headspace Dance**, a new dance company created by acclaimed British dancers **Charlotte Broom** and **Christopher Akkrill**, make their debut performances. Co-producing with ROH2, they will present *Three and Four Quarters*, a range of trios, duets and solos by celebrated contemporary choreographers **Mats Ek**, **Javier de Frutos**, **Luca Silvestrini** and **Didy**

**Veldman.** In November, co-commissioned by ROH2, **Dance 4** and **New Arc Exchange**, Nottingham based performance artist **Hetaim Patel** returns to the Linbury with a new work *Be Like Water* following his acclaimed theatre debut *TEN* (ROH2 Firsts 2010). This engaging multi-disciplined performer uses traditional and modern media devices to investigate how our cultural identities are constructed.

ROH2 will curate a short festival of new work under the title Exposure in January 2013.

ROH2 is delighted to welcome **Phoenix Dance Theatre** to the Linbury in October 2012 for the first time with their latest mixed programme *Crossing Points*, four one-act ballets by **Ana Luján Sánchez**, **Henri Oguike**, **Sharon Watson**, and **Kwesi Johnson**. Regular Linbury visitors, Associate Company **Ballet Black**, and **Bern Ballett** return in 2013. Ballet Black presents a programme of new commissions and Bern Ballett, under the directorship of **Cathy Marston** presents a new full-length piece inspired by the story of Anna Goeldi who, despite her protestations of innocence, became the last woman to be executed for alleged witchcraft.

**London International Mime Festival** has been entertaining audiences here for many years and ROH2 is delighted that they will extend their visit to two weeks this year.

To celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ROH2 this season, ROH2 presents revivals of some of the most acclaimed dance-theatre pieces developed for the Linbury Studio Theatre. Last year's gripping sell-out new work by **Arthur Pita** *The Metamorphosis*, will make a welcome return. Based on Kafka's novella, this riveting dance-theatre piece with its dramatic score by **Frank Moon** provided Royal Ballet Principal **Edward Watson** with another virtuosic role to add to his repertory. This follows the Christmas run of **Will Tuckett**'s hugely popular dance-theatre version of *The Wind in the Willows*. In Tuckett's take on **Kenneth Grahame**'s classic tale, the riverbank story is magically brought to life through a wonderful score by **Martin Ward** that

draws its inspiration from the music of Edwardian British composer **George Butterworth**.

In 2002, **Wayne McGregor** created an evening of work on his company in collaboration with dancers from The Royal Ballet - this was one of the first projects for ROH2. To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of ROH2, **Wayne McGregor | Random Dance** returns to the Linbury in the autumn with work by McGregor (FAR) and three new pieces by emerging choreographic talent.

## **EDUCATION PROJECTS AT THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE**

ROH Education explores new ways of connecting with ballet and dance through a range of dynamic projects, one of which is **Dance Dynamic**.

**Dance Dynamic** is a creative dance teacher training programme for Primary and Secondary school teachers which continues to benefit and inspire teachers and students. Teachers and students are invited to a Royal Ballet Demonstration to introduce them to the Royal Opera House before embarking on their own six week creative dance project guided by tools and skills taught through 2 INSET sessions with supporting written and digital resources. Approximately 1000 Primary School children and 300 Secondary students will be involved in creating and performing their own dance pieces next season.



## **PRESS OFFICE CONTACTS**

### **Rosie Neave**

Head of Ballet Press

Tel: 020 7212 9165

Fax: 020 7212 9725

[rosie.neave@roh.org.uk](mailto:rosie.neave@roh.org.uk)

### **Sophie Lawrenson**

Ballet Press Assistant

Tel: 020 7212 9241

Fax: 020 7212 9725

[sophie.lawrenson@roh.org.uk](mailto:sophie.lawrenson@roh.org.uk)

### **Laura Macleod Brown**

ROH2 & Education Press Officer

Tel: 020 7212 9504

Fax: 020 7212 9725

[laura.brown@roh.org.uk](mailto:laura.brown@roh.org.uk)