



ROYAL  
BALLET

29 JUNE 2015

## Promotions, joiners and leavers at The Royal Ballet

Kevin O'Hare, Director of The Royal Ballet, has made the following promotions for the forthcoming 2015/16 Season.

**Francesca Hayward** and **James Hay** have been promoted to First Soloists.

**Meaghan Grace Hinkis**, **Luca Acri**, **Nicol Edmonds**, and **Marcelino Sambé** are promoted to Soloists. **Camille Bracher**, **Mayara Magri**, **Leticia Stock**, **Matthew Ball**, **Sander Blommaert**, **Tomas Mock** and **Donald Thom** are promoted to First Artists.

Joining the Company at the start of the Season will be **Chisato Katsura** from The Royal Ballet School. **Grace Blundell** (formally Royal Ballet School) and **Ashley Scott** (formerly English National Ballet School), both part of the 2014/15 **Aud Jebsen Young Dancers Programme**, join the Company alongside 2015 **Prix de Lausanne** dancer **David Yudes**. All join as Artists.

The Royal Ballet welcomes five dancers to the Company for the 2015/16 Season as part of the Aud Jebsen Young Dancers Programme. The programme provides an opportunity for recently graduated dancers to receive a year's contract to work alongside the *corps de ballet* of The Royal Ballet. In addition the dancers are offered mentoring and coaching and have the opportunity to perform with the Company. Next Season's Aud Jebsen Young Dancers are **Isabel Lubach**, **Julia Roscoe**, **Lukas Bjørneboe Brændsrød**, **Harry Churches** and **Leo Dixon**, all from The Royal Ballet School. **Julian MacKay** joins the Company as Prix de Lausanne Dancer for the 2015/16 Season.

All remaining Aud Jebsen Young Dancers from the 2014/15 Season have been offered contracts as follows: **Maria Barroso** joins The National Ballet of Portugal, **Grace Horler** joins Scottish Ballet and **Ashleigh McKimmie** joins The Estonian National Ballet.

**Charlotte Edmonds** will join The Royal Ballet for the 2015/16 Season as the first choreographer to participate in the new **Royal Ballet Young Choreographer Programme** mentored by **Kevin O'Hare** and **Wayne McGregor**. The Young Choreographer Programme is a 12 month position for an emerging choreographer to shadow Royal Ballet and visiting choreographers and utilise the Company resources to create work. 18-year-old Edmonds choreographed the short film *The Indifferent Beak* for The Royal Ballet as part of Deloitte Ignite 2014 and is currently studying for a BA at the Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance. She trained at The Royal Ballet School and was a finalist in the **Ninette de Valois Junior Choreographic competition** for three consecutive years. She also won the **Kenneth MacMillan Senior Choreographic Competition** in 2011 and 2012.

First Soloist **Deirdre Chapman** retired from the Company mid-season, with her final performance in Kim Brandstrup's *Ceremony of Innocence* in November 2014. First Artists **Pietra Mello-Pittman** and **Ludovic Ondiviela** also left the Company mid-season.

First Artists **Jacqueline Clark**, **Elsa Godard**, **Michael Stojko** and **Andrej Uspenski** leave the Company at the end of this Season. For the 2015/16 Season Andrej Uspenski will be engaged as a photographer for The Royal Ballet and other departments across the Royal Opera House.

First Soloist **Melissa Hamilton** will take a sabbatical for the 2015/16 Season to spend the year as a Principal dancer with the **Semperoper Ballett** in Dresden.

First Artist **Leanne Cope** continues her sabbatical for the 2015/16 Season playing *Lise Dassin* in the Tony Award-winning *An American in Paris*, directed and choreographed by **Christopher Wheeldon**, Artistic Associate of The Royal Ballet.

— ENDS —

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