



ROYAL
BALLET

13 MARCH 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BALLET WORLD PREMIERE: THE WINTER'S TALE BY CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON

Christopher Wheeldon's latest work for The Royal Ballet is an adaptation of William Shakespeare's play *The Winter's Tale*. Opening on Thursday 10 April, the ballet will also be screened live into cinemas around the world on Monday 28 April including more than 400 screens in the UK alone.

The Winter's Tale is the first full length adaptation of a Shakespeare play by The Royal Ballet since Kenneth MacMillan's 1965 production of *Romeo and Juliet*. Its creation coincides with the 450th anniversary celebrations of Shakespeare's birth in 1564 and particularly significant is the performance on the 23 April, Shakespeare's actual birthday.

The Winter's Tale is a story of seemingly hopeless love and all-consuming jealousy that contrasts episodes of light and dark, tragedy and comedy. But it is the forgiveness and reconciliation that provide the memorable climax. This full Company ballet is led by Principal Dancers Edward Watson and Lauren Cuthbertson as *Leontes* and *Hermione*, Steven McRae and Sarah Lamb as *Florizel* and *Perdita* and Federico Bonelli and Zenaida Yanowksy as *Polixenes* and *Paulina*. Marianela Nunez and Thiago Soares lead the second cast as *Leontes* and *Hermione*.

Christopher Wheeldon is Artistic Associate of The Royal Ballet. *The Winter's Tale* is his seventh work and his second full length ballet for the Company following the hugely popular *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* which premiered in 2011. For *The Winter's Tale* Wheeldon continues his successful collaboration with the creative team behind *Alice* with designs and costume by Bob Crowley, score by Joby Talbot and lighting design by Natasha Katz. David Briskin Music Director and

Principal Conductor with the **National Ballet of Canada** will conduct. *The Winter's Tale* is a co-production with the National Ballet of Canada.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

***The Winter's Tale* Thursday 10 April – Thursday 8 May, Royal Opera House**

Evening Performances at 7.30pm:

Thursday 10, Saturday 12, Tuesday 15, Wednesday 16, Wednesday 23, Monday 28†,
Tuesday 29 April, Thursday 8 May

†Live cinema Screening

Matinee Performances:

Tuesday 22, Saturday 26 April at 12 noon

Box Office:

0207 304 4000

www.roh.org.uk

Creative Team:

Choreography	Christopher Wheeldon
Music	Joby Talbot
Designs	Bob Crowley
Lighting Design	Natasha Katz
Silk Effect Designer	Basil Twist
Conductor	David Briskin
Projection Designs	Daniel Brodie

Casting:

10 / 15 / 23 / 28 April 1 and 8 May at 7.30pm

Hermione	Lauren Cuthbertson
Leontes	Edward Watson
Perdita	Sarah Lamb
Florizel	Steven McRae
Paulina	Zenaida Yanowsky
Polixenes	Federico Bonelli

Casting:

12 / 16 / 29 April and 8 May at 7.30pm

22 / 26 April at 12pm noon

Hermione

Marianela Nunez

Leontes

Thiago Soares

Perdita

Beatriz Stix-Brunell

Florizel

Vadim Muntagirov

Paulina

Laura Morera

Polixenes

Valeri Hristov

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