



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

## BALLET AND DANCE 2013/14 SEASON

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## THE ROYAL BALLET 2013/14 SEASON

- **Five world premieres**
- **New full length narrative ballet, *The Winter's Tale*, to be created by Christopher Wheeldon**
- **New production of *Don Quixote* to be created by Carlos Acosta**
- **Three new one act ballets from David Dawson, Alastair Marriott and Wayne McGregor**
- **One act ballets by Frederick Ashton, Kenneth MacMillan, Wayne McGregor, Jerome Robbins, Liam Scarlett and Christopher Wheeldon**
- **Royal Ballet Principal Johan Kobborg to choreograph ballet for The Royal Opera's production of Verdi's *Les Vêpres Siciliennes***
- **Five ballets in Royal Opera House Live Cinema Season**
- **The Royal Ballet at The Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow**

**Kevin O'Hare** presents his second season for The Royal Ballet with a commitment to increasing the Royal Ballet repertory of full-length ballets with a new narrative work by Artistic Associate **Christopher Wheeldon** and a new production of *Don Quixote* by Principal Guest Artist **Carlos Acosta**. His commitment to new work also continues with three new one act ballets by **David Dawson, Alastair Marriott** and **Wayne McGregor**. Dawson makes his choreographic debut with the Company. There is also a raft of new work in the Linbury Studio Theatre. The Season also celebrates the Company's repertory of great one act ballet masterpieces with works from **Frederick Ashton, George Balanchine, Kenneth MacMillan** and **Jerome Robbins**.

The Season opens in September with a reworking of the classic ballet *Don Quixote* by Principal Guest Artist **Carlos Acosta** marking a new development in his distinguished career. In addition, he will also dance the lead role of Basilio in some of the performances. Set and costume designs are by **Tim Hatley**, well known for his award-winning theatre designs, with lighting by **Hugh Vanstone** and new orchestration by **Martin Yates** who conducts all performances.

In Spring 2014 **Christopher Wheeldon** presents his second full-length work for the Company based on William Shakespeare's romantic play *The Winter's Tale*. The story follows the destruction of marriage through consuming jealousy, the abandonment of a child and a seemingly hopeless love. It is highly powerful material for a ballet and brings the opportunity for the Company to bring to life a wealth of new characters. Wheeldon's 2011 highly acclaimed production of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* was the first full-length new work for The Royal Ballet since 1995. Wheeldon continues his successful collaboration with the creative team comprising composer **Joby Talbot**, designer **Bob Crowley** and lighting designer **Natasha Katz**.

Former Royal Ballet School pupil and former dancer with Birmingham Royal Ballet, **David Dawson**, much admired as a visionary choreographer in Europe, will create a new work as part of the first triple bill of the Season. He collaborates with designers **Eno Henze** and **Yiemiko Takeshima** and the piece will be set to electronic music by British composer **Greg Haines** who has composed for a range of disciplines including dance. The programme also includes a revival of **Wayne McGregor**'s exhilarating *Chroma* created for The Royal Ballet in 2006 and **Kenneth MacMillan**'s production of *The Rite of Spring* in this the centenary year of its first performance.

Royal Ballet Principal dancer **Johan Kobborg** will choreograph the ballet for a new production of **Verdi**'s *Les Vêpres Siciliennes* for The Royal Opera which opens in October. Featuring four Royal Ballet Principals, four dancers from The Royal Danish Ballet and 32 dancers from The Royal Ballet Upper School, this will be Kobborg's first choreographic work at the Royal Opera House since his production of *La Sylphide* in 2006.

**Wayne McGregor** forges new collaborations with each of his works for The Royal Ballet. His new work this Season is set to **Bach**'s *The Art of Fugue* with designs by **Taub Auerbach** which premieres in February 2014. **Frederick Ashton**'s *Rhapsody* opens the bill, created to celebrate the skills of two virtuosic dancers using **Rachmaninov**'s exhilarating *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*. Completing the programme is **Kenneth MacMillan**'s *Gloria*, inspired by **Vera Britain**'s poem *Testament of Youth*. The ballet is a lament to

the generation lost in the Great War and a fitting tribute for the centenary year of the First World War.

**Liam Scarlett** was appointed as the first ever Royal Ballet Artist in Residence last year and has already established himself as a leading choreographer with commissions from ballet companies around the world. His *Sweet Violets*, based on a vicious nineteenth century murder, was created for The Royal Ballet in 2012 and will receive its first revival in a triple bill which also includes **Christopher Wheeldon's** *DGV: Danse à Grande Vitesse*. This Olivier-nominated work (2006) is set to an electric, pulsating score by **Michael Nyman** with designs by **Jean-Marc Puissant**. **George Balanchine's** much-loved classic *Serenade* will open this programme. *Serenade* is a milestone in the history of dance. It was the first ballet George Balanchine choreographed in America, aged just 30, and set the scene for his body of work over the next fifty years during which he reshaped classical ballet with its French, Italian, Danish and Russian roots as an American art form.

Closing the Season will be a final triple bill featuring a new work for the company by British choreographer **Alastair Marriott** whose most recent work for the Company was 'Trespass', part of *Metamorphosis: Titian 2012* – a collaboration with Christopher Wheeldon that produced 'fabulously tilting, sexy celestial duets' to the angular rhythms of **Turnage**. **Frederick Ashton's** *The Dream* opens the bill. *The Dream* was premiered by The Royal Ballet in April 1964 as part of a programme of three ballets created to honour the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth and is set to **Felix Mendelssohn's** score. **Jerome Robbins's** joyous and comedic ballet *The Concert* completes the Royal Ballet Season for 2013/14 making a welcome return to the Covent Garden stage after ten years. It's a superbly witty spoof of a classical music concert which provides a brilliant and light hearted finale to the Season

There is a full compliment of full length ballets this Season with **Kenneth MacMillan's** great interpretation of Shakespeare's enduring tragedy *Romeo and Juliet* opening in October. Other classic and heritage ballets presented during 2013/14 are **Peter Wright's** production of *Giselle*, the most famous of the romantic nineteenth century ballets and a signature work in the Company's

repertory, returning in January 2014 and **Monica Mason** and **Christopher Newton**'s production of *The Sleeping Beauty*. This premiered as part of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year celebrations of the Company and is based on the **Sergeyev/De Valois/Messel** production that was performed by the Company in 1946 for the re-opening of the Royal Opera House after the war.

For Christmas, The Royal Ballet will dance two very different but equally festive productions. **Peter Wright**'s classic staging of *The Nutcracker* will run throughout the Christmas period and for those audiences looking for an alternative to the more customary Christmas fare the Company will dance **George Balanchine**'s dazzling three act ballet *Jewels*, inspired by the windows of Fifth Avenue jeweller Van Cleef & Arpels.

Principal of American Ballet Theater and former Royal Ballet School student, **Cory Stearns**, comes from ABT to make his debut with The Royal Ballet in *The Nutcracker* dancing alongside **Lauren Cuthbertson** in December 2013. His guest appearances follow Royal Ballet Principal dancer Steven McRae's visit to dance with ABT this June when he dances the role of *Lankendem* in their production of *Le Corsaire*.

This year, The Royal Ballet will make their international tour to The Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow.

## **BALLET IN THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE LIVE CINEMA SEASON**

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

**Wednesday 16 October 2013**

**Don Quixote**

New Production by Carlos Acosta

**Thursday 12 December 2013**

**The Nutcracker**

Production by Peter Wright

**Monday 27 January 2014**

**Giselle**

Production by Peter Wright

**Wednesday 19 March 2014**

**The Sleeping Beauty**

Production by Monica Mason, Christopher Newton

**Monday 28 April 2014**

**The Winter's Tale**

New Production by Christopher Wheeldon

## **LINBURY STUDIO THEATRE**

- **Two world premieres by Royal Ballet Choreographic Affiliates Alexander Whitley and Mayuri Boonham**
- **London premiere of Royal Ballet co-commission for Ben Wright's bgroup**
- **National Dance Company Wales opens the Season making their debut in the Linbury Studio Theatre**
- **Wendy Whelan curates a unique programme choreographed by four North American based choreographers**

- **Revival of Liam Scarlett's *Hansel and Gretel***
- **Draft Works – Royal Ballet dancers and choreographic affiliates create a new programme of short works**
- **London premiere of new work by Richard Alston for Phoenix Dance Theatre**
- **Company Chameleon Dance Theatre make Linbury Studio debut**
- **Annual season by Ballet Black**
- **HeadSpace Dance make a welcome return**

Echoing the focus of new work on the mainstage, The Royal Ballet presents a vibrant programme of new contemporary choreography in the Linbury Studio Theatre. The Season includes world premieres, co-commissions and existing and new choreographic initiatives together with companies making their debut in the theatre and regular visitors making their return.

**National Dance Company Wales** open the Season in October making their debut in the Linbury Studio Theatre with a mixed bill of new works. Celebrating their 30th anniversary, the programme includes work by celebrated French choreographer **Angelin Preljočaj** and the American choreographer **Stephen Petronio**. Petronio has created a piece set to a score by Academy Award winning composer **Atticus Ross** whose credits include *The Social Network* and *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. NDCW dancer and house choreographer **Eleesha Drennan** also presents *Virtual Descent* set to a dramatic percussion concerto by **Mark Bowden**, resident composer with **BBC National Orchestra of Wales**.

**De Oscuro** make their Linbury Studio Theatre debut with the London premiere of their radical re-invention of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* featuring innovative Welsh choreographer and theatrical dance artist **Eddie Ladd** whose previous works seen in the Linbury Studio Theatre include *Sawn off Scarface*, *Bloduwedd* and *'Côf y Corff/Muscle Memory*. With Eddie Ladd as Lady Macbeth, **Gerald Tyler** as Macbeth and **Gwyn Emberton**, **Matthew Harries** and **Sean Palmer** as the Witches, MacBeth is set to a new score by **Conor Linehan**, an Irish pianist and composer who has written music for concert,

theatre, dance and film working with such companies as the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Abbey Theatre in Dublin.

The Royal Ballet welcomes Jerwood award-winning choreographer **Ben Wright** with his own dance company **bgroup** to the Linbury Studio Theatre in May 2014 for the London premiere of a new work *Spectrum*, co-commissioned by The Royal Ballet. The work is inspired by ideas about colour.

In April and May 2014, Royal Ballet Choreographic Affiliates **Mayuri Boonham** and **Alexander Whitley** will each present performances premiering a new work alongside a programme of their existing choreography. Mayuri Boonham has been at the forefront of contemporary South Asian dance in the UK for the last decade and in this work explores the language of classical ballet. In Whitley's work *The Measures Taken*, he uses cutting-edge technology to track the dancers' movements and create real-time projections.

**Wendy Whelan**, Principal with New York City Ballet and called 'America's greatest ever contemporary ballerina' (*New York Times*), will collaborate with four young North American choreographers **Kyle Abraham**, **Joshua Beamish**, **Brian Brooks** and **Alejandro Cerrudo** to create a suite of duets to be performed by her and each choreographer in July 2014.

In January 2014 **Liam Scarlett**'s full length ballet *Hansel and Gretel* receives its first revival. This dark take on the classic fairytale with designs by **Jon Bausor** is a highlight of the Company's contemporary calendar.

**Draft Works**, the platform for dancers of The Royal Ballet and its choreographic affiliates to create new short choreographic pieces, returns in June 2014 with works in various stages of choreographic development being performed without full sets and costume.

**Phoenix Dance Theatre** returns to the Linbury with 'Particle Velocity', a mixed bill of new work being seen in London for the first time. In *Repetition of Change*, Artistic Director **Sharon Watson**'s new work, the fascinating, intricate world of DNA is placed under the microscope. Set



to a specially commissioned score by renowned composer **Kenneth Hesketh**, volatile, impulsive and often sensual choreography unravels the complexities of our genetic code. Other works in the programme include **Douglas Thorpe's** *Tender, Crazy, Love*, a blistering duet which sees a couple pushed to the extremes of desire – where what pulls them together also threatens to tear them apart. The emerging talent of Spanish choreographer **Jose Agudo** is seen in *Ki*, his first work for Phoenix and inspired by Genghis Khan's extraordinary life. It's a ferocious, ritualistic solo which uses powerful, physical dance to show a man seizing control of his own destiny. The final work is *All Alight* by **Richard Alston**, his first work for Phoenix, set to **Ravel's** *Sonata for violin and cello*.

Other new works in the Linbury Studio include London premieres by **Company Chameleon Dance Theatre** who, making their Linbury Studio Theatre debut, present a double-bill of *Eden* by acclaimed choreographic duo **Goddard Nixon** (2012 Place Prize nominees) set to an original score by **John Matthias**, and *Pictures We Make* by company founders **Anthony Missen** and **Kevin Edward Turner**.

Other returning visitors during the Season are **Ballet Black** in February 2014 with a mixed bill of new choreography, and critically acclaimed **HeadSpace Dance** who launched their company last year with performances in the Linbury Studio Theatre. Dancers, curators and producers **Christopher Akrill** and **Charlotte Broom** bring a programme of works by celebrated choreographers in Spring 2014.

**The London International Mime Festival** will also present performances across two weeks in January 2014.

## **LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT – BALLET AND DANCE**

ROH Learning and Engagement explores new ways of connecting people with ballet and dance through a range of dynamic projects.

**Chance to Dance**, The Royal Ballet's longest running education project, introduces ballet to primary school children in the London Boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark and, since 2012, Thurrock. Each year around 2000 children participate in demonstrations and movement workshops with Royal Ballet dancers in their schools. Children are then selected to attend free weekly classes in their community and have opportunities to come to performances, family days, classes and workshops at the Royal Opera House and to perform with Royal Ballet dancers.

**ROH Learning and Engagement** continues its partnership with **East London Dance**. *Street Stories – Dance Collaborations* is a two year artistic development programme for young artists who are interested in working with dance including choreographers, composers, directors, set, costume and lighting designers, film-makers and digital artists. The artists involved will attend a series of workshops by leading professionals including choreographer **Kate Prince** (Zonation), Lighting designer **Lucy Carter** and Royal Ballet Artist in Residence **Liam Scarlett**. They will then have the opportunity to develop partnerships and create new work. At the end of the project an artistic team will be awarded a major new commission to lead and create the next *Street Stories* project – a large youth project to be performed at the Linbury Studio Theatre and Stratford Circus in 2014.

**Dance Dynamic** is a creative dance teacher training programme for Primary and Secondary school teachers. 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 two 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.

**ROH Learning and Engagement** will also continue to work with **Youth Dance England** on their **Young Creatives** scheme which develops opportunities for young choreographers aged 15-19 with residential weekends, mentoring by established choreographers and the opportunity to have their work performed in the Linbury Studio Theatre.

## **THE ROYAL BALLET 2013/14 SEASON AT A GLANCE**

*Don Quixote* - new production Carlos Acosta  
Monday 30 September - Wednesday 6 November

*Romeo and Juliet* - Kenneth MacMillan  
Saturday 19 October - Saturday 7 December

*Triple Bill*  
Saturday 9 November - Saturday 23 November

- *Chroma* - Wayne McGregor
- World premiere - David Dawson
- *The Rite of Spring* - Kenneth MacMillan

*The Nutcracker* - Peter Wright  
Wednesday 4 December 2013 - Thursday 16 January 2014

*Jewels* - George Balanchine  
Tuesday 17 December 2013 - Tuesday 7 January 2014

*Giselle* - Peter Wright  
Saturday 18 January - Monday 10 February 2014

*Triple Bill*  
Friday 7 February - Saturday 15 February 2014

- *Rhapsody* - Frederick Ashton

- *World Premiere* - Wayne McGregor
- *Gloria* - Kenneth MacMillan

***The Sleeping Beauty*** - Monica Mason and Christopher Newton  
 Saturday 22 February - Wednesday 9 April 2014

***The Winter's Tale*** - New production Christopher Wheeldon  
 Thursday 10 April - Thursday 8 May 2014

***Triple Bill***

Wednesday 14 May - Monday 26 May 2014

- *Serenade* - George Balanchine
- *Sweet Violets* - Liam Scarlett
- *DGV - À Grande Vitesse* - Christopher Wheeldon

***Triple Bill***

Saturday 31 May - Friday 13 June 2014

- *The Dream* - Frederick Ashton
- World Premiere - Alastair Marriott
- *The Concert* - Jerome Robbins

## **THE LINBURY STUDIO THEATRE AT A GLANCE**

**National Dance Company Wales**

Wednesday 30 October - 1 November 2013

**De Oscuro**

Tuesday 12 - Wednesday 13 November 2013

**Company Chameleon Dance Theatre**

Friday 15 - Saturday 16 November 2013

**Phoenix Dance Theatre**

Tuesday 19 - Saturday 23 November 2013

**London International Mime Festival**

Thursday 9 - Saturday 11 and Thursday 30 - Friday 31 January 2014

**The Royal Ballet - *Hansel and Gretel***

Thursday 23 - Tuesday 28 January 2014

**Ballet Black**

Wednesday 26 February - Tuesday 4 March 2014

**HeadSpace Dance**

Wednesday 16 - Thursday 24 April 2014

**Mayuri Boonham (Royal Ballet Choreographic Affiliate)**

Tuesday 29 - Wednesday 30 April 2014

**Ben Wright**

Wednesday 7 - Saturday 10 May 2014

**Alexander Whitley (Royal Ballet Choreographic Affiliate)**

Thursday 15 - Friday 16 May 2014

**Draft Works - Royal Ballet dancers and choreographic affiliates**

June 2014 dates tbc

**Wendy Whelan**

Tuesday 22 - Saturday 26 July 2014

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