



# ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

## PRESS RELEASE

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## NATALIA OSIPOVA TO JOIN THE ROYAL BALLET AS A PRINCIPAL DANCER

**Kevin O'Hare, Director of The Royal Ballet** today announced that the Russian ballerina **Natalia Osipova** will join the Company as a **Principal Dancer** from the 2013/14 Season. Her first performances will be as Juliet in Kenneth MacMillan's *Romeo and Juliet*, partnered by Principal Guest Artist Carlos Acosta.

Kevin O'Hare said "I'm delighted that Natalia will be joining us next Season and look forward to seeing her take on a full range of the Company's heritage and modern repertory. She greatly enjoyed her guest performances with the Company as Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake* with Carlos earlier this Season and she is looking forward to becoming a full member of the Company in the autumn. She is a wonderful addition to our world class roster of Principals."

Natalia Osipova was born in Moscow and started her ballet training at the age of five. At the age of eight she entered the Mikhail Lavrovsky Ballet School and then studied at the Moscow State Academy of Choreography from 1995-2004 with **Marina Kotova** and **Marina Leonova**. After graduating, she entered the **Bolshoi Ballet** as a member of the *corps de ballet* and only a year later was asked to dance the lead role of Kitri in **Alexei Fadyechev's** production of *Don Quixote* for which she was highly acclaimed. In 2010 Osipova was promoted to Principal Dancer with the Bolshoi. The following year she joined the **Mikhailovsky Ballet Company** as a Principal.

Osipova is currently a Principal with both the Mikhailovsky Ballet Company and **American Ballet Theatre**.

Natalia Osipova's professional awards include Grand Prix of the International Ballet Competition in Luxembourg (2003), 3rd prize in the tenth International Ballet Competition in Moscow (2005), the Rising Star prize from the Ballet magazine (Moscow, 2007), the Golden Mask Award as Best Female Dancer for her performance of Twyla Tharp's *In The Upper Room*.

She was also selected "Female Dancer of the Year" by the German magazine *Ballet-Tanz* (Berlin). In 2008 and 2011, she received UK National Dance Awards as Best Female Dancer. In 2008, Natalia was awarded the Positano Dance Award Leonide Massine (Italy). She was also awarded the Special Prize of the Golden Mask jury as well as the Benois de la danse International Dance

Association prize for her interpretation of the roles of Sylphide, Giselle, Medora (*Le Corsaire*), Jeanne (*The Flames of Paris*). She received Grand Prix of the International Dance Open Festival (2011).

The current roster of Royal Ballet Principals is: Carlos Acosta\*, Leanne Benjamin, Federico Bonelli, Alina Cojocar, Lauren Cuthbertson, Mara Galeazzi, Nehemiah Kish, Johan Kobborg, Sarah Lamb, Roberta Marquez, Steven McRae, Laura Morera, Marianela Nuñez, Rupert Pennefather, Thiago Soares, Edward Watson and Zenaida Yanowsky.

\*Principal Guest Artist

-ENDS-

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