



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

MARCH 2014

SUMMER 2014

MAY – JULY

BALLET & DANCE

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SERENADE / SWEET VIOLETS / DGV: DANCE À GRANDE VITESSE

GEORGE BALANCHINE/ LIAM SCARLETT/ CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON

Conductor: Pavel Sorokin

14, 21, 23 May at 7.30pm / 17 May at 12 noon / 24 May at 7pm / 26 May at 1.30pm
and 7pm

George Balanchine's setting to **Tchaikovsky's** score, the similarly named *Serenade for String Orchestra*, was created in 1934 for his students in New York and is arguably the first American ballet. It is plotless, although references to *Swan Lake* and *Giselle* can be detected in its final movement, and a mood of romantic mystery is prevalent throughout. The text incorporates several real life incidents from the rehearsal studio – one girl arrives late to take her place among the rows of dancers; another trips and falls – but its most famous feature is a waltz for the leading couple. The piece will feature debuts from **Melissa Hamilton, Ryoichi Hirano, Natalia Osipova, Olivia Cowley, and Matthew Golding.**

Liam Scarlett's narrative ballet, *Sweet Violets*, premiered at the Royal Opera House in 2012 and now receives its first revival. Based on **Walter Sickert's** obsession with the Jack the Ripper killings and the murder of prostitute Emily Dimmock, which inspired his 'Camden Tower Murder' paintings (1908) and *Jack the Ripper's Bedroom* (1907), the ballet raises questions about obsession, violence and artistic creativity. Set to **Rachmaninoff's** 1893 *Trio élégiaque*, Scarlett's powerful choreography probingly explores the web of fact and fiction that surrounds the Jack the Ripper legend. Principal dancers **Lauren Cuthbertson** as Mary-Jane Kelly and **Rupert Pennefather** as Walter Sickert will make their debuts in this work.

Christopher Wheeldon's popular and critically acclaimed *DGV: Danse à grande vitesse* returns to complete this triple bill. The inspiration for the piece comes from **Michael Nyman's** composition *MGV: Musique à grande vitesse*, written in 1993 to commemorate the inauguration of the French 'Train à Grande Vitesse' 12 years previously. The 26 dancers and electrifying score work together to transport the audience through varying emotional landscapes: from the feeling of being suspended in time and space, to the pulsating rhythm of relentless

movement. Debuting in *DGV: Danse à grande vitesse* will be **Laura Morera, Natalia Osipova, Akane Takada, Tristan Dyer and Tierney Heap.**

SERENADE

Choreography

George Balanchine

Music

Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky

Costume Designs

Barbara Karinska

Lighting design

John B Read

SWEET VIOLETS

Choreography

Liam Scarlett

Music

Sergey Rachmaninoff

Designs

John Macfarlane

Lighting design

David Finn

DGV: DANSE À GRANDE VITESSE

Choreography

Christopher Wheeldon

Music

Michael Nyman

Designs

Jean-Marc Puissant

Lighting design

John B. Read

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

CASTING

SERENADE

14 / 21 / 26 May

Marianela Nuñez, Lauren

Cuthbertson, Melissa

Hamilton*, Matthew Golding*,

Ryoichi Hirano*

17 (mat) / 24 / 26 (mat) May

Sarah Lamb, Natalia Osipova*,

Olivia Cowley*, Rupert

Pennefather, Valeri Hristov

SWEET VIOLETS

14 / 21 / 26 May

Emily Dimmock: **Meaghan Grace**

Hinkis

Mary-Jane Kelly: **Lauren**

Cuthbertson*

Annie E Crook: **Laura Morera**

Marie: **Leanne Cope**

Robert Wood: **Thiago Soares**

Walter Sickert: **Rupert**

Pennefather*

Eddy: **Federico Bonelli**

Jack: **Steven McRae**

17 (mat) / 24 May / 26 (mat)

Emily Dimmock: **Romany Pajdak**

Mary-Jane Kelly: **Laura Morera**

Annie E Crook: **Leanne Cope**

Marie: **Marianela Nuñez**

Robert Wood: **Thomas**

Whitehead

Walter Sickert: **Bennet Gartside**

Eddy: **Ricardo Cervera**

Jack: **Alexander Campbell**

DGV: DANSE À GRANDE VITESSE

14 / 21 / 26 May

Laura Morera*, **Zenaida**

Yanowksy, **Edward Watson**,

Thiago Soares, **Natalia Osipova***,

Marianela Nuñez, **Eric**

Underwood, **Federico Bonelli**

17 (mat) / 24 May / 26 (mat)

Nehemiah Kish, **Tristan Dyer***,

Akane Takada*, **Ryoichi Hirano**,

Tierney Heap*, **Melissa**

Hamilton, **Itziar Mendizabal**,

Rupert Pennefather

***Role Debut**

THE DREAM / NEW ALASTAIR MARRIOTT / THE CONCERT

FREDERICK ASHTON / ALASTAIR MARRIOTT / JEROME ROBBINS

Conductor: Barry Wordsworth

31 May at 7pm / 5, 6, 10, 12, 13 June at 7.30pm

The Dream is a narrative ballet based on **William Shakespeare's** comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, set to **Mendelssohn's** much-loved incidental music arranged by **John Lanchbery**. The ballet was originally created in 1964 as a part of the 400th anniversary celebrations of the birth of Shakespeare. Presenting the wicked games that Oberon and Titania play on hapless mortals and ill-behaved Puck's mischievous interventions, **Frederick Ashton** once again shows his superlative ability to combine wit, humour and pathos with brilliant, inventive characters. Royal Ballet principals **Laura Morera**, **Federico Bonelli**, **Natalia Osipova** and **Matthew Golding** will be making their debuts in this ballet.

British choreographer **Alastair Marriott** has enjoyed critical and audience acclaim with his works created for The Royal Ballet. Following last year's successful 'Trespass' – with Christopher Wheeldon (*Metamorphosis: Titian* 2012), Marriott's fifth main stage work for the Company is set to music by **Arvo Pärt** and sees an exciting collaboration with acclaimed designer **Es Devlin** and lighting designer **Bruno Poet**.

Jerome Robbins's joyous and comedic ballet *The Concert* makes a welcome return to the Covent Garden stage after ten years. Set to music by **Rachmaninoff**, it is a superbly witty spoof of a classical music concert, and of classical ballet itself, providing a brilliant and light hearted finale to this triple bill.

THE DREAM

Choreography

Frederick Ashton

Music

Felix Mendelssohn

Designs

David Walker

Lighting design

John B. Read

ALASTAIR MARRIOTT

Choreography

Music

Set Designs

Lighting design

Alastair Marriott

Arvo Pärt

Es Devlin

Bruno Poet

THE CONCERT

Choreography

Music

Set Designs

Costume Designs

Lighting

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

Jerome Robbins

Fryderyk Chopin, orchestrated

by Clare Grundeman

Saul Steinberg

Irene Sharaff

Jennifer Tipton

CASTING

THE DREAM

31 May / 5 June

Titania: **Roberta Marquez**

Oberon: **Steven McRae**

10 / 13 June

Titania: **Laura Morera***

Oberon: **Federico Bonelli***

6/ 12 June

Titania: **Natalia Osipova***

Oberon: **Matthew Golding***

NEW MARRIOTT

31 May / 5 / 10 / 13 June

Natalia Osipova*, **Edward**

Watson*, **Steven McRae***

6 / 12 June

Sarah Lamb, Ricardo Cervera,

Alexander Campbell

THE CONCERT

TBC

***Role Debut**

INSIGHTS: IN CONVERSATION WITH LAURA MORERA AND RICARDO CERVERA

Wednesday 11 June at 7.30pm

Clore Studio Upstairs

Tickets £13

Join two much-loved dancers of The Royal Ballet as they discuss their careers with the Company.

CUBANÍA

CARLOS ACOSTA

21, 22, 23 July at 7.30pm

Royal Ballet Principal Guest Artist **Carlos Acosta** curates and stars in an exciting mixed programme of dance inspired by his homeland. In the first half of the programme Acosta collaborates with Cuban dance stars **Miguel Altunaga** and **George Céspedes** with the programme featuring new works from both **Russell Maliphant** and the renowned Taiwanese-American choreographer **Edwaard Liang**.

In the second half, Acosta presents his *Tocoroco Suite*, his hugely popular dance work now completely re-imagined for the Royal Opera House main stage. Acosta is joined by members of the acclaimed **Danza Contemporánea de Cuba** with music from a live Cuban house band.

LINBURY STUDIO THEATRE

STREET STORIES

3 May at 2pm and 6pm

Since 2005, Street Stories – a partnership between the Royal Opera House and **East London Dance** – has brought together professional choreographers and composers with young people from East London, to create high-quality new works.

Thirty young East Londoners perform new interpretations of *Faust*, created by emerging artists: choreographer Hannah Anderson-Ricketts, composer Alex Groves and designer Kelli Des Jarlais.

LINBURY STUDIO THEATRE

SIDE BY SIDE

4 May at 5.30pm

Side by Side is an enticing programme of opera and ballet classics performed by young musicians from **Southbank Sinfonia**, mentored by members of the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House and accompanied by singers from the **Jette Parker Young Artists Programme** and dancers from **The Royal Ballet**. The evening is conducted by Royal Ballet Music Director **Barry Wordsworth**, **David Briskin**, Music Director of the National Ballet of Canada, and Royal Opera Répétiteur **Paul Wynne Griffiths**.

LINBURY STUDIO THEATRE

SPRINGBOARD

VERVE: 6 May at 7.45pm

BALLET CENTRAL: 11 May at 7.45pm

RAMBERT SCHOOL: 19 May at 7.45pm

DUTCH NATIONAL BALLET: 28, 29 May at 7.45pm

The Royal Ballet's Springboard series continues with the return of the UK's premiere graduate dance companies – **Verve** and **Ballet Central** – along with the **Rambert School** and, for the first time, the exciting young company of **Dutch National Ballet** – featuring great revivals and new work from company members, as well as leading contemporary choreographers.

LINBURY STUDIO THEATRE

NORTHERN BALLET

8, 9 May at 7.45pm / 10 May at 2pm and 7pm

Northern Ballet makes its first visit to the Royal Opera House with a *Mixed Programme* of short works from both exciting home-grown talent and established European masters. The *Mixed Programme* opens with **Hans van Manen's** erotic *Concertante*, with the warped, bittersweet soundworld of **Frank Martin's** *Petite symphonie concertante* as the inspiration for this potent work.

The second work is **Lar Lubovitch's** *Concerto Six Twenty-Two* marking Northern Ballet's first venture with one of America's leading choreographers. Completing the *Mixed Programme* will be the London première of **Luminous Junc•ture** from **Kenneth Tindall**, a Principal dancer with Northern Ballet. Set to music by **Max Richter**, **Olafur Arnalds** and **Hans Zimmer**, this is Tindall's second choreographic commission for the company.

LINBURY STUDIO THEATRE

DRAFT WORKS

2, 3, 4 June at 7.45pm

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

LINBURY STUDIO THEATRE | MAIN STAGE

THE ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL

Linbury Studio Theatre: 2, 3, 4, July at 7.30pm / 5 July at 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Main Stage: 12 July at 12.30pm

The Royal Ballet School presents a summer showcase of dance designed to display the full range of the Royal Ballet School students' talent.

PAUL HAMLYN HALL

NOBODY'S BABY

27 July at 7.30pm

Award-winning choreographer **Arthur Pita** (*The Metamorphosis*) explores the disturbing phenomenon of 'dance marathons', in which couples laid low by the American Great Depression would dance for thousands of hours in the hope of winning prize money.

A live jazz band will play music by **Frank Moon** (*The Metamorphosis*) in a transformed Paul Hamlyn Hall to accompany Pita's dark, dreamlike picture of these desperate – and enormously popular – 'entertainments'.

LINBURY STUDIO THEATRE

WENDY WHELAN: RESTLESS CREATURE

22, 23, 24, 25, 26 July at 7.45pm

Iconic New York City Ballet Principal **Wendy Whelan** collaborates with exciting young choreographers **Kyle Abraham, Joshua Beamish, Brian Brooks** and **Alejandro Cerrudo** to create a suite of duets which she will perform with each choreographer in turn.

Whelan has been captivating audiences of New York City Ballet for more than 25 years and has been called 'America's greatest contemporary ballerina' (*New York Times*). Her elegant, thrilling movement and her exacting, intelligent approach to performing have inspired many contemporary choreographers.

PRODUCTION PHOTOGRAPHS

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