



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

PRESS RELEASE

9 MAY 2014

**WORLD PREMIERE OF *CONNECTOME*, A NEW
ONE ACT BALLET BY ALASTAIR MARRIOTT,
ALONGSIDE TWO CLASSICS BY FREDERICK
ASHTON AND JEROME ROBBINS**

Saturday 31 May – Friday 13 June

Alastair Marriott's new work *Connectome* receives its world premiere as the centrepiece of this final programme of the Royal Ballet Season surrounded by two light-hearted classics; **Frederick Ashton's** *The Dream*, his celebrated interpretation of **Shakespeare's** *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and **Jerome Robbins's** gloriously funny *The Concert*.

Connectome is Marriott's first commission for The Royal Ballet since *Trespass* for *Metamorphosis: Titian 2012*, a collaboration with Christopher Wheeldon. This new ballet offers another exciting opportunity to see Marriott's distinctive and classically inspired choreography. The name of the work describes the comprehensive map of the neural connections in the brain – a 'wiring diagram'.

With music by **Arvo Pärt** including his 'Lord's Prayer' sung by a boy soprano, the creative talents of award winning designer **Es Devlin** in her first set design for The Royal Ballet, and an immersive installation by lighting designer **Bruno Poet**, this new work is much anticipated. Principal dancers **Natalia Osipova**, **Steven McRae** and **Edward Watson** lead the cast and Music Director **Barry Wordsworth** conducts.

Frederick Ashton's *The Dream* premiered in 1964 and this 50th anniversary revival also coincides with the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth. *The Dream* captures all the comic confusion of Shakespeare's play in inventive choreography with the tempestuous **Oberon** and **Titania**, the high-spirited misadventures of the two pairs of mortal lovers combining with the humorous cavorting of **Bottom**, a role famous for putting a male dancer *en pointe*. **Felix Mendelssohn's** much loved incidental music including the well-known Overture, *Scherzo*, *Nocturne* and *Wedding March* provides a perfect partner to Ashton's choreography.

The final work in the programme is Jerome Robbins's *The Concert*. A brilliantly funny piece exposing the wandering thoughts and desires of an audience at a *Chopin* piano recital, the result is a beautifully crafted spoof of a classical music concert and even of classical ballet itself. *The Concert* had its premiere in New York in 1956 and entered the repertory of The Royal Ballet in 1975. Robbins, famous for his Oscar-winning choreography of the original *West Side Story*, brings his unique and imaginative choreographic flair to this humorous piece.

-ENDS-

THE DREAM - FREDERICK ASHTON

CONNECTOME - ALASTAIR MARRIOTT

THE CONCERT - JEROME ROBBINS

Saturday 31 May – Friday 13 June, Royal Opera House

Evening Performance at 7.00pm

Saturday 31 May

Evening Performances at 7.30pm

Thursday 5, Friday 6, Tuesday 10, Thursday 12, Friday 13 June at 7.30pm

BOX OFFICE

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Generous philanthropic support from Lindsay and Sarah Tomlinson, Celia Blakey and Kristina Rogge (The Dream); Sarah and Lloyd Dorfman and Marina Hobson OBE (Connectome); and The Fonteyn Circle (The Concert)

CASTING

THE DREAM

31 May at 7pm, 5 June at 7.30pm

Titania	Roberta Marquez
Oberon	Steven McRae

6 and 12 June at 7.30pm

Titania	Natalia Osipova*
Oberon	Matthew Golding*

10 and 13 June at 7.30pm

Titania	Laura Morera*
Oberon	Federico Bonelli*

CONNECTOME

31 May at 7pm, 5, 10, 13 June at 7.30pm

Natalia Osipova*

Steven McRae*

Edward Watson*

6 and 12 June at 7.30pm

Sarah Lamb*

Alexander Campbell*

Ricardo Cervera*

THE CONCERT

All performances

Ballerina	Lauren Cuthbertson *
Wife	Laura Morera*
Husband	Bennet Gartside*
Shy Boy	James Wilkie*

*Debut performance

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