



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

3 MARCH 2014

**CHOREOGRAPHER MAYURI BOONHAM PREMIERES  
NEW WORK WITH DANCERS OF THE ROYAL BALLET**

**29 and 30 April 2014**

**Linbury Studio Theatre, The Royal Opera House**

**Mayuri Boonham**, Choreographic Affiliate of the Royal Ballet Studio Programme, brings two new works to the Linbury Studio Theatre based on contemporary and ancient questioning about the origins of the Universe. Commissioned by The Royal Ballet Studio Programme and Pavilion Dance South West, the double-bill includes a premiere of a new work featuring Royal Ballet dancers **Yuhui Choe** and **Kenta Kura**.

*Ex Nihilo* ('out of nothing') is inspired by the *Hymn of Creation* from the sacred Hindu text Rig Veda. The piece is set against recordings taken from the CERN Large Hadron Collider in a sound installation by American artist **Bill Fontana**, and is performed by ATMA company dancers.

Dancers of The Royal Ballet will perform in *The Human Edge*, based on the story of Sati the first goddess, who appears at the start of the mythological moment of creation. The piece features music by Delhi based electronica duo **Midival Punditz**, and will be danced by Royal Ballet First Soloist **Yuhui Choe** and Soloist **Kenta Kura**. The pair of conceptually complementary works will run back to back as a contrasting evening of innovative dance.

Choreography and artistic direction: **Mayuri Boonham**

Lighting design: **Guy Hoare**

Costume design: **Tsukamoto Yukiko**

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## NOTES TO EDITORS:

### Royal Ballet Affiliate Choreographers

Over the last two years the Royal Opera House has been supporting the careers of The Royal Ballet Studio Programme Affiliate Choreographers **Alexander Whitley** and **Mayuri Boonham**, offering access to Royal Ballet dancers, rehearsal space and mentoring to create new works. 2014 marks the culmination of the Affiliate Choreographers' Programme with the debut performance of these works in the Linbury Studio Theatre.

### Mayuri Boonham

In September 2012 Mayuri was appointed Choreographic Affiliate of the Royal Ballet Studio Programme, and at the ROH has since presented work as part of Draftworks and the Deloitte Ignite Festival. She was joint director of Angika Dance Company (1998 – 2008) and a Choreographer-in-Residence at The Place (2004 – 2006). Drawing on her upbringing in multicultural Britain, she has worked on projects with mentoring by artists such as Jonathan Burrows, Russell Maliphant and Wayne McGregor, and is the Director of **ATMA Dance** which presents inspirational contemporary work using classical Bharata Natyam movement.

*Ex Nihilo/The Human Edge* will tour in Autumn 2014.

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