



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

PRESS RELEASE

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**ROYAL OPERA HOUSE ANNOUNCES THREE MORE
ROH LINKS ORGANISATIONS**

Following a thorough search process in collaboration with Arts Council England, the Royal Opera House is delighted to announce that it will partner a further three companies for the second year of the ROH Links scheme. **Mid Wales Opera** based in Newtown Powys, **The Garage Trust**, a performing arts centre in Norwich, and Farnham's **Stopgap Dance Company** join Huddersfield's **Balbir Singh Dance Company**, **The Opera Group**, based in Windsor, and **Pavilion Dance South West** located in Bournemouth and operating across the South West of England.

ROH Links is one part of a broader scheme entitled ROH Connections which is offered by the Royal Opera House to arts organisations to support them by sharing knowledge, experience and skills.

Alex Beard, Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House, said:

"I am delighted that we are entering into a relationship with three very different organisations for the second year of this scheme. I know that we have gained enormously from our association with the first three companies we have partnered with and this combination of touring opera and dance companies and an arts venue has been a good mix for the first year of ROH Links. We now have a clearer idea how we can best assist the companies and we are always hungry to learn from their experiences

too. It also demonstrates in another way how we are contributing more widely as a resource for the nation.”

The Royal Opera House currently shares skills and best practice with other organizations through our Associate programmes, and through participation in industry bodies and arts consortia. This programme aims to build on the relationships we already hold with performing arts organizations, and allows us to work with some Arts Council National Portfolio Organizations to build their sustainability and impact by sharing our expertise in a variety of disciplines.

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS

ROH Links

This programme connects small and medium-sized opera, dance and/or ballet organizations with expertise within the Royal Opera House over a one- or two-year period. This expertise is based around arts management and/or technical areas, and allows the ROH to share more widely and formally the skills and expertise of staff.

Mid Wales Opera

Mid Wales Opera has at its core a belief in bringing the very best opera in accessible, entertaining and high quality productions to small and mid-scale theatres across England and Wales, offering many people their only opportunity to experience live opera performance in a venue close to home. Running alongside this is a desire to support young opera professionals and contribute to the development of artists as well as audiences. Providing employment opportunities for young opera singers at the beginning of their careers has always been fundamental to the mission of Mid Wales Opera and remains a key area of our activity. In 2014 the company is celebrating its 25th anniversary with two new productions: Handel's *Acis and Galatea* opened to great critical acclaim in Cardiff at the end of January and will tour throughout the year, and in the autumn Jonathan Miller directs *Carmen* in a new performing version for chamber ensemble commissioned from Stephen McNeff.

The Garage Trust

The Garage is a dynamic performing arts venue, based in the heart of Norwich, committed to supporting artists and young people at every stage

of their creative development. It provides live performances, creative classes, professional training and space for hire and works beyond its building base in partnership to deliver strategic initiatives for artists, young people, schools and organizations. More information about The Garage can be found at www.thegarage.org.uk.

Stopgap Dance Company

Stopgap Dance Company creates original dance productions with exceptional disabled and non-disabled dancers. Our work is fuelled by the new and exciting possibilities that arise from the dialogue between distinctive individuals. Stopgap Dance Company's productions are devised by our dancers and collaborators working as an ensemble under the artistic direction of Lucy Bennett. Together they make evocative work for national and international touring.

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