



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

JUNE 2014

**NEW YORK CITY BALLET STAR WENDY WHELAN  
BRINGS EUROPEAN PREMIERE OF NEW WORK TO THE  
LINBURY STUDIO THEATRE**

**Wendy Whelan: Restless Creature**

The Linbury Studio Theatre

22 – 26 July 2014 at 7.45pm



New York City Ballet principal dancer **Wendy Whelan** performs new collaborations with exciting young choreographers **Kyle Abraham, Joshua Beamish, Brian Brooks** and **Alejandro Cerrudo**, in the European premiere of *Restless Creature*, a series of duets performed with the choreographers themselves.

**Wendy Whelan** recently announced her forthcoming retirement as a classical ballerina to focus on choreography and contemporary dance. She has been captivating audiences of New York City Ballet for more than 25 years and is regarded as ‘America’s greatest contemporary ballerina’ (*New York Times*). Her elegant, thrilling movement and her exacting, intelligent approach to performing have inspired many contemporary choreographers. The combination of diverse choreographic styles and Whelan’s vivid individuality makes *Restless Creature* an unmissable summer highlight.

With music spanning from **Max Richter** and **Philip Glass** to **Hauschka & Hildur Guðnadóttir**, each duet offers a distinct experience of Whelan's unique and contemporary style in a thrilling collaboration with some of the most exciting emerging names in contemporary choreography. The European premiere of *Restless Creature* offers a rare opportunity to see Whelan perform in London.

Whelan comments "Throughout my career, some of my most exciting moments have happened in the rehearsal studio, creating a new work with a great choreographer. I thrive on the challenge, the exchange, the collaboration and the discovery."

In addition to the forthcoming performances of *Restless Creature*, Wendy Whelan will be creating a new evening of work with Royal Ballet Principal **Edward Watson** to be premiered in the Linbury Studio Theatre in July 2015.

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#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

#### **Wendy Whelan: *Restless Creature***

22 – 26 July 2014 at 7.45pm

**Linbury Studio Theatre**

**BOX OFFICE** Telephone - 0207 304 4000 / book online at [www.roh.org.uk](http://www.roh.org.uk)

#### **Programme**

*First Fall* by Brian Brooks

*The Serpent and the Smoke* by Kyle Abraham

*Waltz Epoca* by Joshua Beamish

*Ego Et Tu* by Alejandro Cerrudo

Lighting is by **Joe Levasseur**, costumes are by **Karen Young**, and creative direction is by **David Michalek**.

#### **THE ROYAL BALLET STUDIO PROGRAMME**

The Linbury Studio Theatre is programmed by The Royal Ballet and The Royal Opera as part of the Royal Opera House Season. The Royal Ballet's Studio Programme aims to build coherence across dance performances on the main stage, in the Linbury and in other spaces. This new strand of work includes a variety of choreographic projects involving both young and established choreographers and dancers from inside the Company and from the wider dance community.

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Wendy Whelan** was promoted to principal dancer of New York City Ballet in 1991. She has originated featured roles in 13 ballets for Christopher Wheeldon, and in the ballets of William Forsythe, Alexei Ratmansky, Wayne McGregor, Jorma Elo, Shen Wei and Twyla Tharp. In 2007, Whelan was nominated for an Olivier Award and a Critics Circle Award for her performances with Morphoses/Wheeldon Company, and was honoured with The Jerome Robbins Award and a Bessie Award for her Sustained Achievement in Performance in 2011.

**Kyle Abraham**, began his dance training at the Civic Light Opera Academy and the Creative and Performing Arts High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He received a BFA from SUNY Purchase and an MFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. In November 2012, Abraham was named the newly appointed New York Live Arts Resident Commissioned Artist for 2012-2014. Abraham was named the 2012 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award recipient and 2012 USA Ford Fellow. He received a Bessie Award for Outstanding Performance in Dance for his work in *The Radio Show*, a Princess Grace Award for Choreography in 2010, and was selected as one of *Dance Magazine's* 25 To Watch for 2009. He was named a MacArthur Fellow in 2013.

Canadian-born, New York-based choreographer **Joshua Beamish** is the Artistic Director of MOVE:, a Canadian-American non-profit company bringing Beamish's original works to audiences at premiere festivals and halls throughout North America, Asia and Europe. Beamish is an alumnus of the New York Choreographic Institute, a New York City Ballet affiliate, a Jerome Robbins Foundation grantee, and the current National Incubator Artist-in-Residence at the American Dance Institute.

Choreographer **Brian Brooks** was awarded with a 2013 Guggenheim Fellowship. He is a recipient of the NY City Center Fellowship (2012-2013), the Jerome Robbins New Essential Works Grant (2013) and the Joyce Theater's Artist Residency (2013-2014). Brooks has been commissioned by the Vail International Dance Festival for three consecutive years to create new works featuring principal dancers from NYC Ballet. His dance group, the Brian Brooks Moving Company, has toured throughout the US, South Korea and in Germany, and was recently presented by BAM in their 2013 Next Wave Festival.

Born in Madrid, Spain, **Alejandro Cerrudo** received his training at the Real Conservatorio Profesional de Danza de Madrid. After becoming a professional dancer in 1998 Cerrudo's dance career has been shaped by companies such as Victor Ullate Ballet, Stuttgart Ballet, Nederlands Dans Theater 2, and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. In 2008 Cerrudo was named Hubbard Street Choreographic Fellow and became the company's first Resident Choreographer in 2009. He has created several works for Hubbard Street, including collaborations with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Nederlands Dans Theater. Cerrudo's works are being performed by dance companies worldwide.

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