



ROYAL  
BALLET

30 JULY 2015

PRESS RELEASE

**ROMANCE AND TRAGEDY: THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
MACMILLAN'S MASTERPIECE *ROMEO AND JULIET***

Saturday 19 September – Wednesday 2 December

Live Cinema Relay and BP Big Screen on Tuesday 22 September



The Royal Ballet 2015/16 Season opens this September with the return of **Kenneth MacMillan's** landmark *Romeo and Juliet*, celebrating 50 years since its premiere at the Royal Opera House in 1965. This most romantic of all ballets will relay live to cinemas on Tuesday 22 September 2015.

Originally created on **Lynn Seymour** and **Christopher Gable**, it was **Margot Fonteyn** and **Rudolf Nureyev** who danced the 1965 premiere, receiving 43 curtain calls and propelling the partnership to legendary heights.

Set to **Sergei Prokofiev's** emotionally charged score, MacMillan's *Romeo and Juliet* is regarded as a ballet masterpiece and features three passionate pas de deux: the lovers' first meeting, the famous balcony scene and the devastating final tragedy when Romeo dances desperately with the lifeless Juliet.

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**Nicholas Georgiadis'** sumptuous designs perfectly evoke Renaissance-era Verona, from the bustling Italian marketplace of the ballet's opening scenes and high-octane sword fights, to the decadent masked ball where the star-crossed lovers first meet.

Over the past 50 years there have been a number of legendary partnerships dancing the lead roles; **Anthony Dowell** and **Antoinette Sibley**, **Jonathan Cope** with **Sylvie Guillem** and **Darcey Bussell**, **Alessandra Ferri** and **Wayne Eagling**, and more recently **Carlos Acosta** with **Tamara Rojo**. This season's exciting role debuts include **Matthew Golding**, **Nehemiah Kish** and **Vadim Muntagirov** as Romeo. **Francesca Hayward**, who was recently promoted to First Soloist, will debut as Juliet, as will Royal Ballet Soloist **Yasmine Naghdi** who dances opposite First Artist **Matthew Ball** in his debut as Romeo. Guest Artist **Iana Salenko** returns to dance the role of Juliet for the first time, opposite Royal Ballet Principal **Steven McRae**.

*Romeo and Juliet* will be screened as part of the Royal Opera House Live Cinema Season 2015/16 on Tuesday 22 September, with encore performances the following Sunday 27 September. *Romeo and Juliet* will also be relayed live to BP Big Screens across the UK on Tuesday 22 September.

Québécois dance company **Cas Public** present their vibrant contemporary reimagining of *Romeo and Juliet* titled *Symphonie Dramatique*, 23 September – 26 September, in the Linbury Studio Theatre. This will be the company's Royal Opera House debut and is staged as part of Deloitte Ignite 2015.

- ENDS -

*Romeo and Juliet* is generously supported by Peter Lloyd, Lindsay and Sarah Tomlinson and the Jean Sainsbury Royal Opera House Fund.

### **Image credits, left to right:**

- Federico Bonelli and Lauren Cuthbertson in Romeo and Juliet. Photo Bill Cooper, courtesy ROH
- Margot Fonteyn and Rudolph Nureyev rehearsing ahead of the premiere of Romeo and Juliet. Photo Frederika Davis
- Steven McRae as Romeo. Photo ROH / Johan Persson, 2013

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Choreography	<b>Kenneth MacMillan</b>
Music	<b>Sergey Prokofiev</b>
Designer	<b>Nicholas Georgiadis</b>
Lighting designer	<b>John B. Read</b>

**Koen Kessels** conducts the **Orchestra of the Royal Opera House**.

### **Romeo and Juliet** **Saturday 19 September – Wednesday 2 December** **Royal Opera House**

19 September at 7pm  
22\*, 24, 26 September at 7.30pm  
1 October at 2pm and 7.30pm  
3 October at 12.30pm  
9, 23, 29 October at 7.30pm  
17 October at 7pm  
3, 5, 11, 20, 23 November at 7.30pm  
1, 2 December at 7.30pm

\*Live Cinema Relay and BP Big Screen  
The performance lasts approximately 3 hours, including 2 intervals.

### **Box Office:**

0207 304 4000  
[www.roh.org.uk](http://www.roh.org.uk)  
Royal Opera House, London WC2E 9DD

Tickets £6 - £127

## CASTING

19 Sept / 22 Sept <sup>†</sup>	<b>Sarah Lamb, Rupert Pennefather</b>
22 Sept (mat) / 3 Oct (mat)	<b>Yasmine Naghdi*, Matthew Ball*</b>
24 Sept / 3 Nov / 23 Nov	<b>Iana Salenko*, Steven McRae</b>
26 Sept / 1 Oct (mat) / 11 Nov	<b>Natalia Osipova, Vadim Muntagirov*</b>
1 Sept / 9 Oct / 17 Oct	<b>Lauren Cuthbertson, Federico Bonelli</b>
23 Oct / 5 Nov	<b>Francesca Hayward*, Matthew Golding*</b>
29 Oct / 2 Dec	<b>Roberta Marquez, Nehemiah Kish*</b>
20 Nov/ 1 Dec	<b>Marianela Nuñez, Thiago Soares</b>

\*Role Debut

<sup>†</sup>Live Cinema Relay, Tuesday 22 September

## **INSIGHT: Spotlight on *Romeo and Juliet***

Tuesday 22 September at 7.30pm

Linbury Studio Theatre

As **Kenneth MacMillan's** *Romeo and Juliet* takes to the main stage and **Cas Public's** *Symphonie Dramatique* (inspired by *Romeo and Juliet*) opens in the Linbury Studio Theatre, **Hélène Blackburn** (Artistic Director of Cas Public) and special guests explore why William Shakespeare's iconic play is such a potent source of inspiration for artists.

Featuring excerpts danced by members of The Royal Ballet and Cas Public.

£17/£7

## ***Romeo and Juliet* pre-performance talks**

24 September 2015, 6.30pm-7pm

9 October 2015, 6.30pm-7pm

29 October 2015, 6.30pm-7pm

Clore Studio Upstairs

A fascinating introduction to the production before curtain up.

£5/£2.50

## **BP Big Screens**

BP Big Screens are free outdoor relays broadcast live from the Royal Opera House to locations across the UK. [roh.org.uk/about/bp-big-screens](http://roh.org.uk/about/bp-big-screens)

## **Deloitte Ignite 3-27 September 2015**

The annual Deloitte Ignite festival is a mix of events taking place inside the Royal Opera House and the Covent Garden Piazza. This year will feature a range of ground-breaking projections, internationally renowned street performers, workshops for people of all ages and specially commissioned work and performances. [roh.org.uk/about/deloitte-ignite](http://roh.org.uk/about/deloitte-ignite)

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