



ROYAL BALLET

NOVEMBER 2015

For Immediate Release

ROBERTA MARQUEZ TO LEAVE THE ROYAL BALLET

Principal dancer **Roberta Marquez** is to leave the Company after 11 years. Her last performance this Season will be in Kenneth MacMillan's *Romeo and Juliet* on Wednesday 2 December. Marquez will return as a Guest Artist in one production next Season.

Roberta Marquez joined The Royal Ballet as Principal in 2004 and has danced all the main classical roles, as well as a wide variety of Ashton, MacMillan and Balanchine repertory.

Roberta Marquez comments, 'I have greatly enjoyed my time with The Royal Ballet and it's been a privilege to dance so many of the roles that every female ballet dancer aspires to perform. I'm looking forward to pursuing new career opportunities and the chance to return next Season to dance one of my favourite roles'.

Director of The Royal Ballet Kevin O'Hare adds, 'Roberta has been a greatly valued member of the Company these past 11 years. She has given many wonderful performances, enjoying notable success with the major classics as well as demonstrating fine dramatic qualities in ballets such as *Manon* and *Romeo and Juliet*. The warmth of her personality has been particularly evident in her exuberant performances as Lise in *La Fille mal gardée*, memorably relayed worldwide to cinemas in 2012. We wish her well for the future and are delighted to welcome her back as a Guest Artist for one of our productions in the 2016/17

Season when we will have the opportunity to celebrate her career with The Royal Ballet.’

Born in Rio de Janeiro, Marquez trained at the Maria Olenwena State Dance School where she studied with Tatiana Leskova, former star of the Ballets Russes de Monte Carlo. In 1994 she joined the Municipal Theatre Ballet in Brazil and was promoted to principal in 2002. After appearing as a Guest Artist with The Royal Ballet in productions of *The Sleeping Beauty* and *La Bayadère* by Natalia Makarova, with whom she had worked in Brazil, Marquez was invited by Monica Mason, then Director, to join the Company in 2004.

Ends

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