



ROYAL
BALLET

7 JANUARY 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BALLET WORLD PREMIERE

***STRAPLESS* BY CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON**

Friday 12 February – Friday 11 March

Tickets £4 - £67 roh.org.uk



Strapless is **Christopher Wheeldon's** latest work for The Royal Ballet and is inspired by the scandalous *Portrait of Madame X* painted by **John Singer Sargent** in 1884. *Strapless* is part of a Wheeldon mixed programme that also includes two works new to the Company, *After the Rain* and *Within the Golden Hour*. Wheeldon is regarded as one of the world's leading choreographers and was awarded an **Order of the British Empire (OBE)** in the **2016 New Year's Honours**.

Strapless is Wheeldon's eighth work for The Royal Ballet and is inspired by **Deborah Davis's** book which explores the background to Sargent's infamous painting of *Madame X* unveiled at the 1884 Paris Salon. With one strap painted hanging suggestively off her shoulder, the portrait shocked Parisian society and humiliated the beautiful and sophisticated society belle **Virgine Amélie Gautreau**. Sargent hastily repainted the portrait, but by that point Gautreau had been outcast by society, her reputation in ruins. Featuring a new score by **Mark-Anthony Turnage**, designs by **Bob Crowley** and lighting by **Natasha Chivers**, *Strapless* follows Wheeldon's critically acclaimed productions of *The Winter's Tale* and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

Royal Ballet Principal Dancers **Edward Watson** and **Natalia Osipova** lead the cast as John Singer Sargent and Virgine Amélie Gautreau. Casting also includes **Federico**

Bonelli and **Matthew Ball**. **Lauren Cuthbertson** and **Valeri Hristov** lead the second cast.

This all Wheeldon celebration also includes two works originally created for American ballet companies and which now enter The Royal Ballet repertory for this first time this Season. *After the Rain*, created for **New York City Ballet** in 2005 is a ballet in two halves with an intricate sextet set to **Arvo Pärt's** *Tabula Rasa* and a hauntingly nuanced *pas de deux* set to Pärt's *Spiegel im Spiegel*. *Within the Golden Hour* was created for **San Francisco Ballet** in 2008. Set to music by **Ezio Bosso** the ballet presents a series of intricately crafted duets and ensembles of contrasting colours and tones.

-- ENDS--

NOTES TO EDITORS:

After the Rain / Strapless / Within the Golden Hour

Friday 12 February – Friday 11 March, Royal Opera House

Generous philanthropic support from the Wheeldon Triple Bill Production Syndicate.

Evening Performances at 7.30pm

Friday 12 February, Tuesday 16 February, Wednesday 17 February, Friday 19 February. Thursday 10 March, Friday 11 March at 7.30pm

Matinee Performances:

Saturday 13 February at 12.30pm

Box Office:

0207 304 4000

www.roh.org.uk

Tickets £4 - £67

Photography credits, L-R

Detail of *Madame X* (Madame Pierre Gautreau), 1883-84, Sargent, John Singer, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA ©Bridgeman Images

STRAPLESS

Choreography

Music

Designs

Lighting Design

Christopher Wheeldon

Mark Anthony Turnage

Bob Crowley

Natasha Chivers

Casting

12 Feb / 16 Feb / 19 Feb / 11 Mar

Natalia Osipova, Edward Watson,

Federico Bonelli, Matthew Ball

13 Feb (mat) / 17 Feb / 10 Mar

Lauren Cuthbertson, Valeri

Hristov, Nicol Edmonds, Calvin

Richardson

AFTER THE RAIN

12 Feb / 16 Feb / 19 Feb / 11 Mar

Marianela Nuñez, Thiago Soares,

Claire Calvert, Nehemiah Kish,

Itziar Mendizabal, Eric

Underwood

13 Feb (mat) / 17 Feb / 10 Mar

Zenaida Yanowsky, Matthew

Golding, Olivia Cowley, Tomas

Mock, Tierney Heap, Nicol

Edmonds

WITHIN THE GOLDEN HOUR

12 Feb / 16 Feb / 19 Feb / 11 Mar

Sarah Lamb, Steven McRae,

Lauren Cuthbertson, Matthew

Golding, Beatriz Stix-Brunell,

Vadim Muntagirov

13 Feb (mat) / 17 Feb / 10 Mar

Akane Takada, Tristan Dyer,

Francesca Hayward, Laura

Morera, Alexander Campbell

After the Rain, Strapless and *Within the Golden Hour* are conducted by
Koen Kessels with the **Orchestra of the Royal Opera House**

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