



ROYAL
BALLET

SHAKESPEARE400

7 FEBRUARY 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***THE WINTER'S TALE RETURNS TO
THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE AS PART OF THE
SHAKESPEARE400 CELEBRATIONS***

Tuesday 12 April–Friday 10 June



Following its universally acclaimed premiere in 2014, **Christopher Wheeldon's** *The Winter's Tale* receives its first revival this April. Regarded as one of his finest works, *The Winter's Tale* was nominated for an **Olivier Award** for Outstanding Achievement in Dance and won the **2014 Critics' Circle National Dance Award** for Best Classical Choreography.

Wheeldon's version of **William Shakespeare's** powerful play was the first three-act adaptation of the Bard's work since **Kenneth MacMillan's** 1965 production of *Romeo and Juliet*. This year it forms part of the **Shakespeare400** celebrations marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death on 23 April, coordinated by the **London Shakespeare Centre** and **Culture at King's College London**.

In addition to the two original casts from the ballet's premiere, a new cast will also make their debuts in the principal roles. **Claire Calvert** and **Thiago Soares** make their debuts as Hermione and Leontes, and **Francesca Hayward** and **James Hay** as Perdita and Florizel.

The story follows the destruction of a marriage through consuming jealousy, the abandonment of a child and a seemingly hopeless love. Yet, through remorse and regret, the ending is one of forgiveness and reconciliation. With powerful designs by **Bob Crowley** and atmospheric music by **Joby Talbot**, *The Winter's Tale* continues

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Supported using public funding by
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The Royal Ballet's commitment to creating classic ballets for the 21st century.

Christopher Wheeldon is Artistic Associate of The Royal Ballet. His works with the Company include *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Aeternum* and *Strapless*, which received its world premiere this February.

-- ENDS --

Notes to Editors

The Winter's Tale is a co-production with **The National Ballet of Canada**.

Generous philanthropic support from Anna and Moshe Kantor, Lindsay and Sarah Tomlinson, The Royal Opera House Endowment Fund and The Friends of Covent Garden.

Christopher Wheeldon's position as Artistic Associate is generously supported by Kenneth and Susan Green.

The Winter's Tale

Tuesday 12 April–Friday 10 June

12, 13, 18, 20, 21, 27, 28 April at 7.30pm / 16 April at 12.30pm / 30 April at 1.30pm & 7.00pm / 21 May at 7.00pm / 1 June at 7.30pm / 4 June at 12.30pm / 7 June 2.00pm & 7.30pm

Tickets £5–£117

BOX OFFICE

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www.roh.org.uk

Royal Opera House, London WC2E 9DD

CREATIVE TEAM

Choreography	Christopher Wheeldon
Music	Joby Talbot
Designer	Bob Crowley
Lighting Designer	Natasha Katz
Projection Designer	Daniel Brodie
Silk Effect Designer	Basil Twist

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

Conducted by David Briskin (12–30 April) and Tom Seligman (21 May–10 June)

CASTING

Hermione, Leontes

Perdita, Florizel

Paulina, Polixenes

12 Apr / 21 Apr / 27 Apr / 21 May /
7 Jun (eve) / 10 Jun

Lauren Cuthbertson, Edward Watson
Sarah Lamb, Steven McRae
Zenaida Yanowsky, Federico Bonelli

13 Apr / 18 Apr / 28 Apr / 30 Apr (eve)
/ 1 Jun

Marianela Nuñez, Bennet Gartside
Beatriz Stix-Brunell, Vadim Muntagirov
Laura Morera, Valeri Hristov

16 Apr (mat) / 20 Apr

Claire Calvert*, Thiago Soares*
Francesca Hayward*, James Hay*
Christina Arestis*, Ryoichi Hirano*

30 Apr (mat) / 7 Jun (mat)

Claire Calvert, Thiago Soares
Francesca Hayward, James Hay
Itziar Mendizabal*, Ryoichi Hirano

*Role debut

Images L–R

Marianela Nuñez as Hermione

Artists of The Royal Ballet

Lauren Cuthbertson as Hermione, Edward Watson as Leontes

Sarah Lamb as Perdita, Steven McRae as Florizel

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Further images are available to download here: <http://bit.ly/ROHwinterstale>

Shakespeare400

These performances are part of the **Shakespeare400** celebrations, coordinated by the **London Shakespeare Centre and Culture at King's College London** to celebrate the 400 year legacy of **William Shakespeare**.

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