



ROYAL  
BALLET

11 APRIL 2017

## **Casting Announcement**

### **Alessandra Ferri, Roberto Bolle and Sergei Polunin return to dance in Frederick Ashton's masterpiece *Marguerite and Armand***

*The Dream / Symphonic Variations / Marguerite and Armand*

Tuesday 2 – Saturday 10 June 2017

BP Big Screen and ROH Live Cinema Screening Wednesday 7 June

In June The Royal Ballet presents a programme of one-act ballets by Frederick Ashton, the Company's founding choreographer. The programme features his classic ballet *Marguerite and Armand* performed by Royal Ballet Principals **Zenaida Yanowsky, Natalia Osipova and Federico Bonelli** with guest performances by **Roberto Bolle, Sergei Polunin and Alessandra Ferri**. The programme also includes Ashton's *The Dream* and *Symphonic Variations*.

Royal Ballet Principals performing in the Ashton mixed programme include **Alexander Campbell, Lauren Cuthbertson, Sarah Lamb, Steven McRae, Vadim Muntagirov, Laura Morera and Marianela Nuñez**, with exciting role debuts in *The Dream* by **Francesca Hayward** as Titania and **Alexander Campbell and Marcelino Sambé** as Oberon.

**Kevin O'Hare**, Director of The Royal Ballet, comments: 'Frederick Ashton created the distinctive English balletic style so treasured by The Royal Ballet. These one-act masterpieces demonstrate his impressive talent and legacy and I'm especially delighted that **Alessandra Ferri, Roberto Bolle and Sergei Polunin** return to guest with The Royal Ballet alongside our wonderful Principals in what promises to be a series of very special performances.'

*The Dream* was created in 1964 to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shakespeare's birth. Ashton distilled the play into a single act and cast two young dancers, **Anthony Dowell** and **Antoinette Sibley**, as Oberon and Titania which proved to be the start of one of the most celebrated partnerships of 20<sup>th</sup> century ballet. Sarah Lamb and Steven McRae perform the roles of Titania and Oberon at opening night and at the live cinema relay. This revival also features role debuts by Francesca Hayward, dancing with Marcelino Sambé, and Alexander Campbell, paired with Laura Morera.

*Symphonic Variations* is one of Ashton's greatest works and is a celebrated homage to pure dance. The ballet was the first work that Ashton created for the Company when they took up residence in the Royal Opera House after the war in 1946 and features music by César Franck, with designs by Sophie Fedorovitch. Leading the ballet are two casts including Marianela Nuñez and Vadim Muntagirov, who feature in the live cinema relay, and Lauren Cuthbertson and **Reece Clarke**.

*Marguerite and Armand* was created for **Margot Fonteyn**, Ashton's long-term muse, and **Rudolf Nureyev** in 1963 to showcase their special chemistry and is based on **Alexandre Dumas's** novel *La Dame aux camélias*. Roberto Bolle will dance the role of Armand with Zenaïda Yanowsky as Marguerite, her final performances as a Principal at the Royal Opera House after a 23 year career with the Company. Yanowsky and Bolle will also dance on Wednesday 7 June as part of the ROH Live Cinema and BP Big Screen performance. Former Royal Ballet Principal Alessandra Ferri, who reprised her role in *Wolf Works* earlier this year, will dance with Federico Bonelli, and Natalia Osipova will dance with former Royal Ballet Principal Sergei Polunin.

- Ends-

Frederick Ashton was the founding choreographer of The Royal Ballet and is regarded as one of the world's greatest and most distinctive choreographers of the 20th century. Ashton's career spanned over 40 years (1938-1980) and during this period he created many Royal Ballet masterpieces including *Cinderella*, *La Fille mal gardée*, *Symphonic Variations* and *Scènes de ballet*.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

*The Dream / Symphonic Variations / Marguerite and Armand*  
Tuesday 2 – Saturday 10 June 2017

Performances: 2 / 4 / 7\* / 8 / 10 June at 7.30pm and 3 June at 12.30pm

BOX OFFICE

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[www.roh.org.uk](http://www.roh.org.uk)

The Royal Opera House, London WC2E 9DD

Tickets £4 - £80

\*ROH Live Cinema / BP Big Screen 7 June.

BP Big Screens are live, free outdoor relays across the UK  
Further information - <http://www.roh.org.uk/about/bp-big-screens>

## THE DREAM

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Choreography        | Frederick Ashton  |
| Music               | Felix Mendelssohn |
| Musical Arrangement | John Lanchbery    |
| Designer            | David Walker      |
| Lighting Designer   | John.B.Read       |

## SYMPHONIC VARIATIONS

|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| Choreography | Frederick Ashton |
| Music        | César Franck     |

Designer Sophie Fedorovitch

Lighting Designer John.B.Read

### **MARGUERITE AND ARMAND**

Choreography Frederick Ashton

Music Franz List

Designer Cecil Beaton

Lighting Designer John.B.Read

Solo Piano Robert Clark

### **CASTING**

#### **THE DREAM**

Friday 2 June, Wednesday 7 June<sup>+</sup>

Titania Sarah Lamb

Oberon Steven McRae

Saturday 3 June (mat) 12.30pm, Thursday 8 June

Titania Francesca Hayward

Oberon Marcelino Sambé

Monday 5 June, Saturday 10 June 7.30pm

Titania Laura Morera

Oberon Alexander Campbell

<sup>+</sup> ROH Live Cinema / BP Big Screen

#### **SYMPHONIC VARIATIONS**

Friday 2 June, Monday 5 June, Wednesday 7 June<sup>+</sup>

Mariela Nuñez, Vadim Muntagirov

Saturday 3 June (mat) / Thursday 8 June / Saturday 10 June

Lauren Cuthbertson, Reece Clarke

<sup>+</sup> ROH Live Cinema / BP Big Screen

## MARGUERITE AND ARMAND

Friday 2 June, Wednesday 7 June<sup>+</sup>

|            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| Marguerite | Zenaida Yanowsky |
| Armand     | Roberto Bolle*   |

Saturday 3 June (mat), Thursday 8 June

|            |                   |
|------------|-------------------|
| Marguerite | Alessandra Ferri* |
| Armand     | Federico Bonelli  |

Monday 5 June, Saturday 10 June

|            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| Marguerite | Natalia Osipova* |
| Armand     | Sergei Polunin   |

<sup>+</sup> ROH Live Cinema / BP Big Screen

\*role debut

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