

17 July 2020

#OurHouseToYourHouse

A family-friendly Friday Premiere - ROH and the Roundhouse presents **ZooNation's *The Mad Hatter's Tea Party***

The Royal Opera House is proud to continue its #OurHouseToYourHouse programme throughout the summer, announcing the Friday Premiere screening of ZooNation's ***The Mad Hatter's Tea Party*** on **Friday 31 July at 7pm BST**.

British hip-hop influenced dance company **ZooNation: The Kate Prince Company** made its Royal Opera House debut in 2014 in the Linbury Theatre with *The Mad Hatter's Tea Party*, produced by The Royal Ballet. Restaged in 2016 for the unique space of the Roundhouse, this high-energy, fast-paced production features a host of body-popping and break-dancing characters, with live music composed by **Josh Cohen** and **DJ Walde**. ZooNation used its energetic and accessible style to reinvent Lewis Carroll's original story in an imaginative, 21st-century way, exploring perceptions of mental illness and what counts as 'normal'.

Drawing inspiration from Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *The Mad Hatter's Tea Party* follows young psychotherapist Ernest who has a PhD in normalization but has his work cut out for him. At his new job in the Institute for Extremely Normal Behaviour, his patients all seem to be a long way from being 'normal'. There's Alice, who doesn't know what size her body should be. The White Rabbit's OCD means he's always late. And the Queen of Hearts seems to have a serious problem controlling her anger. But as Ernest gets to know his Wonderland ward, he begins to ask himself: what's so great about being 'normal'? Slowly and surely Ernest embraces his own differences and learns with his new friends to celebrate the things that make us who we are.

We look forward to the next in our series of free online broadcasts via YouTube and Facebook, starting this evening (**Friday 17 July at 7pm BST**) with The Royal Opera's ***Faust***. **David McVicar's** production tells the story of the aged philosopher Faust who makes a bargain with the devil Méphistophélès: in return for youth and the love of Marguerite, Faust will surrender his soul to the devil. The 2019 recording stars **Michael Fabiano** as Faust, **Erwin Schrott** as Méphistophélès and **Irina Lungu** as Marguerite. The **Royal Opera Chorus** and **Orchestra of the Royal Opera House** are conducted by **Dan Ettinger**.

Next week, on **Friday 24 July at 7pm BST**, we will broadcast The Royal Ballet's landmark production of the classic fairy tale ***The Sleeping Beauty***. With choreography by **Marius Petipa**, additional choreography by **Frederick Ashton**, **Anthony Dowell** and **Christopher Wheeldon** and a masterful score by Tchaikovsky, the 2020 recording stars **Fumi Kaneko** as Princess Aurora, **Federico Bonelli** as Prince Florimund, **Kristen McNally** as Carabosse and **Gina Storm-Jensen** as the Lilac Fairy. **Simon Hewett** conducts the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House.

Royal Opera House content continues to be available as part of our ongoing partnership with the BBC. Currently available on demand on BBC Sounds are The Royal Opera's performances of **Szymanowski's**

King Roger (2015), *Dvořák's Rusalka* (2012), *Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin* (2013), *Wagner's Tristan und Isolde* (2014), *Strauss's Elektra* (2013) and *Rossini's Il barbiere di Siviglia* (2016).

On [BBC iPlayer](#), **BBC Four** is currently screening *Royal Opera House: The Reopening* in which **Anita Rani**, **Katie Derham** and Antonio Pappano introduce highlights from the three **Live from Covent Garden** concerts. The 90-minute programme includes the world premiere of **Wayne McGregor's Morgen** performed by **Francesca Hayward** and **Cesar Corrales**, **Vadim Muntagirov's** performance of Frederick Ashton's *Dance of the Blessed Spirits*, the central *pas de deux* from **Kenneth MacMillan's Concerto** performed by Fumi Kaneko and **Reece Clarke** and a *pas de deux* from Christopher Wheeldon's *Within the Golden Hour* performed by **Mayara Magri** and **Matthew Ball**. Also featured are performances of classic opera arias and songs by **Gerald Finley**, **Louise Alder**, **Toby Spence**, **David Butt Philip**, **Sarah Connolly** and the Royal Opera House's **Jette Parker Young Artists**, alongside musicians from the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House.

From 26 July the ROH and The Luna Drive In Cinema will be broadcasting four ROH favourites at iconic drive-in cinema locations around the country. Broadcasts of *La bohème* and *La traviata*, as well as The Royal Ballet's *Swan Lake* and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* will be screened in stunning outdoor locations including Blenheim Palace, Warwick Castle, Allianz Park, Knebworth House, Tatton Park and Harewood House.

For details of all ROH broadcasts, creative activities and unique content, follow **#OurHouseToYourHouse**.

We are honoured to dedicate the online premiere of The Mad Hatter's Tea Party to the to the memory of Teneisha Bonner, a true force of the dance world.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Please find images available to download at the following links:

- [The Mad Hatter's Tea Party](#)
- [Luna Drive In Cinemas Productions](#) (*La bohème*, *La traviata*, *Swan Lake* and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*) and [Luna Drive In Cinema](#)
- [Free ROH broadcasts](#) (*Romeo and Juliet*, *Faust*, *The Sleeping Beauty*)
- [ROH Building and Auditorium](#)

For more images, interviews and further information, please contact chloe.westwood@roh.org.uk

Free ROH broadcasts (all available on demand for 14 days) include:

- [Romeo and Juliet](#), The Royal Ballet, 2019 – 10 July, 7pm BST
- [Faust](#), The Royal Opera, 2019 – 17 July, 7pm BST
- [The Sleeping Beauty](#), The Royal Ballet, 2020 – 24 July, 7pm BST

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About The Royal Opera

The Royal Opera, under the artistic direction of Antonio Pappano, Music Director, and Oliver Mears, Director of Opera, is one of the world's leading opera companies. Based in the iconic Covent Garden theatre, it is renowned both for its outstanding performances of traditional opera and for commissioning new works by today's leading opera composers, such as Harrison Birtwistle, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Thomas Adès.

About The Royal Ballet

Under the directorship of Kevin O'Hare, The Royal Ballet unites tradition and innovation in world-class performances, and is a driving force in the development of ballet as an art form. Based at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, it brings together today's most dynamic and versatile dancers with a world-class orchestra and leading choreographers, composers, conductors, directors and creative teams to share awe-inspiring theatrical experiences with diverse audiences worldwide. The Company's extensive repertory embraces 19th-century classics, the singular legacy of works by Founder Choreographer Frederick Ashton and Principal Choreographer Kenneth MacMillan and the compelling new canon of work including pieces by Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor and Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon.

About the Royal Opera House

The Royal Opera House wants to give everyone access to exceptional ballet and opera. As The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, we bring together the world's most extraordinary artists in more than 500 performances every year on our two stages.

We are open every day from 10am. Across the 2018/19 Season we welcomed more than one million people through our doors as ticketholders, participants in our programme of free and ticketed daytime events, and as visitors to our bars, cafes, restaurants and shop. A further one million people enjoyed our work in cinemas, at free screenings and through streamed and televised performances up and down the UK. Our ongoing partnership with the BBC saw 11 of our productions broadcast across their platforms last Season.

During the 2018/19 Season our three flagship ROH learning programmes – Create and Sing, Create and Dance and Design and Make – supported teachers from 1,394 schools, 81% of which were outside London, bringing arts to children and young people the length and breadth of the country.

ZooNation: The Kate Prince Company

ZooNation was founded by Kate Prince MBE in 2002 and is celebrated for its ground-breaking storytelling in theatre, influenced by hip-hop culture and music. The company rose to fame in 2008 with the great success of the full-length narrative hip-hop dance work *Into the Hoods*, which went on to become the first hip-hop show on the West End and the longest running dance show in West End history. The cast of *Into the Hoods* received What's OnStage's 2009 Theatregoers' Choice Award for Best Ensemble Performance, with further performances including a special performance for Nelson Mandela's 90th birthday celebrations in Hyde Park in 2008. ZooNation became a resident company at Sadler's Wells in 2010. Further productions have included *Some Like it Hip Hop* and the short dance film *The Holloway Laundrette*. The company has performed at events including the 2007 opening ceremony of the Tour de France and the 2008 closing ceremony of the Beijing Olympics. With a strong commitment to inspiring new generations of theatregoers and theatre makers and supporting young people wishing to pursue a career in dance and the performance arts, the company founded the ZooNation Academy of Dance in 2007. ZooNation aims to diversify and support Black Talent and is proud to be a female-led organisation committed to promoting and expanding the role and voice of women in the arts.