



ROYAL
BALLET

Press Release
23 September 2020

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Fundraising for our future

THE ROYAL BALLET: BACK ON STAGE

The Royal Ballet is **Back on Stage**, returning for a special live-streamed celebration performance on **Friday 9 October at 7.30pm**. After an absence of seven months, the full Company will be reunited on their home stage with the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House in a spectacular collection of ballet highlights from the repertory. Broadcast live from the stage in Covent Garden and available to view online from wherever you are in the world, this much anticipated performance promises to be an unmissable event.

The celebration, curated by Royal Ballet Director **Kevin O'Hare**, will shine a light on the acclaimed artistry and virtuosity of the dancers, the dazzling breadth of the Company's distinctive repertory and the visionary brilliance of the Royal Opera House creative and production teams.

Royal Ballet Principals **Matthew Ball, Federico Bonelli, Alexander Campbell, Francesca Hayward, Ryoichi Hirano, Sarah Lamb, Laura Morera, Vadim Muntagirov, Yasmine Naghdi, Marianela Nuñez, Natalia Osipova, Marcelino Sambé, Akane Takada** and **Edward Watson** return to the stage with the full Company, joined by the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House and conducted by **Jonathan Lo**.

THE ROYAL BALLET: BACK ON STAGE will demonstrate what has fired the imagination of dance fans around the world for centuries. Much loved traditional and 20th century classics will include *pas de deux* and ballet excerpts by **Marius Petipa, Lev Ivanov, Frederick Ashton, Kenneth MacMillan** and **George Balanchine**. The evening's display of contemporary creativity will include work by Resident Choreographer **Wayne McGregor**, Artistic Associate **Christopher Wheeldon, Cathy Marston, Hofesh Shechter** and **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui**.

This milestone performance follows one of the most challenging periods for the Royal Opera House and will be treated as an important pilot on the road back to public performances adhering to government guidelines. A specially socially distanced audience, including students and health workers, will join us in our first live performance with an audience since the beginning of lockdown.

The event will be broadcast live via the Royal Opera House website, priced at £16.00 per household and will be available to watch on demand for 30 days. Further details here - <https://www.roh.org.uk/tickets-and-events/the-royal-ballet-back-on-stage-details>

Kevin O'Hare comments: 'We are so excited about the full Company returning to their home stage. The dancers have sorely missed performing and connecting with their audiences these past few months and I have been deeply impressed by the grace and tenacity they have shown during these challenging circumstances. I hope this performance will be a chance for everyone to be reminded of all that makes The Royal Ballet and the amazing teams at the Royal Opera House so special.'

For more details of performances, dates and times, please visit our website or follow #OurHouseToYourHouse on the Royal Opera House's social media channels.

-Ends-

Please note that all ROH performances and participating artists are subject to change due to Covid-19 restrictions.

In order to ensure the safety of the dancers and prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, mitigations have included strict social distancing in the studio, alongside testing for those dancers in physical contact during rehearsal, administered privately at no expense to the NHS.

Notes to Editors

This performance is dedicated to the late Ian Taylor, in grateful recognition of his service as Chair of the Board of Trustees, his long-standing passionate advocacy for the arts, and along with his wife, Tina, for exceptional philanthropic support of the Royal Opera House.

Images can be downloaded from the following link - <https://we.tl/t-afihYCRj5e>

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**For more images, interviews and further information, please contact
Ashley.Woodfield@roh.org.uk
Tel 07984513676**

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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, the Company 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

Home to The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House our vision is to give everyone access to exceptional ballet and opera.

Since closing our doors due to the global pandemic in March 2020, the Royal Opera House has continued to bring together the world’s most extraordinary artists and curated the #OurHouseToYourHouse programme of 19 streams, 4 socially distanced live concerts and a suite of online content that has been viewed over 315 million times in 183 countries.

The Royal Opera House continues its #OurHouseToYourHouse programme this autumn, bringing audiences the best of the ROH through a new series of live performances, cinema screenings, Friday Premieres and cultural highlights in partnership with the BBC and Sky Arts. We hope to welcome back socially distanced audiences in the near future.

The Royal Opera House is committed to widening participation and deepening learning for all ages. This summer we launched Create and Learn, offering free online home-learning opportunities for children and young people. In addition, The Royal Ballet partnered with Cast and Doncaster Council to support Doncaster residents with online resources and remote direction to create a unique community dance film, *Doncaster Dances*.