



ROYAL
BALLET

News Announcement

7 July 2021

#OurHouseToYourHouse

The Royal Ballet presents *Agnus Dei*, a short film by Michael Nunn and William Trevitt, choreographed by Arthur Pita with music by Rufus Wainwright

Exclusive World Premiere as part of the *Beauty Mixed Programme* stream on 9 July, 8pm

The Royal Ballet premieres ***Agnus Dei***, a new short film by **Michael Nunn** and **William Trevitt** set to **Rufus Wainwright's** stunning song of the same name with choreography by **Arthur Pita**.

Featuring Royal Ballet First Artist **Leo Dixon**, this poetic solo was captured on the main stage of the Royal Opera House during lockdown. The hauntingly empty auditorium and stage provide a stunning backdrop to Wainwright's music and Pita's movement. *Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)* provides a highly emotive musical backdrop for this stripped back film, which is both epic and intimate.

The film will be screened exclusively as part of the stream of The Royal Ballet's *Beauty Mixed Programme* on 9 July at 8pm priced £16 via www.roh.org.uk

Kevin O'Hare, Director of The Royal Ballet said, 'Following his long association with The Royal Ballet, I'm delighted that Arthur has been able to work with us again. Together with his wonderful creative team, he has realised an exquisite moment of reflection where the vision of a sole artist moving in the vastness of our theatre feels extraordinarily resonant.'

Michael Nunn and William Trevitt comment 'It has been a great pleasure to be able to work with Arthur for the first time on *Agnus Dei*, and to get the chance to collaborate and be creative together with his team and The Royal Ballet. Lockdown meant that we had access to the beautiful Royal Opera House main stage with an empty auditorium, giving us the

opportunity to try out new things and experiment with the relationship between music, dance, and film - which is what we enjoy doing most.'

Arthur Pita said 'Rufus Wainwright's *Agnus Dei* has always been a "go-to" track for me since I first heard it, mostly at times when I want to remind myself how vast and complex our world is, and how music so beautifully soothes pain. I was grateful and delighted to have had the opportunity to create to this on the main stage of the Royal Opera House with The Royal Ballet, Somehow *Agnus Dei* incorporates the whole globe in its composition, like hearing all nations and religions at once through the powerful soaring of Rufus's voice which hits the spot. Yet it's so simple in its message to "grant us peace". It felt like the right moment, especially in this current time, to marry dance to this *Agnus Dei*.'

Rufus Wainwright comments '*Agnus Dei* was a song I wrote probably during the most troublesome time of my life after which I went to rehab. Music has kept me alive literally and I feel some of that gratitude is in this song and in those Latin words. I love what Arthur has created with the dancer Leo Dixon. It is so simple and yet so magical.'

***Agnus Dei* is available to watch from Friday 9 July, 8pm, £16 and on demand until 8 August. More details here [Beauty Mixed Programme - Beauty Mixed Programme - Royal Opera House Stream \(roh.org.uk\)](#)**

-Ends-

Notes to Editors

***women with water*, Mats Ek -**

As the original commissioners have sole media rights for **Mats Ek's *woman with water***, the streamed version of this performance features the digital world premiere of **Arthur Pita's *Agnus Dei*** in its place.

***Agnus Dei* Creative Team**

Choreography:	Arthur Pita
Music:	Rufus Wainwright
Costume Designer:	Yann Seabra
Lighting Designer:	Simon Bennison
Dancer:	Leo Dixon

A film by Michael Nunn and William Trevitt

Images are available to download [HERE](#)

Beauty Mixed Programme – Friday 9 July at 8pm (live stream)

Anemoi, Valentino Zucchetti

Mariko Sasaki, Leticia Dias, Lukas Bjørneboe Brændsrød, Taisuke Nakao

Morgen, Wayne McGregor

Yasmine Naghdi, Joseph Sissens

Winter Dreams – ‘farewell’ pas de deux. Kenneth MacMillan

Laura Morera, Ryoichi Hirano

After the Rain - pas de deux. Christopher Wheeldon

Beatriz Stix-Brunell, Reece Clarke

Voices of Spring, Frederick Ashton

Anna Rose O’Sullivan, Marcelino Sambé

Agnus Dei, Arthur Pita

Leo Dixon

The Sleeping Beauty Act III

Princess Aurora Marianela Nuñez **Prince Florimund**, Vadim Muntagirov

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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, 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, the compelling new canon of work by choreographers today including Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor and Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon, and the bold and complementary programming in the Linbury Theatre. Guest choreographers Cathy Marston, Crystal Pite, Twyla Tharp, Pam Tanowitz, Hofesh Shechter and Sid Larbi Cherkaoui have also created work for the Company.

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 George Benjamin, Harrison Birtwistle, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Thomas Adès.

About the Royal Opera House

Home to The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, the Royal Opera House brings together the world’s most extraordinary artists in live, streamed and broadcast events and performances that thrill, move and excite; that transport people to other worlds. Our theatres are in London’s Covent Garden but our work is accessed and experienced across the UK and globally through touring partnerships, cinema programmes, free outdoor screenings, radio, TV and live-streaming.

Since closing our doors due to the global pandemic in March 2020, the Royal Opera House continued to bring together the world’s most extraordinary artists and curated the #OurHouseToYourHouse programme, made up of nine live concerts (six for opera, two for ballet and two galas), 38 streamed productions and a suite of online content that has been viewed over 15 million times in 183 countries, together with a suite of cultural highlights in partnership with the BBC, Sky Arts and Netflix and a host of online home learning opportunities wherever you are in the country.

We are hugely excited to welcome people back to our theatres as soon as possible, showcasing the very best of our art forms and bringing the joy of live performance back to our audiences. We would like to thank everyone who continues to support our creative community as we get closer to re-opening our doors once again.

Royal Opera House Recovery Campaign

Live performance is a shared experience, and our audiences are at the heart of what we do on our stages, backstage, online, in cinemas and in our communities. The global pandemic has affected all arts organisations across the world. We have lost £3 in every £5 of our income, and our loan from Government takes us only part of the way. We need your help with our Recovery Campaign to bring our artists back to our stages. roh.org.uk/donate

