



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

Wednesday 21 April 2021

#OurHouseToYourHouse

Go behind the scenes of The Royal Opera House with *ROH Unmasked* - a free live stream

On **Friday 23 April at 7pm GMT** we are excited to unveil ***ROH Unmasked***, a free, 30-minute, ROH-produced short film, that gets under the skin of one of the world's most famous theatres, reflecting on the experience of its community of musicians, singers, technicians, craftspeople, staff and producers. From the day theatres were forced to close their doors in March 2020 to now, this film goes behind the scenes as we prepare to welcome audiences back to our stunning Covent Garden home.

Narrated by technicians and craftspeople from across the Royal Opera House, ushers from the front of house team, and The Royal Opera's Director of Opera, Oliver Mears, the film captures the unique challenges of the pandemic year, with insights and personal experiences set alongside poignant and timely segments from some of the best-loved pieces in the opera repertory.

Rachel Walsh, an ROH Lighting manager and one of key voices in *ROH Unlocked*, said: "When lockdown hit, it was heartbreaking. Not being in the theatre was the hardest thing, these spaces are so magical. We've had to innovate and adapt to survive but nothing compares to seeing a full orchestra, full chorus and an amazing cast on the stage. I cannot wait for us to open our doors again and see the life return to our beautiful theatre."

Featuring pieces from **Britten, Mozart, Wagner, Puccini, Gounod and Verdi**, The **Jette Parker Young Artists**, the **Royal Opera Chorus** and the **Orchestra of the Royal Opera House** breathe life into spaces across the Royal Opera House that have remained empty for the past year. Go behind the scenes to discover the costume workshop, the Fly Tower and the individuals who make the ROH what it is. These bespoke films present **Filipe Manu, Alexandra Lowe, Blaise Malaba, Kiandra Howarth and Masabane Cecilia Rangwanasha**, as they herald the beginning of a welcome and emotional return to live performances at the Royal Opera House.

Director of Opera, Oliver Mears, said: “*ROH Unmasked* will take you behind the scenes of our home in Covent Garden and will show you the ROH as you have never seen it before. Through the contributions of everyone in the film, including operatic highlights from some of the finest singers in the Company and the Chorus, this film is a moment to reflect on our most challenging year as we prepare to once again welcome you back in person”.

Other titles currently available to view on-demand via stream.roh.org.uk include: The Royal Ballet’s *Concerto* (2019) *Symphonic Variations* (The Royal Ballet, 2017), and The Royal Opera’s *The Seven Deadly Sins and Mahagonny Songspiel* (The Royal Opera, 2021).

#OurHouseToYourHouse

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

For all opera enquiries, please contact Chloe Westwood – chloe.westwood@roh.org.uk

For all ballet enquiries, please contact Ashley Woodfield – ashley.woodfield@roh.org.uk

Find a link to the ROH Unmasked trailer [here](#).

Titles available to watch via stream.roh.org.uk:

- ***Concerto***, The Royal Ballet (2019) – Available until 25 April – [IMAGES HERE](#)
- ***Symphonic Variations***, The Royal Ballet (2017) – Available until 2 May 2021 – [IMAGES HERE](#)
- ***The Seven Deadly Sins and Mahagonny Songspiel*** – Available until 9 May – [IMAGES HERE](#)
- ***ROH Unmasked*** – from 23 April – 23 May – [IMAGES HERE](#)

Titles are available via BBC Sounds and BBC iPlayer:

- The Ring Cycle, The Royal Opera (2018) – Das Rheingold | Die Walküre | Siegfried | Götterdämmerung – [IMAGES HERE](#)
- Royal Ballet All-Star Gala –available for 10 months – [IMAGES HERE](#)
- Royal Opera All-Star Gala –available for 10 months – [IMAGES HERE](#)
- Fidelio, The Royal Opera (2020) –available for 5 months – [IMAGES HERE](#)

Generous philanthropic support from Julia and Hans Rausing

Streaming generously supported by The Foyle Foundation

Follow the Royal Opera House on social media:

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Instagram](#) | [TikTok](#)

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, as well as a compelling new canon of work by some of the world's leading choreographers of today including Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor and Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon. 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.

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, 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.

The Royal Opera House is committed to widening participation and deepening learning for all ages. Last 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.

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 Government loan

will take us only part of the way. We need your help with our Recovery Campaign to bring artists back to our stages. roh.org.uk/donate

About the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme

The Jette Parker Young Artists Programme supports the artistic development of young singers, conductors, directors and répétiteurs. The Young Artists are an international group of outstanding professionals at the start of their careers. They are salaried employees of the Royal Opera House usually full-time over two years. The Young Artists work on productions for The Royal Opera and Royal Ballet, singing small roles and covering larger roles, or joining the music or directing staff for productions. They are taught and mentored by Royal Opera and Royal Ballet music staff, a wide range of freelance music and language coaches and visiting singers, directors and conductors. Every facility of the Company is made available to them so that their talents are nurtured through total immersion in the life of the Royal Opera House. The Jette Parker Young Artists Programme is made possible thanks to the exceptional generosity of Oak Foundation, who have supported the Programme since 2005. In 2017 they extended their support for their Programme and enabled new initiatives to diversify the range of artists supported by the Programme, including the development of women's conducting courses and the JPYAP Link Artist Programme, which extends coaching opportunities to individuals with exceptional potential from backgrounds underrepresented in the Royal Opera House talent pool.