



ROYAL
BALLET

Tuesday 11 May 2021

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Fundraising for our future

The Royal Ballet returns with a celebration of contemporary choreographers and a world premiere

The Royal Ballet returns to live performances on **Tuesday 18 May at 7pm** after an absence of five months with **21st Century Choreographers**, a celebration of some of today's finest international choreographers. The dancers are reunited on their home stage of the Royal Opera House in a programme featuring work by **Christopher Wheeldon**, **Crystal Pite** and a world premiere by **Kyle Abraham**, his first work for The Royal Ballet.

The programme will also be streamed lived on Friday 28 May at 7.30pm priced £16

Royal Ballet Artistic Associate **Christopher Wheeldon's** ***Within the Golden Hour*** opens the programme and makes a welcome return having been so warmly received by audiences and critics last autumn when it was performed as part of ***The Royal Ballet: Live***. ***Within the Golden Hour*** was originally created for San Francisco Ballet in 2008 and was brought into the Royal Ballet repertory in 2016 and is regarded as one of Wheeldon's finest works. The ballet is set to music by **Ezio Bosso** and **Antonio Vivaldi** and features dazzling costumes by **Jasper Conran**.

New work is at the very heart of The Royal Ballet, now more than ever as we finally return to live performances, and we are thrilled that in the 2021/22 Season we will be presenting a world premiere by American choreographer **Kyle Abraham**. Acclaimed for his fusion of dance styles, Abraham has created works for his own company A.I.M and for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and New York City Ballet, as well as solo works for celebrated American Ballet Theatre principals Misty Copeland and Calvin Royal III. He performed in the Linbury Theatre in his duet with Wendy Whelan for ***Restless Creature*** in 2014. In anticipation of this exciting commission for March 2022, Abraham has been in London getting to know the Company and has created a short work for this programme featuring the talents of Royal Ballet Principals **Natalia Osipova** and **Marcelino Sambé** and Royal Ballet Artist **Stanisław Węgrzyn**.

Following the Olivier Award winning success of *Flight Pattern*, her first work for The Royal Ballet in 2017, the extraordinary imagination of Canadian choreographer **Crystal Pite** is demonstrated again in two works created for Nederlands Dans Theater and performed for the first time by The Royal Ballet. The shadowy depths of human nature and boardroom politics are explored in the riveting dance-drama of *The Statement* contrasted with an atmospheric evocation of winter in *Solo Echo*, inspired by a poem by **Mark Strand** and the melancholy beauty of **Brahms's** sonatas for cello and piano.

Kevin O'Hare comments: 'What better way to open our series of programmes returning to the stage than with Christopher Wheeldon's life-affirming *Within the Golden Hour*. It's been a delight to welcome Kyle Abraham to work with our fantastic dancers ahead of his one-act commission next Season. During this time of lockdown the dancers have loved immersing themselves in the work of Crystal Pite with the unique theatricality of *The Statement* and beautifully poignant *Solo Echo* which will complete the programme in a moment of reflection which feels right for this time.'

The event will be broadcast live via the Royal Opera House website on Friday 28 May at 7.30pm, priced at £16.00 per household and will be available to watch on demand until 27 June.

Further details here – <https://stream.roh.org.uk/packages/21st-century-choreographers/videos/21st-century-choreographers>

-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.

Supporter credits

Season Principal Mrs Aline Foriel-Destezet

Generous philanthropic support from Julia and Hans Rausing

The 2020/21 Ballet Season is generously supported by Aud Jebsen

Solo Echo and *The Statement*: Generous philanthropic support from Victoria Robey OBE

Within The Golden Hour: Generous philanthropic support from Mr and Mrs Edward Atkin CBE and the Friends of Covent Garden

Notes to Editors

Images are available to download [here](#)

21st Century Choreographers 18 May – 30 May

Dates and times: 18/20/22/24/25/28 May at 7pm and 30 May at 3pm

Prices £3 - £90

Live Stream 28 May, 7.30pm. Priced £16

Casting

Tuesday 18 May, Saturday 22 May, Tuesday 25 May, Friday 28 May (live stream) at 7pm

Within the Golden Hour

Anna Rose O'Sullivan, Vadim Muntagirov, Francesca Hayward, Valentino Zucchetti, Yasmine Naghdi, Ryoichi Hirano

New Kyle Abraham:

Natalia Osipova*, Marcelino Sambé*, Stanisław Węgrzyn*

The Statement

Ashley Dean*, Joseph Sissens*, Kristen McNally*, Calvin Richardson*

Solo Echo

Francesca Hayward*, Isabella Gasparini*, Hannah Grennell*, Marcelino Sambé*, Cesar Corrales*, Lukas Bjørneboe Brændsrød*, Harry Churches*

Thursday 20 May, Monday 24 May, Wednesday 26 May at 7pm, Sunday 30 May at 3pm

Within the Golden Hour

Meaghan Grace Hinkis*, James Hay, Fumi Kaneko, Reece Clarke, Akane Takada, Alexander Campbell

New Kyle Abraham: Cast to be announced

The Statement

Amelia Townsend*, Joshua Junker*, Akane Takada*, Matthew Ball*

Solo Echo

Mayara Magri*, Madison Bailey*, Isabel Lubach*, Luca Acri*, Benjamin Ella*, Francisco Serrano*, Leo Dixon*

Creatives

WITHIN THE GOLDEN HOUR

Choreography	Christopher Wheeldon
Music	Ezio Bosso and Antonio Vivaldi
Conductor	Koen Kessels
Costume Designer	Jasper Conran
Lighting Designer	Peter Mumford

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

NEW KYLE ABRAHAM

Choreography Kyle Abraham
Music Grischa Lichtenberger and Nidia Borges
Costume Designer Ilaria Martello
Lighting Designer Dan Scully

THE STATEMENT

Choreography Crystal Pite
Music Owen Belton
Text Jonathon Young
Set Designer Jay Gower Taylor
Costume Designers Crystal Pite, Joke Visser
Lighting Designer Tom Visser
Voice Actors Meg Roe, Andrew Wheeler, Colleen Wheeler, Jonathon Young
Premiere Nederlands Dans Theater, 4 February 2016, Zuiderstrandtheater, The Hague (NL)

SOLO ECHO

Choreography Crystal Pite
Music Johannes Brahms
Set Designer Jay Gower Taylor
Costume Designers Crystal Pite, Joke Visser
Lighting Designer Tom Visser
Solo Cello Christopher Vanderspar
Solo Piano Robert Clark

For more images, interviews and further information, please contact

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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.

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