



ROYAL
BALLET

Press Release
27 October 2020

#WorldBalletDay 2020

The Biggest Ever Global Celebration of Dance

- Digital live stream 29th October 2020
- View via www.WorldBalletDay.com

World Ballet Day 2020 will be the biggest ever celebration of global dance with a staggering **40 dance companies** participating in this year's unique live streamed event. **The Australian Ballet, Bolshoi Ballet** and **The Royal Ballet** will be joined by dance companies from across the globe including **Singapore Dance, Joburg Ballet, Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre** and **Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico**.

With COVID-19 guidelines changing daily in countries across the globe, the dance world has struggled to return to its stages and rehearsal studios. However, 2020's World Ballet Day will bring us together, more than ever before, to celebrate our art forms and go exclusively behind the scenes of the world's top ballet companies.

Each company will be streaming live rehearsals and bespoke insights in accordance with their respective local COVID-19 guidance. Watch via **worldballetday.com** or participating companies' Facebook and YouTube pages or via Tencent video in China.

The three main host Companies – **The Australian Ballet, Bolshoi Ballet** and **The Royal Ballet** – invite audiences to experience morning class which, in the UK, will take place on the iconic Royal Opera House Main Stage. There will be exclusive interviews and access to backstage rehearsals as the Company prepares for ***The Royal Ballet: Live***, the first series of live performances by The Royal Ballet in seven months.

The Royal Ballet itinerary

Presented by Royal Ballet dancers **Alexander Campbell** and **Kristen McNally**, **The Royal Ballet's itinerary includes:**

- Pre-recorded **Class on the Royal Opera House Stage**
- **George Balanchine's *Tchaikovsky pas de deux***, rehearsal with **Marianela Nuñez** and **Vadim Muntagirov**

- **Cathy Marston's *In Our Wishes***, rehearsal with **Fumi Kaneko** and **Reece Clarke**
- **Christopher Wheeldon's *Within the Golden Hour*** rehearsal with **David Donnelly** and **Téo Dubreuil**
- **Frederick Ashton's *Dance of the Blessed Spirits*** rehearsal with **Fernando Montaña**
- **Valentino Zucchetti** rehearsing a new work ***Scherzo***, performed by Artists of The Royal Ballet

There will also be interviews and insights celebrating **Black History Month** and The Royal Ballet summer community engagement programme **Doncaster Dances**.

The Australian Ballet itinerary

Following safety restrictions in place in Melbourne, Australian Ballet have recently returned to the Primrose Potter Australian Ballet Centre (with special permission from the Victorian Government). They will start their day with a Covid-safe morning ballet class to live piano. Followed by ***Bodytorque.Digital***, an online series showcasing new choreography. Interviews will feature their Artistic Health and Education teams discussing the work they've been doing this year.

The Bolshoi Ballet itinerary

This year the Bolshoi dedicate their livestream to **Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky**, as the theatre celebrates the composer's 180th birthday. The stream will also include access to rehearsals of ***The Sleeping Beauty***, ***Swan Lake*** (choreography by Yuri Grigorovich), ***The Nutcracker*** (choreography by Yuri Grigorovich) and ***Onegin*** (choreography by John Cranko). Morning classes will be led by theatre tutors **Nadezhda Grachyova** and **Alexander Vetrov**. There will also be interviews with Bolshoi dancers **Svetlana Zakharova**, **Ekaterina Krysanova**, **Olga Smirnova**, **Artem Ovcharenko**, **Egor Geraschenko** and the head of the ballet company **Makhar Vaziev**.

The Australian Ballet will kick off the livestream (2am GMT) before passing the baton to the Bolshoi Ballet (7am GMT) and on to The Royal Ballet (11am to 3pm GMT).

A full schedule from these global dance companies will be available via **worldballetday.com**

Join us as we celebrate the best creative teams, dancers and artistic communities across the world, bringing companies together to celebrate past, present and future.

Kevin O'Hare, Director of The Royal Ballet said: 'Since 2014 World Ballet Day has proved a wonderful platform for connecting ballet lovers across the globe and now, more than ever, this digital celebration of dance promises to unite us all as we face new, shared challenges across the world. My heartfelt thanks go to Ricki Gail Conway without whose generosity The Royal Ballet would be unable to present this highlight of the dance calendar. We look forward to celebrating the incredible talents of all the international artists involved and bringing our art form to audiences who are missing live performance.'

Join us for the biggest World Ballet Day yet!

ENDS

The Royal Ballet's presentation is made possible through the generous philanthropic support of **Ricki Gail Conway**.

Companies taking part in World Ballet Day 2020:

Host Companies:

The Royal Ballet

Bolshoi Ballet

The Australian Ballet

UK Dance Companies

English National Ballet

Royal Academy of Dance

Birmingham Royal Ballet

Northern Ballet

Scottish Ballet

European Dance Companies

Finnish National Ballet

The Royal Danish Ballet

La Scala Theatre Ballet

Polish National Ballet

Stuttgart Ballet

Ballet de l'Opera de Paris

Wiener Staatsballett

Opera Sofia

Staatsballett Berlin

Dutch National Ballet

International Dance Companies

Royal New Zealand Ballet

Singapore Dance Theatre

West Australian Ballet

Queensland Ballet

National Ballet of Japan

The Mikhailovsky Theatre

Ballet Nacional de Cuba

Mariinsky Theatre

Joburg Ballet

Korean National Ballet
Hong Kong Ballet
The National Ballet of Canada
Ballet Concierto de Puerto Rico
Boston Ballet
São Paulo Dance Company
Cape Town City Ballet
Pacific Northwest Ballet
Acosta Danza
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
American Ballet Theatre
Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal
Houston Ballet

Notes to Editors

1. Images available here: <https://we.tl/t-IWAJTBryJh>
2. For details of the wider schedule and a full list of participating companies see www.worldballetday.com
3. Details of The Royal Ballet's programme for the day will be announced in due course

For interviews and further information, please contact Ashley.Woodfield@roh.org.uk

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*.

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. This year's global pandemic has affected all arts organisations across the world. We have lost £3 in every £5 of our income, and any Government loan will take us only part of the way. We need your help with our Recovery Fund to bring artists back to our stages. roh.org.uk/donate