



ROYAL
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BALLET AND DANCE 2010 / 2011 SEASON

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BALLET AND DANCE 2010/11 SEASON

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WORLD PREMIERES

In February 2011, former Royal Ballet dancer and renowned international choreographer **Christopher Wheeldon** will premiere his first full-length new work for The Royal Ballet. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, a co-production with The National Ballet of Canada, will be the first full-length ballet commissioned by the Company for 15 years. It will have a specially commissioned score by **Joby Talbot**, a scenario by **Nicholas Wright** and designs by five times Tony award-winner **Bob Crowley**.

The Royal Ballet's Resident Choreographer **Wayne McGregor** will follow up on 2009's award-winning *Limen* with another new piece for the main stage which opens on 13 May 2011 alongside Balanchine's *Ballo della Regina* and Christopher Wheeldon's *DGV: Danse à Grande Vitesse*.

As part of the first mixed bill of the season in October 2010, Kim Brandstrup will follow up on his successful *Rushes – Fragments of a Lost Story* and his 2009 collaboration with Tamara Rojo in the **Goldberg Project** with another new piece for the main stage.

ROH Associate Artist **Aletta Collins** will choreograph a new dance work for the Linbury Studio Theatre in June, *Duet for One*, based on the original 1932 play by **Jean Cocteau**, featuring a dancer, an actor and a newly composed score by enigmatic singer and composer **Scott Walker**. This is paired with **Poulenc's** 1959 opera *La Voix humaine* which will be performed for the first time at the Royal Opera House.

FULL LENGTH WORKS

The Royal Ballet's Season opens on 30 September with a rollercoaster of shifting emotions in *Onegin*, based on Pushkin's classic novel. Created by master story-teller **John Cranko** in 1965 for Stuttgart Ballet, it is a tale of unrequited love, rejection and regret. *Onegin* is set to a score by **Kurt-Heinz Stolze** compiled from music by **Tchaikovsky** and uses richly evocative designs by **Jürgen Rose**. It is a ballet full of dramatic characterisation, colourful ensembles and, most of all, haunting and tragic passion.

Frederick Ashton's *Sylvia* returns for a run of ten performances on 3 November 2010. Set to **Léo Delibes's** beautiful score, the production was recreated in 2004 by former Company member **Christopher Newton** using his original notes and archive film footage, and subsequently nominated for a Laurence Olivier award. It is based on the Greek myth of one of Diana's nymphs, Sylvia, a classic beauty who earns the love of Aminta before being forcefully spirited away by Orion and ultimately set free by Eros. The production uses the original 1952 designs of **Robin** and **Christopher Ironside** with additional designs by **Peter Farmer**.

Cinderella opens on 20 November 2010 and returns with more performances from 4 April 2011. **Frederick Ashton's** version for The Royal Ballet contains all the familiar ingredients of this well loved fairytale: a downtrodden young girl, a glass slipper, a handsome prince and a fairy

godmother who can magically transform pumpkins into coaches and rags into ball gowns. Set to **Prokofiev's** great orchestral score, with a wealth of wonderfully drawn characters (including Cinderella's unlucky-in-looks-and-love pantomime step-sisters), *Cinderella* is a magical fantasy world where anything can happen.

Moving from happy, peasant village scenes into a beautiful but eerie world of ghostly spirits, *Giselle*, which opens on 11 January 2012, is one of the most poignant ballets of the Romantic era. This production, sensitively staged by **Peter Wright** with evocative designs by **John MacFarlane**, captures both the folkloric and supernatural aspects of the ballet. Set in a medieval Rhineland village, the story tells of Giselle, a gentle peasant girl who is driven to her death when deceived by her aristocratic lover Albrecht. Filled with remorse, Albrecht visits her moonlit grave where he is condemned to death by ghostly spirits. However, Giselle's love transcends death and she protects Albrecht until the safety of the dawn.

The most famous ballet in the world, *Swan Lake*, returns on 22 January 2011 in **Anthony Dowell's** magical production. Set in Russia at the turn of the 19th Century and with one of **Tchaikovsky's** most memorable scores, the enduring love story of a princess turned into a swan by an evil magician has resonated with audiences for more than 130 years.

Manon, opening on 21 April 2011, has become one of The Royal Ballet's signature works since its creation by **Kenneth MacMillan** in 1974. Based on a novel by **Abbé Prévost**, it follows the passionate but devastating fall of the central character, Manon, from feted Parisian courtesan to deported Louisiana fugitive. The emotionally charged music of **Jules Massenet** and the sumptuous designs by **Nicholas Georgiadis** set the scene perfectly for this heart-breaking tale of corruption, love, avarice and disgrace.

MIXED PROGRAMMES

LA VALSE / NEW BRANDSTRUP / WINTER DREAMS / THEME AND VARIATIONS

Opening the first mixed programme of the season on 15 October 2010, is **Frederick Ashton's** *La Valse*. Set to Maurice Ravel's score, which was originally commissioned for Les Ballets Russes in 1919, *La Valse* uses the entire corps-de-ballet and fills the stage with whirling, waltzing dancers matching the mood of the music perfectly.

Winter Dreams began as the specially commissioned 'Farewell' *pas de deux* to celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother's 90th Birthday. Kenneth MacMillan extended this to a one-act ballet and *Winter Dreams* had its premiere in February 1991. Inspired by and using the same characters, it is a melancholic study of Chekhov's *Three Sisters*.

Balanchine's plotless *Theme and Variations* is a vision of the Imperial Ballet in its heyday. With music by **Tchaikovsky** and set in a grand, chandeliered ballroom, it has all the splendour and grace associated with pre-revolutionary Russia.

PETER AND THE WOLF

LES PATINEURS / TALES OF BEATRIX POTTER

Two jubilant programmes starting in December 2010 will be performed over the Christmas season.

Famously composed by **Prokofiev** to introduce young children to the instruments of the orchestra, *Peter and the Wolf* bursts with joyful delight. **Matthew Hart**'s production has simple staging and dramatic lighting, effectively showcasing his choreography as Peter and his animal friends capture the big bad wolf.

Les Patineurs is one of **Frederick Ashton**'s happiest and most charming pieces. Evoking an Edwardian skating party, it is set at a snowy winter's dusk, lit with glowing paper lanterns and full of lyrical, flowing choreography.

Mrs Tigglywinkle, Squirrel Nutkin, Jeremy Fisher and a host of other characters come to life in wonderful woodland scenes in *Tales of Beatrix Potter*. With costumes which perfectly convey the essence of the famous animal characters, this is one of The Royal Ballet's most captivating ballets.

FAERIES

The hugely successful ROH2 children's show *Faeries* makes a welcome return, this time to the Linbury Studio Theatre, for the festive season. Choreographed and directed by **Will Tuckett**, *Faeries* uses a combination of puppetry (by **Blind Summit Theatre**), dance and old-fashioned storytelling to propel its audience into a world of mystery, magic, imps and fairies. The story, by writer **Rebecca Lenkiewicz**, is set during World War II and centres on a young girl and her twilight adventures when she finds herself alone late one afternoon in Kensington Park. With a cast of sprites and fairies hovering between the London Park's lakes and monuments, and the shadowy realm that beckons through the fairy ring, she discovers not only that fairies really do exist but that they are rarely how we imagine them. Music is by **Martin Ward**.

RHAPSODY / SENSORIUM / THE RITE OF SPRING

Frederick Ashton's *Rhapsody*, opens this mixed programme on 16 March 2011. This pure dance work is set to **Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*** and provides a stunning showcase of virtuosity and supreme technical ability for two principals and six accompanying couples.

The second piece in the programme is **Alastair Marriott's *Sensorium*** which first premiered in 2009 to general acclaim. With a cast of 12 women and two men it is an abstract, plotless ballet danced in front of a huge, arcing set by **Adam Wiltshire**.

Completing the programme is **MacMillan's *The Rite of Spring***, **Stravinsky's** landmark masterpiece which caused rioting in the streets of Paris when it was first performed. The pulsating rhythms of the score were matched by Nijinsky's choreography in 1913 which many choreographers have since attempted to match, although few as successfully as MacMillan. In these performances, the central role of The Chosen One will be danced by leading male dancers of the Company.

BALLO DELLA REGINA / NEW MCGREGOR / DGV: DANSE A GRANDE VITESSE

Making its Royal Ballet and European premiere on 13 May 2011 is **Balanchine's *Ballo della Regina***. Originally created for New York City Ballet in 1974, it is set to music cut from ballet scenes originally intended for Verdi's opera *Don Carlos*. *Ballo Della Regina* is a series of brilliant and virtuoso set of variations, full of challenging and zestful choreography.

DGV (Danse à grande vitesse), choreographed by **Christopher Wheeldon** is inspired by Michael Nyman's composition: *MGV (Musique à grande vitesse)*, which was written to commemorate the inauguration of the French 'train à grande vitesse'. The 26 dancers and minimalist score work together to transport the audience through varying landscapes; from the feeling of being suspended in time and space, to the pulsating rhythm of relentless movement.

SCENES DE BALLET / VOLUNTARIES / STILL LIFE AT THE PENGUIN CAFÉ

Choreographer **Frederick Ashton**, considered *Scenes de Ballet* (which opens on 28 May 2011) one of his finest works. With a score by **Stravinsky**, Ashton described this one-act ballet as '*just an exercise in pure dancing*'. A complex and lively piece, it was choreographed with Euclidian geometry in mind, with the aim that it could be viewed from any angle and still 'work'.

Voluntaries, premiered in December 1973 by the Stuttgart Ballet, is **Glen Tetley**'s stunning tribute to John Cranko who had died suddenly earlier that year. The free-flowing virtuosity of the piece conveys Tetley's fusion of raw emotion and classical lyricism, and the unique balance of expression and technical difficulty has made *Voluntaries* one of his most popular ballets.

Simon Jeffes and his **Penguin Café Orchestra** provided **David Bintley**'s inspiration for *Still Life at the Penguin Café*, his witty and poignant look at man's effect on the world around him. First premiered more than 20 years ago, its environmental theme is as topical as ever.

INTERNATIONAL TOURING 2010

The Royal Ballet will perform *Mayerling*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *La Fille mal gardée* at the Bunka Kaikan in Tokyo from 17 – 29 June and *Romeo and Juliet* at Hyogo Performing Arts Centre, Nishinomiya on 3 July 2010. It will be the first time in 29 years that *Mayerling* will have been performed in the country, reflecting The Royal Ballet's aim to bring its repertory to new audiences. Guest Principal Artist Miyako Yoshida, who has been with the Company since 1995, will dance her last performance with The Royal Ballet on Tuesday 29 June in *Romeo and Juliet* at the Bunka Kaikan.

The Company will then move onto the Liceu Theatre in Barcelona for five performances of *The Sleeping Beauty* from 10 – 13 July.

FESTIVALS

Pianist and artistic director of the Bath Festival **Joanna MacGregor** curates the third annual *Deloitte Ignite* festival from 3 -5 September, a weekend's exploration of the public and performance spaces of the Royal Opera House involving a wide range of spectacular performances and installations.

The eighth year of *Firsts* will once again provide a platform for young and emerging artists and companies across a variety of art forms to perform at the ROH for the first time in November.

ROH2's biannual season of contemporary dance in the Clore Studio Upstairs featuring work by young and emerging choreographers will return in July 2011.

OTHER DANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Pleasure's Progress, a new ROH2 commission from **Will Tuckett**, combining dance, voice and new music has its London premiere following performances at the Jerwood Dance House in Ipswich. It explores the vision of artist **William Hogarth**, whose satirical paintings often derived from the vicinity of Covent Garden. **Will Tuckett** choreographs and directs this new work to a score by **Paul Englishby**, with libretto by **Alasdair Middleton**. It will be performed in the Covent Garden piazza during the summer before coming to the Linbury Studio Theatre in September and touring to The Lowry, Salford in October.

Songs from a Hotel Bedroom is a new work directed and choreographed by **Kate Flatt** with songs by **Kurt Weill** to lyrics by **Ira Gershwin**, **Ogden Nash**, **Maxwell Anderson** and others that explore a brief and ultimately tragic love affair. Featuring West End star **Frances Ruffelle** as the singer Angélique. This is a co-production together with A Segue, New Wolsey Theatre and Watford Palace Theatre and co-commissioned by ROH2.

Returning for their fifth season in the Linbury Studio Theatre in February 2011, **Ballet Black**, **Cassa Pancho**'s award winning company of black and Asian classically trained dancers, perform a programme of new work by contemporary choreographers in February 2011.

Bern Ballet are also returning to the Royal Opera House with two new programmes of work receiving their UK premieres by Bern Ballet's Artistic Director and former ROH Associate Artist **Cathy Marston** in May.

Further historical information on some of these productions can be found at www.rohcollections.org.uk

Telephone, personal and online booking opens **29 June 2010**

Box Office: 020 7304 4000 **Website:** www.roh.org.uk

CREDITING

ONEGIN

Generous philanthropic support from Lady Ashcroft

ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

Generous philanthropic support from Marina Hobson MBE and Sue Butcher.

SYLVIA

Generous philanthropic support from Lady Ashcroft. Additional generous support by the Friends of Covent Garden

SWAN LAKE

Generous philanthropic support from John and Susan Burns and Gail and Gerald Ronson through the Gerald Ronson Foundation. Original production (1987) and revival (2000) supported by The Linbury Trust.

MANON

Generous philanthropic support from Lady Ashcroft. Original production (1974) made possible by The Linbury Trust

WINTER DREAMS (MIXED PROGRAMME)

Generous philanthropic support from Audrey and Ronnie's Fund and the Fonteyn Circle.

PETER AND THE WOLF

Original production (1986) and revival (2010) supported by The Linbury Trust

BALLO DELLA REGINA/ NEW MCGREGOR/DANSE À GRANDE VITESSE

Resident Choreographer of The Royal Ballet generously supported by anonymous philanthropists.

SCENES DE BALLET / VOLUNTARIES / STILL LIFE AT THE PENGUIN CAFÉ

Generous philanthropic support from Lady Ashcroft (whole mixed programme). Generously supported by the The Friends of Covent Garden ('Still Life' at the Penguin Cafe).

INTERNATIONAL TOURING

Evening Sponsors, Tokio Marine Rogge, Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

PLEASURE'S PROGRESS

Supported by the Paul Hamlyn Education Fund.

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PRODUCTION PHOTOGRAPHS

For production photographs, please use our FTP service. Select the relevant login details below. Navigate to the correct folder to download images of your choice. Images should only be used for press purposes.

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