# BALLET AND DANCE 2017/18 SEASON

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THE ROYAL BALLET 2017/18 SEASON</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHOREOGRAPHERS IN THE 2017/18 SEASON</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEARNING AND PARTICIPATION - BALLET AND DANCE</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRESS OFFICE CONTACTS</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE ROYAL BALLET 2017/18 SEASON

Highlights:

- Five World Premieres
  - New Royal Ballet production of *Swan Lake* with additional choreography by Artist in Residence Liam Scarlett
  - New one-act ballet by Twyla Tharp
  - New one-act ballet by Arthur Pita to a commissioned score by Frank Moon
  - New one act ballet by Wayne McGregor with designs by ceramist Edmund de Waal
  - New one act ballet by Christopher Wheeldon with designs by fashion designer Erdem Moralioglu

- Kenneth MacMillan: a National Celebration
  - The Royal Ballet celebrates Kenneth MacMillan’s legacy on the 25th anniversary of his death. Kevin O’Hare has invited four other British ballet companies to perform with The Royal Ballet coming together on the Royal Opera House stage for the first time
    - The Royal Ballet
    - Birmingham Royal Ballet
    - English National Ballet
    - Northern Ballet
    - Scottish Ballet
  - Kenneth MacMillan’s *Sea of Troubles*, inspired by Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*, performed by Yorke Dance Project
  - *Jeux*, by Wayne Eagling, inspired by MacMillan’s reconstruction of Vaslav Nijinsky’s lost 1913 ballet, performed by The Royal Ballet
National celebrations also include Insights and talks programme on MacMillan’s legacy

Revival of Manon

- Leonard Bernstein Centenary Triple Bill of one-act ballets by all three Royal Ballet associated choreographers.
- The Royal Ballet performs in Hull as part of UK City of Culture 2017
- Carlos Acosta appointed as Royal Ballet Principal Guest Répétiteur

Revivals and repertory

- Frederick Ashton’s classic Sylvia and Marguerite and Armand
- First revival of Hofesh Shechter’s Untouchable
- First revival of Artist in Residence Liam Scarlett’s The Age of Anxiety
- Christopher Wheeldon’s Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland and The Winter’s Tale return
- Peter Wright’s classic productions The Nutcracker and Giselle return
- Frederick Ashton’s Sylvia inspires Alexander Whitley in new work in the Clore Studio Upstairs.
- Six ballet programmes presented in the ROH Live Cinema Season
- World Ballet Day returns in October
Kevin O’Hare, Director of The Royal Ballet, presents the 2017/18 Season showcasing the breadth and talent of the Company, and continues his commitment to commission new works while honouring The Royal Ballet heritage repertory.

Season highlights include a tribute to the master choreographer Kenneth MacMillan, commemorating the 25th anniversary of his death, and a brand new Royal Ballet production of *Swan Lake* staged by Artist in Residence Liam Scarlett.

For the 2017/18 Season Kevin O’Hare announces that Carlos Acosta will return to the Company as Principal Guest Répétiteur. Regarded as one of the world’s leading dancers, Carlos retired from The Royal Ballet in 2015 after 17 years as Principal Guest Artist.

Kenneth MacMillan: a National Celebration

Kenneth MacMillan’s work remains at the heart of the Company and continues to have a profound influence on dance around the world. His works shaped not only the direction of the Company but also the substance of ballet in the 20th century. In honour of his legacy and impact on the art-form, Kevin O’Hare has invited *Birmingham Royal Ballet, English National Ballet, Northern Ballet* and *Scottish Ballet* to perform on the Royal Opera House stage together for the first time in ‘Kenneth MacMillan: a National Celebration’. Dancers from all five ballet companies join forces to demonstrate the range of MacMillan’s compelling canon of work including *Concerto* danced by Birmingham Royal Ballet, *Song of the Earth* danced by English National Ballet, *Gloria* by Northern Ballet, *The Judas Tree* by The Royal Ballet, *Le Baiser de la fée* by Scottish Ballet, and *Elite Syncopations*, a performance by The Royal Ballet and soloists from the guest companies.
The celebrations include two of MacMillan’s rarely seen short ballets, *Sea of Troubles*, danced by *Yorke Dance Project*, and *jeux* by Wayne Eagling, inspired by MacMillan’s reconstruction of Vaslav Nijinsky’s lost 1913 ballet, performed by The Royal Ballet. *Kenneth MacMillan: a National Celebration* also includes a series of special Insights celebrating the breadth and depth of his creative genius. MacMillan’s masterpiece *Manon* returns later in the Season.

**Swan Lake**
Kevin O’Hare invites Artist in Residence Liam Scarlett to stage a new production of *Swan Lake* with designs by John Macfarlane. It receives its premiere in May 2018 and promises a fresh interpretation of the timeless classic. *Swan Lake* has always played a special role in the repertory of The Royal Ballet and the Company will tour this new version of the ballet to Madrid in summer 2018.

**World Premieres**
World premieres also include a ballet by American choreographer Twyla Tharp as she expands her 1973 piece *As Time Goes By* to create a new work for the Company, *The Illustrated Farewell*, set to Haydn’s ‘Farewell’ Symphony No 45. Arthur Pita presents his first work for the main auditorium, a one-act narrative piece taking inspiration from the 1920’s novel by Dorothy Scarbrook and subsequent silent movie *The Wind*. Arthur has worked with a number of Royal Ballet dancers on solo projects including his Olivier Award-winning dance-theatre piece *Metamorphosis*, created on Edward Watson for the Linbury Studio Theatre in 2011.

**Leonard Bernstein Celebration**
All three Royal Ballet associated choreographers – Wayne McGregor, Christopher Wheeldon and Liam Scarlett – present work in a mixed programme celebrating the centenary of American composer Leonard Bernstein. Featuring world premieres by Wayne McGregor and
Christopher Wheeldon and a revival of Liam Scarlett’s *The Age of Anxiety*, each ballet is set to Bernstein’s vibrant music. Wayne McGregor’s new ballet features designs by ceramicist and author Edmund de Waal and Wheeldon’s features a collaboration with fashion designer Erdem Moralioglu, bringing together the worlds of dance, music, fashion and art.

**Revivals and Repertory**

Hofesh Shechter’s *Untouchable*, created for The Royal Ballet in 2015, returns. It was his first dance piece for a classical ballet company and channels themes of identity and nationhood. Wayne McGregor’s atmospheric *Obsidian Tear* featuring an all-male cast also receives its first revival.

Also returning are Christopher Wheeldon’s *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* and *The Winter’s Tale* which have become modern day classics and are regarded as two of his finest creations for The Royal Ballet. Frederick Ashton’s passionate *Marguerite and Armand* and his pastoral love story *Sylvia* are also revived. *Sylvia* inspires a new work by Alexander Whitley in The Clore Studio Upstairs, and Peter Wright’s enduring Christmas spectacular *The Nutcracker* and *Giselle* return.

The Royal Ballet remains committed to nurturing the choreographic talent of its dancers through the Draft Works programme, and opportunities for young dancers continue with the Aud Jebsen Young Dancer Programme, now in its fourth year. Five Royal Ballet School graduates have been offered a year-long placement to work alongside the corps de ballet in the new Season.

This September The Royal Ballet celebrates Hull’s extraordinary contribution to dance and ballet with a day of *Swan Lake*-inspired citywide activities as part of Hull’s UK City of Culture 2017 festivities. Kevin O’Hare takes Principals and Soloists of The Royal Ballet to his home town
for the first time in 30 years for a day of dance activities and community engagement entitled *Take Flight*. The Royal Ballet Learning and Participation team will collaborate with five local dance groups, culminating in a Chain of Cygnets with over 100 dancers and members of the community performing throughout the city of Hull and reimagining the famous cygnet *pas de quatre* from *Swan Lake*. The Royal Ballet officially re-opens Hull’s **NEW Theatre** after a £16m transformation with a celebratory performance. Members of the Company will be joined on stage by some of the exciting dance talent emerging in the city today as well as two of Hull’s own stars, **Xander Parish**, Soloist with The Mariinsky Ballet, and **Joseph Caley**, Principal with Birmingham Royal Ballet.

**World Ballet Day**, the annual live stream behind the scenes of the world’s leading ballet companies, returns in October. Now in its fourth year, World Ballet Day has become a staple in the dance calendar. Last year’s event had over 3 million views via Facebook Live, providing digital access into the world of ballet and engaging with new audiences.

This year six ballets will be screened to cinemas around the world through ROH Live Cinema.

The Royal Ballet’s unique roster of world class dancers including Principals **Federico Bonelli**, **Alexander Campbell**, **Lauren Cuthbertson**, **Matthew Golding**, **Francesca Hayward**, **Ryoichi Hirano**, **Nehemia Kish**, **Sarah Lamb**, **Steven McRae**, **Laura Morera**, **Vadim Muntagirov**, **Marianela Nuñez**, **Natalia Osipova**, **Thiago Soares**, **Akane Takada** and **Edward Watson** bring the repertory to life. Throughout the Season there will be an opportunity to see the brilliance of these dancers with additional debuts by some of the younger dancers in the Company.
THE ROYAL BALLET SEASON 2017/18

Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland

Wednesday 27 September - Saturday 28 October 2017

Created in 2011, this was Wheeldon’s first full-length work for The Royal Ballet and features the instantly recognisable cast of characters including a tap-dancing Mad Hatter, a neurotic White Rabbit and a raucous Duchess. Joby Talbot’s music and Bob Crowley’s designs bring this family favourite to life. Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland is part of ROH Live Cinema on Monday 23 October.

#ROHalice
A co-production with The National Ballet of Canada. Generous philanthropic support from Doug and Ceri King and The Royal Opera House Endowment Fund. Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon is generously supported by Kenneth and Susan Green

Kenneth MacMillan: a National Celebration

Tuesday 10 October – Wednesday 1 November 2017

Celebrating the legacy of Kenneth MacMillan on the 25th anniversary of his death, Kenneth MacMillan: a National Celebration brings the UK’s leading ballet companies together on the Royal Opera House stage for the first time. Birmingham Royal Ballet, English National Ballet, Northern Ballet and Scottish Ballet showcase MacMillan’s work through three mixed programmes of one-act ballets, including a joint performance of Elite Syncopations. Kenneth MacMillan: a National Celebration also includes a series of talks (ROH Insights) celebrating the breadth and depth of his creative genius.

#ROHmacmillan
Generous philanthropic support from The Fonteyn Circle and The Royal Opera House Endowment Fund
Sea of Troubles / Jeux

Clore Studio Upstairs
18 / 19 / 24 October 2017 (Jeux)
26 / 27 October 2017 and 1 November 2017 (Sea of Troubles)

As part of the MacMillan celebrations, artists of The Royal Ballet and Yorke Dance Project present two short ballets by Kenneth MacMillan in the Clore Studio Upstairs prior to the evening performances of the mixed programme. Sea of Troubles was created in 1988 and takes inspiration from Shakespeare’s Hamlet and will be performed by Yorke Dance Project. In 1980 MacMillan reconstructed excerpts from Vaslav Nijinsky’s lost 1913 ballet Jeux for the film Nijinsky, directed by Herbert Ross. Wayne Eagling in turn created a short ballet in 2012 based on these fragments. Jeux will be danced by The Royal Ballet.

The Illustrated ‘Farewell’ by Twyla Tharp, New Arthur Pita, Untouchable by Hofesh Shechter

Monday 6 November - Friday 17 November 2017

Twyla Tharp returns to The Royal Ballet after 18 years. One of the most prolific choreographers of our time, Twyla creates a new ballet, The Illustrated ‘Farewell’, an extension of her 1973 piece As Time Goes By. This new ballet features an extended duet with Principals Sarah Lamb and Steven McRae and uses the whole of Haydn’s ‘Farewell’ Symphony No 45 where the original used only the last two movements.

Arthur Pita takes inspiration from the 1920’s novel by Dorothy Scarborough and subsequent silent movie The Wind starring Lillian Gish for his first work for the main auditorium. With designs by Jeremy Herbert and Music by Frank Moon, this new one-act ballet tells the story of a young woman who goes to live in a remote rural community where her sanity unravels in the grip of the unrelenting wind. Pita has previously created work for the Linbury Studio Theatre including Metamorphosis, And
Then Gone for Bare Bones and God’s Garden for DanceEast. Nobody’s Baby - The World’s Greatest Show, based on the dance marathons of 1930’s America, was staged in the Paul Hamlyn Hall at the Royal Opera House. In 2015 he also created The Ballad of Mack and Ginny on Wendy Whelan and Edward Watson as part of Whelan/Watson: Other Stories. This Triple bill also includes the first revival of Hofesh Shechter’s contemporary ballet Untouchable which was created in 2015 and demonstrates his celebrated style of ensemble group performance, seen here as an exploration of tribal energy through ‘an ocean’ of dancers. The piece is set to an original composition created with his long-term collaborator Nell Catchpole, with designs by Holly Waddington and lighting by Lee Curran.

#ROHfarewellmixed

The Illustrated ‘Farewell’- Generous philanthropic support from Jay Franke and David Herro
Untouchable- Generous philanthropic support from Georgia Rosengarten
New Arthur Pita- Generous philanthropic support from the Friends of Covent Garden

Sylvia

Thursday 23 November - Saturday 16 December 2017

Frederick Ashton’s Sylvia was created in 1952 as a showcase for Margot Fonteyn’s technique and virtuosity. Set to Léo Delibes’s original score, created in 1876, the ballet is an homage to the traditions of 19th century ballet and was restored to the Company in 2004 by Christopher Newton. Taken from Greek mythology, it follows the amorous adventures of the gods in an opulent staging.

#ROHsylvia
Generous philanthropic support from Peter Lloyd and the Paul Ferguson Memorial Fund

Thursday 23 November – Friday 1 December

Alexander Whitley Dance Company takes inspiration from Sylvia to present a new production in the Clore Studio Upstairs. Looking at the role of Diana Goddess of Moon, this new work is set to Bryce Dessner’s 2014 work for strings Réponse Lutosławski.
The Nutcracker

Tuesday 5 December 2017 - Wednesday 10 January 2018
Peter Wright’s production of The Nutcracker is regarded as one of the most enchanting and enduring versions of this Christmas classic. Created in 1984 and set to Tchaikovsky’s stunning score with designs by Julia Trevelyan Oman, the ballet has a special place in The Royal Ballet’s repertory. The Nutcracker is screened as part of ROH Live Cinema season on Tuesday 5 December.
#ROHnutcracker

Generous philanthropic support from the Jean Sainsbury Royal Opera House Fund

Giselle

Friday 19 January - Friday 9 March 2018
The most famous ballet of the Romantic era and a signature work in the Royal Ballet’s repertory, Peter Wright’s hallmark production of Giselle returns to the Royal Opera House. The role of Giselle is one coveted by dancers the world over and is renowned for being both technically and dramatically challenging.
#ROHgiselle

Generous philanthropic support from the Patrons of Covent Garden

The Winter’s Tale

Tuesday 13 February - Wednesday 21 March 2018
The Winter’s Tale is Christopher Wheeldon’s second full-length work for The Royal Ballet and is regarded as one of his finest works. Created in 2014, the ballet distils Shakespeare’s late play into a compelling dance drama. It won the Critics Circle Award for Best Classical Choreography and The Benois de la Dance Award for Best Choreography, Best Score and Best Dancer awarded to Edward Watson for his performance of King Leontes. Wheeldon collaborated with the same creative team behind Alice’s
Adventures in Wonderland - music by Joby Talbot and designs by Bob Crowley. The Winter’s Tale will be screened as part of ROH Live Cinema on Wednesday 28 February 2018.
#ROHtale
A co-production with The National Ballet of Canada. Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon is generously supported by Kenneth and Susan Green

Leonard Bernstein Centenary Celebrations

New Wayne McGregor / New Christopher Wheeldon / The Age of Anxiety
Thursday 15 March - Friday 13 April 2018
Leonard Bernstein was one of the first classical composers in America to achieve both popular and critical acclaim. To celebrate the centenary of his birth, The Royal Ballet’s three associated choreographers unite in a programme with world premieres by Wayne McGregor and Christopher Wheeldon and the revival of Liam Scarlett’s The Age of Anxiety. McGregor’s new work features designs by Edmund de Waal, ceramicist, installation artist and author. Christopher Wheeldon’s ballet also welcomes a designer new to the Royal Opera House, Fashion Designer Erdem Moralioglu. Launched in 2005, London Fashion Week favourite Erdem Moralioglu’s eponymous label won him the British Fashion Designer of the Year award. His designs are known for couture-like level of craftsmanship and experimental textiles.
#ROHbernstein

Generous philanthropic support from The Royal Opera House Endowment Fund and the Bernstein Production Syndicate. New Wayne McGregor: Generous philanthropic support from Linda and Philip Harley, co-production with Dutch National Ballet. New Christopher Wheeldon: Generous philanthropic support from Mr and Mrs Edward Atkin CBE

Manon

Thursday 29 March - Saturday 12 May 2018
The Royal Ballet continues the Kenneth MacMillan celebrations with Manon. Regarded as a masterpiece, Manon demonstrates his expressive craft for creating dramatic narrative ballet, a staple of The Royal Ballet repertory.
Antoinette Sibley and Anthony Dowell created the lead roles of Manon and De Grieux in 1974. Manon will be screened as part of ROH Live Cinema on Thursday 3 May 2018. #ROHmanon

Generous philanthropic support from the Friends of Covent Garden

**Obsidian Tear / Marguerite and Armand / Elite Syncopations**

Friday 14 April – Friday 11 May 2018

Wayne McGregor’s Obsidian Tear is set to music by Esa-Pekka Salonen, pairing the violin piece Lachen Verlernt with the orchestral work Nyx. The ballet was first performed in 2016 and features an all-male cast. Frederick Ashton created Marguerite and Armand as a gift to Margot Fonteyn in 1963, celebrating the chemistry between her and the charismatic Rudolf Nureyev. The work was revived in 2000 and is now a staple of the Ashton repertory. Kenneth MacMillan’s rag-time inspired Elite Syncopations is set to music by various composers including Scott Joplin, played by an on-stage band, and features costumes designed by Ian Spurling. #ROHobsidiantriple

Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor is generously supported by Linda and Philip Harley

**Swan Lake**

Thursday 17 May - Friday 15 June 2018

The Royal Ballet presents a new production of Swan Lake staged with additional choreography by Liam Scarlett. Design are by John Macfarlane who also designed Scarlett’s Frankenstein and Age of Anxiety. Swan Lake is the most poetic of all 19th century classic ballets featuring Tchaikovsky’s sublime score. For this new production Scarlett will remain faithful to the original 1895 production by Marius Petipa and Lev
Ivanov and brings a fresh eye to this enduring classic. Swan Lake will be screened as part of ROH Live Cinema on Tuesday 12 June 2018.

#ROHswanlake

Generous philanthropic support from the Monument Trust, Mrs Aline Foriel-Destezet, Celia Blakey, Doug and Ceri King, the Swan Lake Production Syndicate, The American Friends of Covent Garden and The Royal Opera House Endowment Fund

CHOREOGRAPHERS IN THE 2017/18 SEASON

Frederick Ashton, Wayne Eagling, Lev Ivanov, Kenneth MacMillan, Wayne McGregor, Arthur Pita, Marius Petipa, Liam Scarlett, Hofesh Shechter, Twyla Tharp, Christopher Wheeldon, Alexander Whitley, Peter Wright

LEARNING AND PARTICIPATION – BALLET AND DANCE

ROH Learning and Participation explores new ways of connecting people with ballet and dance through a range of dynamic projects.

Chance to Dance introduces ballet to primary school children in the London boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark and Thurrock. Each year around 2000 children participate in demonstrations and movement workshops with Royal Ballet dancers in their schools. Children are then selected to attend free weekly classes in their community and have opportunities to come to performances, family days, classes and workshops at the Royal Opera House and to perform with Royal Ballet dancers.

National Nutcracker is a classroom-based programme for primary schools providing high-quality practical teacher training and creative dance classroom resources designed to inspire imaginative thinking, build skills and enrich the experience of ballet for both pupils and teachers. Pupils gain an exclusive insight into The Royal Ballet bringing the professional dance studio into the classroom through online resources. Participating classes choreograph their own creative dance inspired by themes in The Nutcracker. Their responses to the creative dance challenge are submitted and the winning school group is invited to a performance of The Nutcracker at the
Royal Opera House while all other participating schools attend a screening at their local cinema.

**WELCOME PERFORMANCES**

Welcome Performances are for families who have never been to a ballet or opera at the Royal Opera House. The performances explore different elements of a production from singing through to backstage crafts and costumes. Tickets are £5–£20.

**PAUL HAMLYN CHRISTMAS TREAT**

The Paul Hamlyn Christmas Treats have encouraged thousands of families who had not previously been to a performance at the Royal Opera House. Last year families were invited to see The Royal Ballet perform *The Nutcracker* for as little as £5.

Generously supported by the Helen Hamlyn Trust.
THE ROYAL BALLET 2017/18 SEASON

*Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* - Christopher Wheeldon  
Wednesday 27 September - Saturday 28 October 2017  
ROH Live Cinema, Monday 23 October 2017

*Kenneth MacMillan: a National Celebration*  
Tuesday 10 October - Wednesday 1 November 2017

**Programme 1**  
18 / 19 October  
- *Concerto* (Birmingham Royal Ballet)  
- *Le Baiser de la fée* (Scottish Ballet)  

**Programme 2**  
24 October, 1 November  
- *The Judas Tree* (The Royal Ballet)  
- *Song of the Earth* (English National Ballet)

**Programme 3**  
26 / 27 October  
- *Gloria* (Northern Ballet)  
- *The Judas Tree* (The Royal Ballet)  
- *Elite Syncopations* (The Royal Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Northern Ballet, Scottish Ballet)

*Jeux – Wayne Eagling/Kenneth MacMillan*  
18 / 19 / 24 October  
Performed by artists of The Royal Ballet  
Clore Studio Upstairs

*Sea of Troubles – Kenneth MacMillan*  
26 / 27 October and 1 November  
Performed by Yorke Dance Project  
Clore Studio Upstairs

**MacMillan Insight Evenings**  
10 October – 1 November - Various dates and venues

**Triple Bill**  
Monday 6 November - Friday 17 November 2017  
- *The Illustrated ‘Farewell’* - Twyla Tharp  
- *NEW BALLET* - Arthur Pita  
- *Untouchable* - Hofesh Shechter
**Sylvia** - Frederick Ashton  
Thursday 23 November - Saturday 16 December 2017

**Sylvia** - Alexander Whitley Dance - New work inspired by Sylvia  
23 / 29 / 30 November 2017 and 1 December 2017  
Clore Studio Upstairs

**The Nutcracker** - Peter Wright after Lev Ivanov  
Tuesday 5 December 2017 - Wednesday 10 January 2018

**Giselle** - Marius Petipa after Jean Coralli after Jules Perrot  
Friday 19 January - Friday 9 March 2018

**The Winter’s Tale** - Christopher Wheeldon  
Tuesday 13 February - Wednesday 21 March 2018  
ROH Live Cinema, Wednesday 28 February 2018

Bernstein Triple Bill  
Thursday 15 March - Friday 13 April 2018  
- **NEW BALLET** - Wayne McGregor  
- **NEW BALLET** - Christopher Wheeldon  
- **The Age of Anxiety** - Liam Scarlett

**Manon** - Kenneth MacMillan  
Thursday 29 March - Saturday 12 May 2018  
ROH Live Cinema, Thursday 3 May 2018

Triple Bill  
Friday 14 April - Friday 11 May 2018  
- **Obsidian Tear** - Wayne McGregor  
- **Marguerite and Armand** - Frederick Ashton  
- **Elite Syncopations** - Kenneth MacMillan

**Swan Lake** - Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov  
Thursday 17 May – Friday 15 June 2018  
ROH Live Cinema, Tuesday 12 June 2018
PRESS OFFICE CONTACTS

Ashley Woodfield
Head of Ballet Press
Tel: 020 7212 9165
Mobile: 07984 513 676
Ashley.Woodfield@roh.org.uk

Sarah Farrell
Ballet Press and Communications Officer
Tel: 0207 212 9241
Sarah.Farrell@roh.org.uk