



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2018

## The Royal Opera House lets everyone in on the act

The Royal Opera House today opens the doors to its transformed new home, following an extensive three-year construction project.

With inviting new entrances, extended foyers and terraces and a new café, bar and restaurant, together with an extensive programme of ticketed and free daytime events, activities and festivals for people of all ages, the Royal Opera House is now, for the first time, open to the public every day from 10am.

At the heart of this project is a brand new Linbury Theatre, the West End's newest and most intimate theatre, which provides an additional world-class stage for The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera and a host of internationally celebrated artists and partners. In its inaugural Season, the Linbury Theatre showcases an astonishing range of work, from an 18th-century rarity to 21st-century world premieres – with 25 per cent of seats priced at £25 or less.

The project, designed by award-winning architects Stanton Williams, unites 19th-century grandeur with 21st-century elegance. The new bar and restaurant provide delicious food and drink in beautifully designed spaces, and are open to both performance goers and other members of the public.

### **Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House, Alex Beard, said:**

“We are delighted to open the doors to a transformed Royal Opera House, with our new Linbury Theatre, new entrances, foyers and terraces, a new café, bar and restaurant and refurbished Clore Studio, as well as an extensive programme of daytime events, activities and festivals. The Royal Opera House is now open every day from 10am, and we want as many

people as possible to visit one of the world’s most beautiful theatres, to experience our art forms and to get a taste of the remarkable creativity at play here.”

The final construction cost is estimated at £50.7m, with all of the funds raised from philanthropy.

The elegant, newly-created spaces will be brought alive with a year-round daytime programme of events, activities and festivals for audiences of all ages: events will range from workshops demonstrating the magic of backstage theatre crafts to guest artist performances and immersive events. The new front-of-house displays will include stunning costumes charting some famous episodes in the history of The Royal Ballet and The Royal Opera.

The new Royal Opera House Shop, open Monday–Saturday from 10am until after the last interval on a performance evening, and on Sunday 10am–6pm, boasts a diverse range of specially designed products inspired by our theatre and art from some of Britain’s most exciting designers.

**ENDS**

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## **PRESS OFFICE CONTACTS**

1. For interviews, tours and further information contact [Jolene Dyke](#)
2. For images and time lapse footage please click [here](#)
3. To request press tickets please contact [Hannah Last](#)
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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **About the Royal Opera House Open Up project**

The Royal Opera House believes that opera and ballet should be experienced by everyone, and the Open Up project will make the Royal Opera House a daytime destination open to all, every day from 10am. The new bar, café, restaurant, free events and unique front-of-house displays will transform these dedicated new spaces, and welcome everyone to their revitalized home. The brand new Linbury Theatre will become the West End’s newest, most intimate theatre; it will showcase the best of the Royal Opera House’s art forms and provide a wealth of innovative world premieres, co-productions and collaborations.

## **Philanthropy**

The final construction cost of our Open Up project is estimated at £50.7m, with all of the funds raised from philanthropy. Those trusts, foundations and individuals who are closest to us were asked to make an exceptional gift on top of their ongoing support of the Royal Opera House. The Royal Opera House is truly grateful to the following:

- The Linbury Trust
- The Monument Trust
- The Clore Duffield Foundation
- Mrs Susan A. Olde OBE
- The Dorfman Foundation
- Dr Genevieve Davies and family
- The Taylor Family Foundation
- Mr Stefan Sten Olsson
- Dunard Fund
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- The Kirsh Foundation
- Sir Simon Robey
- The Sackler Trust
- The Celia Blakey Charitable Trust
- Mrs Lily Safra
- The Hobson Charity
- Tim and Sarah Bunting
- Hamish and Sophie Forsyth
- Sir Simon and Lady Robertson
- Royal Opera House Endowment Fund

## **About the Royal Opera House**

The Royal Opera House's aim is for many more people to enjoy and engage in exceptional ballet and opera. As The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, we bring together the world's most extraordinary ballet and opera artists in more than 500 performances every year: live events that thrill, move and excite, and that transport people to other worlds through music, dance and theatre.

Sing at the Royal Opera House and Dance with The Royal Ballet are generously supported by the Paul Hamlyn Education Fund, and the Royal Opera House events programme is generously supported by the Mohn Westlake Foundation.

### **About Stanton Williams**

Stanton Williams is a multi-award-winning architectural design practice based in London. The practice has developed its portfolio from an initial focus on museums and galleries towards a wide variety of projects, all of which demonstrate its overarching objective of putting the user's experience of space, light and materials at the forefront of the agenda, as well as creating places that sensitively respond to their cultural, social and physical context.

Current or recently completed projects include: the Musée d'arts de Nantes, France; a new research centre for Great Ormond Street Hospital in London; a major educational project for UCL East Marshgate; the Museum of London West Smithfield and the Royal Opera House, London.

[www.stantonwilliams.com](http://www.stantonwilliams.com)