April 2019

The Royal Ballet presents *Medusa*, a world premiere
by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui

*Within the Golden Hour / Medusa / Flight Pattern*

Wednesday 8 – Tuesday 21 May 2019

ROH Live Cinema relay Thursday 16 May 2019

#ROHmedusamixed

Acclaimed choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui presents *Medusa*, his first work for The Royal Ballet. Inspired by the *Medusa* myth, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui has reinterpreted the narrative for this new ballet which is set to the music of Henry Purcell with electronic additions by Olga Wojciechowska. Casting includes Royal Ballet Principals Natalia Osipova as Medusa, Matthew Ball as Perseus and Ryoichi Hirano as Poseidon and Royal Ballet Soloist Olivia Cowley as Athena. Set design is by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and the Royal Opera House Production Department, with costumes by Olivia Pomp and lighting design by Adam Silvermann. The ballet will be live-streamed to cinemas on Thursday 16 May.

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui has created more than fifty works for some of the world’s leading dance companies. He has won several awards, including two Olivier Awards. In 2008 he created *Sutra* with artist Antony Gormley and the Shaolin Monks. Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui is an Associate Artist of Sadler’s Wells and is Artistic Director of Royal Ballet of Flanders. His own company Eastman is based in Antwerp.
The programme also includes *Within the Golden Hour* by Christopher Wheeldon. Originally created for San Francisco Ballet in 2008, the ballet had its Royal Ballet premiere in 2016. This revival features new designs by renowned British designer Jasper Conran, who produced his first womenswear collection in 1978 and was awarded Designer of the Year by the British Fashion Council in 1986. Conran has designed costumes for numerous plays, ballets and operas including David Bentley’s *Tombeaux* for The Royal Ballet in 1993. *Within the Golden Hour* has been hailed as one of Wheeldon’s finest ballets and is set to an original score by Italian minimalist composer Ezio Bosso. Lighting is by Peter Mumford.

**Crystal Pite**’s Olivier Award winning *Flight Pattern* receives its first revival in this mixed programme. Created for The Royal Ballet in 2017, this poignant work is inspired by flight and human migration and is a response to world events, questioning the fraility of the human condition and the tension between despair and hope. The ballet is set to Henryk Górecki’s *Symphony no 3 (Symphony of Sorrowful Songs)*. Designs are by Jay Gowler Taylor, costumes by Nancy Bryant and lighting by Tom Visser.

ENDS

Please note that *Medusa* contains moderate, stylised physical threat and discreet sex references. It is not generally suitable for children under the age of 12.
NOTES TO EDITORS

Within the Golden Hour / Medusa / Flight Pattern

Wednesday 8 – Tuesday 21 May 2019
Evening Performances 8, 9, 15, 16, 21 May at 7.30pm and 18 May at 7pm
Matinee Performance Saturday 18 May at 1.30pm

Live Cinema relay Thursday 16 May

Tickets available from the Royal Opera House Box Office
www.roh.org.uk +44(0)20 7304 4000

Generous philanthropic support from
Julia and Hans Rausing and The Royal Opera House Endowment Fund

Within the Golden Hour – Royal Ballet Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon generously supported by Kenneth and Susan Green. Generous philanthropic support from Mr and Mrs Edward Atkin CBE.

Medusa: Generous philanthropic support from The Taylor Family Foundation, Georgia Rosengarten and the New Choreography Syndicate
Creative Team

**Within the Golden Hour**

Choreographer  
Christopher Wheeldon

Music  
Ezio Bosso

Designer  
Jasper Conran

Lighting designer  
Peter Mumford

Conducted by  
Jonathan Lo with the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

**Medusa**

Choreographer  
Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui

Music  
Henry Purcell with electronic additions by Olga Wojciechowska

Set design  
Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and ROH Production Department

Costume Director  
Olivia Pomp

Lighting designer  
Adam Silverman

Conductor/Harpsichord  
Andrew Griffiths with the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

**Flight Pattern**

Choreographer  
Crystal Pite

Music  
Henryk Mikolaj Gorecki

Set designer  
Jay Gowler Taylor

Costume designer  
Nancy Bryant

Lighting designer  
Tom Visser

Conducted by  
Jonathan Lo with the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House
Royal Ballet Press Office

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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.

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 and the compelling new canon of work including pieces by Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor, Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon and Artist in Residence Liam Scarlett.