



ROYAL
BALLET

News Announcement

28 June 2024

The Royal Ballet announces Company promotions, new joiners and leavers

Director of The Royal Ballet **Kevin O'Hare** today announces promotions, new joiners and leavers for The Royal Ballet's 2024/25 Season.

Kevin O'Hare says, 'It has been immensely rewarding to watch the dancers display their extraordinary artistry and versatility on stage during the 2023/24 Season. Each artist makes a fantastic contribution to the Company's artistic life and I am pleased to thank them all and detail the changes for next Season.'

The following promotions have been made:

Calvin Richardson and **Joseph Sissens** are promoted to Principal.

Annette Buvoli, Leticia Dias, Sae Maeda, Mariko Sasaki, Lukas B. Brændsrød, Leo Dixon and **Joonhyuk Jun** are promoted to First Soloist.

Sophie Allnatt, Chisato Katsura, Liam Boswell, Daichi Ikarashi, Joshua Junker and **Francisco Serrano** are promoted to Soloist.

Madison Bailey, Viola Pantuso, Sumina Sasaki, Marianna Tsembehoi and **Brayden Gallucci** are promoted to First Artist.

The Aud Jebsen Young Dancer programme was established in 2014 and provides recently graduated dancers a year's contract to be nurtured and perform alongside the corps de ballet of The Royal Ballet. The Company is indebted to the most generous philanthropic support of

Aud Jebsen for this life changing opportunity for graduates of The Royal Ballet School. By the beginning of next Season, 61 contracts will have been made available for dancers at the first stage of their careers since the programme's inception.

From the 23/24 Season's intake, **Bethany Bartlett, Sierra Glasheen, Isabella Shaker, Caspar Lench** and **Blake Smith** become Artists.

For the 2024/25 Season, six graduates from The Royal Ballet School join the Aud Jebsen Young Dancers Programme: **Francesca Lloyd, Katie Robertson, Rebecca Myles Stewart, Ravi Connier-Watson, Emile Gooding** and **Alejandro Muñoz**.

Airi Kobayashi from the Deparc Ballet School in Japan joins as the Prix de Lausanne dancer for the 2024/25 Season.

As previously announced, Principal dancer **Alexander Campbell** left The Royal Ballet earlier this year to take up a new role as Artistic Director of the Royal Academy of Dance.

After 11 years with The Royal Ballet, and with the last year spent as a guest dancer in Norway, Soloist **Gina Storm Jensen** will now become a permanent member of The Norwegian National Ballet.

Soloist **David Yudes** also departs the Company after 10 years to become the director of the Escola de Dansa Marisa Yudes in Barcelona.

Artist **Stanislaw Węgrzyn** leaves The Royal Ballet to take up a soloist contract at the Semperoper Dresden.

Seunghee Han from the 2023/24 Aud Jebsen Young Dancers Programme leaves to join the National Ballet of Canada RBC Apprentice Programme.

The Company's current Prix de Lausanne dancer, **Julie-Ann Joyner**, joins Norwegian National Ballet 2.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Images can be downloaded from links below:

Promotions image:

<https://library.roh.org.uk/transfer/e7cbbb2edbd5144960da51fa2baf18b4da36d5f89d219e2617cd294eeeca73f9e>

Calvin Richardson

<https://library.roh.org.uk/transfer/8362f4584ffb7795e11672d9ba7ebf8242914dd587b700dfd268e90d9ca1a903>

Joseph Sissens

<https://library.roh.org.uk/transfer/478fdd73045c494bc5bc98b8c89684f3e01936104cec67d524c00c98dae85eeb>

For interviews, and further information, please contact:

Head of Royal Ballet Press:

Ashley.Woodfield@roh.org.uk

Tel 07984513676

Dancer Biographies:

Calvin Richardson:

Raised in Traralgon, Australia, he was a finalist of the 2012 Prix de Lausanne and was awarded a scholarship to study at The Royal Ballet Upper School. He performed his own version of *The Dying Swan* at the School's annual matinee at the Royal Opera House and as part of Deloitte Ignite 14. He joined the Company for the 2014/15 Season. He was promoted to First Artist, 2017, Soloist, 2018, and First Soloist, 2021. His repertory includes Romeo, Benno, Bluebird, Prince (*The Nutcracker*), Step-Sister (*Cinderella*), The Instrument (*The Cellist*), Belleruche (*Strapless*), *pas de six* (*Giselle*) and roles in *Concerto*, *Chroma*, *Wolf Works*, *Symphonic Dances*, *Judas Tree*, *Swan Lake*, 'Emeralds' (*Jewels*), *Asphodel Meadows* and *The Statement*. He created roles in *Untouchable*, *Flight Pattern*, *Obsidian Tear*, *Multiverse*, *Yugen*, *Everyone Keeps Me*, *The Dante Project*, *The Weathering*, *Light of Passage* and *Untitled*, 2023.

Joseph Sissens:

Born in Cambridge and of Anglo-Caribbean descent, he trained at the Georgina Pay School of Dance and on a scholarship with Tring Park School for the Performing Arts before joining The Royal Ballet School, graduating into The Royal Ballet, 2016. He was promoted to First Artist, 2018, Soloist, 2021, and to First Soloist, 2022. Awards include second prize at both Young British Dancer of the Year (2014), the Ursula Moreton Choreographic Award (2015), a Black British Theatre Award in Best Dance Performance in a Dance Production (2021). Royal Ballet repertory includes Benno, Hans-Peter/The Nutcracker, Prince, Bluebird, Dance of the Blessed Spirits, Lensky, Mercutio, The Mad Hatter, Cinderella, *Cross Currents*, *Medusa*, *Infra*, *Obsidian Tear*, *Symphonic Variations*, *The Statement*, *DGV: Danse à grande vitesse*, *Scènes de ballet*, *Rhapsody* and *Wolf Works*. He has created roles in *The Illustrated 'Farewell'*, *The Dante Project*, *The Weathering*, *Like Water for Chocolate*, *Light of Passage*, *See Us!!* and *Untitled*, 2023.

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, a compelling new canon of work by choreographers today including Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor and Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon, and the bold and complementary programming in the Linbury Theatre. Guest choreographers Kyle Abraham, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Cathy Marston, Arthur Pita, Crystal Pite, Hofesh Shechter, Pam Tanowitz and Twyla Tharp have also created work for the Company.