



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

THE ROYAL BALLET

Director

KEVIN O'HARE CBE

Founder

DAME NINETTE DE VALOIS OM CH DBE

Founder Choreographer

SIR FREDERICK ASHTON OM CH CBE

Founder Music Director

CONSTANT LAMBERT

Prima Ballerina Assoluta

DAME MARGOT FONTEYN DBE

FESTIVAL OF NEW CHOREOGRAPHY

DUETS

Generous philanthropic support from **TINA TAYLOR, DAVID F MARSHALL, THE SARGENT CHARITABLE TRUST, JAY FRANKE AND DAVID HERRO, ROH YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS, THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF COVENT GARDEN** and **THE FESTIVAL OF NEW CHOREOGRAPHY PRODUCTION SYNDICATE**

OTHER is funded by the **ABDERRAHIM CRICKMAY CHARITY SETTLEMENT**. Co-produced by **JORDAN JAMES BRIDGE & VERONICA FURMAN**

SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2024

APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

This performance will last approximately 1 hour with no interval.

GUIDANCE

Content suitable for all. We cannot admit children under the age of 5

WELCOME

The Festival of New Choreography is a series of performances and events that form part of The Royal Ballet's commitment to embrace and champion new, diverse voices in choreography.

Presenter **HANNAH GRENNELL**

CHA CHA AND TIARA

Choreography **RENTARO NAKAAKI**

Music **XAVIER CUGAT** *La Cumparsita*

Company **ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET**

Dancers **JULIA CONWAY, MIGUEL ANGEL MAIDANA**

'I used to listen to *La Cumparsita* almost every day as my parents are ballroom dancers. This version is a jazzier take on a tango, which I fell in love with. Throughout this process, I focused on the unexpected layers hidden in the music, and these became the foundation to guide my movement language. The overarching theme of this piece is an abstract, joyful take on the Cha Cha (male dancer) and Tiara (female dancer), showcasing the dancers' personalities.' - Rentaro Nakaaki

OUT OF BREATH

Choreography **GEORGE LIANG**

Music **OLAFUR ARNALDS** *UNDONE*

Company **NORTHERN BALLET**

Dancers **ALESSANDRA BRAMANTE, JOSEPH TAYLOR**

Inhale, then exhale. That's how you'll get through it. As we grow up, this world seems to become much more complicated and a somewhat heavier place. We sometimes get trapped in our own mind, overthinking everything, being emotionally reactive, losing track of time, constantly analysing the past or even fearing the future. If you find yourself caught up in a whirlwind of excitement, or despair, remember to pause, and take a breath.

OTHER

Choreography **JORDAN JAMES BRIDGE** in collaboration with the dancers

Music **VALGEIR SIGURDSSON**

Company **COMPANY WAYNE MCGREGOR**

Dancers **REBECCA BASSETT-GRAHAM, EILEIH MUIR**

OTHER is a duet inspired by the artwork of Hans Ruedi Giger, a Swiss artist known for his airbrushed images that blend the human physique with machine in the 'biomechanical' style. Ruedi Giger is also known for his work as the artist behind the art direction in the 1979 horror series 'Alien'.

FOCAL

Choreography **BREANNA FOAD**

Music **JUDD GREENSTEIN** *AEIOU* (performed by **ROOMFUL OF TEETH**)

Company **ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET**

Dancers **AITOR ARRIETA, ASHLEY COUPAL**

As a completely acapella composition, *Focal* represents the voice most prominent within the different dimensions of the piece. The leading voice can often be subjective to each individual. *Focal* challenges the ever-changing aspects of the music and portrays that through the connection between the dancers. The inspiration comes directly from the music *AEIOU* by Judd Greenstein, performed by Roomful of Teeth.



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approach in response to anyone who interacts with our staff or with fellow audience members in an intimidating, aggressive or threatening manner.

WORDS TO THE WIND

Choreography **DENILSON ALMEIDA**

Music **JOÃO GILBERTO, CAETANO VELOSO, GILBERTO GIL**
Cordeiro de Nana

METÁ METÁ *Pesar*

ABACAXEPA *Crudo*

Company **THE ROYAL BALLET**

Dancers **MARTIN DIAZ, CASPAR LENCH**

'A fusion of Brazilian rhythms intertwined with African religious influences inspired my choreography, which shows the journey of two individuals navigating life's challenges together. Drawing inspiration from the rich tapestry of Afro-Brazilian culture, I attempted to create a conversation through dance where vulnerability and guidance intertwine, exploring the beauty of human connection.' - Denilson Almeida

AX.ONE

Choreography **HANNAH JOSEPH**

Music **CAIRO BROWN** *Scarecrow*

Company **COMPANY WAYNE MCGREGOR**

Dancers **HANNAH JOSEPH, ELAINI KOULA LALOUSIS**

Separate pathways and separate cognition feeding into one shared entity. Information fires between sharp minds, as they take turns to cut out a new course. Can this shared force stay equal?

THE ROYAL BALLET

Director **KEVIN O'HARE** CBE

Music Director **KOEN KESSELS**

Resident Choreographer **WAYNE MCGREGOR** CBE

Artistic Associate **CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON** OBE

Administrative Director **HEATHER BAXTER**

Rehearsal Director **CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS**

Clinical Director Ballet Healthcare **SHANE KELLY**

GUIDELINES

Photography and filming are prohibited during performances in any of our auditoriums. You are welcome to take pictures throughout the rest of the building and before performances and share them with us through social media. Commercial photography and filming must be agreed in advance with our press team.

Larger bags and backpacks need to be checked into our complimentary cloakrooms. Unattended bags may be removed.

Smoking and vaping are not permitted anywhere on the premises.

The safety of our visitors, staff and artists is still our priority. To help us provide a comfortable experience for everyone, please be mindful of others and their personal space.

Our staff are committed to treating everyone with dignity and respect and we ask that you show them and your fellow audience members respect too. We adopt a zero-tolerance

DIGITAL CAST SHEETS

We are working hard on our commitment towards becoming more sustainable and are striving for our net zero goal of 2035. By using digital rather than printed cast sheets, we have reduced our paper consumption by over five tonnes per year. You can view our digital cast sheets on a computer, tablet or smartphone by scanning the QR codes displayed around the building using your smartphone's camera app. They are also displayed on screens outside the auditoria. Cast sheets are generously supported by the Royal Opera House Endowment Fund.

SUPPORTING THE RECOVERY OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

We are so glad to welcome our artists back to our theatres to perform for you the opera and ballet you love. During the pandemic we lost £3 in every £5 of our income and we continue to feel the impact as we recover. Sustaining the future of ballet and opera has never been so important. Please consider making a donation to support the Royal Opera House community today.

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