



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

# THE DANTE PROJECT

A ballet inspired by Dante Alighieri's *The Divine Comedy* and *La Vita Nuova*

**'This man is one who, from the deepest void  
in all the universe, has seen thus far'**

Choreography **WAYNE MCGREGOR**

Music **THOMAS ADÈS**

*Inferno*, *Purgatorio*, and *Paradiso* performed by arrangement with Faber Music, London

Design **TACITA DEAN**

Lighting Design *Inferno: Pilgrim* **LUCY CARTER** and **SIMON BENNISON**

Lighting Design *Purgatorio: Love* and *Paradiso: Poema Sacro* **LUCY CARTER**

Dramaturgy **UZMA HAMEED**

Staging and Assistants to the Choreographer **AMANDA EYLES**, **JENNY TATTERSALL**, **MIKAELA POLLEY** and **JESSICA WRIGHT**

Principal Coaching **EDWARD WATSON**

Conductor **JONATHAN LO**

**ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE**

Concert Master **SERGEY LEVITIN**

A co-production between The Royal Ballet and Paris Opera Ballet Commissioned by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Gustavo Dudamel, Music and Artistic Director, and the Royal Opera House Covent Garden Foundation for The Royal Ballet, Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor, with the generous support of the Lenore S. and Bernard A. Greenberg Fund

Part 1, *Inferno*, co-commissioned by the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Amsterdam, for concert performances Performed by arrangement with Faber Music, London

Exceptional philanthropic support from Royal Opera House Principals **JULIA AND HANS RAUSING** Generous philanthropic support from **DAVID FRANSEN**, **JOHN AND SUSAN BURNS OBE** and **THE ESTATE OF HOWARD HODGKIN**

Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor generously supported by **TINA TAYLOR**

The role of Dante is supported by an anonymous donor The 2023/24 Ballet Season is generously supported by **AUD JEBSEN**

**SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2023 7.30PM**

The 13th performance by The Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House.

## APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

The performance will last approximately 2 hours 40 minutes, including two intervals

**INFERNO: PILGRIM** 50 minutes

**INTERVAL** 30 minutes

**PURGATORIO: LOVE** 25 minutes

**INTERVAL** 30 minutes

**PARADISO: POEMA SACRO** 25 minutes

## GUIDANCE

Please note there are bright lights in *Paradiso: Poema Sacro*.

## CAST

DANTE	William Bracewell
VIRGIL	Gary Avis
BEATRICE	Fumi Kaneko

## INFERNO: PILGRIM

DANTE	William Bracewell
VIRGIL	Gary Avis
SINNERS	Artists of The Royal Ballet

## EXILE - THE DARK FOREST

### THE SELFISH

Lukas B. Brændsrød, David Donnelly, Hannah Grennell, Meaghan Grace Hinkis, Marco Masciari, Mariko Sasaki, Francisco Serrano, Marianna Tsembehoi

### FERRYMAN

Marcelino Sambé, Yasmine Naghdi

### POETS - PAVAN OF THE SOULS IN LIMBO

Harry Churches, David Donnelly, Téó Dubreuil, Joonhyuk Jun, Marco Masciari, Aiden O'Brien, Giacomo Rovero

### FRANCESCA AND PAOLO

Francesca Hayward, Matthew Ball

### ULYSSES

Calvin Richardson  
Sophie Allnatt, Denilson Almeida, Lukas B. Brændsrød, Harry Churches, Leticia Dias, Hannah Grennell, Sae Maeda, Taisuke Nakao, Francisco Serrano, Charlotte Tonkinson

### THE FOREST OF SUICIDES – DIDO

Anna Rose O'Sullivan, Luca Acri  
Sophie Allnatt, Leticia Dias, Hannah Grennell, Francesca Hayward, Meaghan Grace Hinkis, Mariko Sasaki, Sae Maeda, Yasmine Naghdi, Julia Roscoe, Sumina Sasaki, Charlotte Tonkinson, Amelia Townsend, Marianna Tsembehoi, Ginevra Zambon



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

## SOOTHSAYERS

Francisco Serrano, Joseph Sissens

## THE WRATHFUL

Hannah Grennell, Meaghan Grace Hinkis, Mariko Sasaki, Marianna Tsembehoi

## THE POPE'S ADAGIO

Leo Dixon

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Sophie Allnatt, Denilson Almeida, Lukas B. Brændsrød, Harry Churches, Leticia Dias, Hannah Grennell, Sae Maeda, Taisuke Nakao, Aiden O'Brien, Charlotte Tonkinson

## THIEVES

Luca Acri, Denilson Almeida, Matthew Ball, Leo Dixon, Téo Dubreuil, Marco Masciari, Taisuke Nakao, Giacomo Rovero, Marcelino Sambé, Francisco Serrano, Joseph Sissens

## SATAN

Melissa Hamilton

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## PURGATORIO: LOVE

### REMEMBRANCE 3

### RITUAL

### REMEMBRANCE 2

### RITUAL

### REMEMBRANCE 1

### SWEETEST FATHER

### BEATRICE

DANTE	William Bracewell Marco Masciari Alfie Napolitano
VIRGIL	Gary Avis
BEATRICE	Fumi Kaneko Francesca Hayward Anna Kondo

### PENITENTS

Matthew Ball, Lukas B. Brændsrød, Nicol Edmonds, Marcelino Sambé, Joseph Sissens

Isabella Gasparini, Meaghan Grace Hinkis

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## PARADISO: POEMA SACRO

(continuous and planetary)

DANTE	William Bracewell
BEATRICE	Fumi Kaneko

### CELESTIAL BODIES

Matthew Ball, Lukas B. Brændsrød, Leticia Dias, Nicol Edmonds, Hannah Grennell, Melissa Hamilton, Meaghan Grace Hinkis, Harrison Lee, Sae Maeda, Mayara Magri, Marco Masciari, Yasmine Naghdi, Viola Pantuso, Calvin Richardson, Marcelino Sambé, Francisco Serrano, Joseph Sissens, Amelia Townsend

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## 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**

Healthcare Director **SHANE KELLY**

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## 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.

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## SAFETY 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. Please do not place any personal belongings on the ledges in front of you.

Only bottled water and ice cream purchased from the premises can be taken into the auditorium. If you arrive late to the auditorium or leave during a performance, you will not be allowed back to your seat until the interval or a suitable break.

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

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## 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 the Royal Opera House community today and help support the future of ballet and opera.

[roh.org.uk/donate](https://roh.org.uk/donate)