



# **Sadler's Wells**

**Summer 2018**

## **A message from Alistair Spalding**

2018 marks the 20th anniversary of Sadler's Wells' present building. Erected on the same spot where entrepreneur Richard Sadler first established a "musick house" on the site of a mineral spring in 1683, the current theatre, purpose-built for dance, opened in October 1998. Sadler's Wells became our national dance house. A lot has changed since then, but two things have remained constant: our determination to work with exceptional artists and our commitment to reaching an ever wider audience through what we do.

20 years later, a large portion of our programme each season is made up of works we have produced or co-produced, mainly with our Associate Artists and companies. What better way to celebrate than by commissioning 20 new works for our stage. They include a special triple bill performed in our anniversary week in October, featuring pieces by three distinctive choreographic voices who are creating work for our main stage for the first time: Julie Cunningham, Alesandra Seutin and Botis Seva.

We look back at our long-standing relationship with leading choreographer William Forsythe, whose creations we have presented many times in the last two decades – one of them being the Focus on Forsythe season we programmed in 2009. His choreography features as part of our Associate Company English National Ballet's Voices of America in April and is the subject of a triple bill by Semperoper Ballett in June, as well as a new evening of work in October that we have produced.

Looking forward, I am thrilled to have a new addition to the Sadler's Wells family. Sharon Eyal becomes our newest Sadler's Wells Associate Artist. Following Sharon's piece as part of Ballet British Columbia's triple bill and Used To Be Blonde

for National Youth Dance Company in spring, I am delighted to present her Love Chapter 2 in July. I am also delighted to introduce the Young Associates initiative, through which we will support choreographers aged 18 to 24. It is a vital step towards developing the larger, more diverse next generation of dance-makers that we want and need.

Thank you for helping us bring great work to the stage and dance into people's lives. May we continue for many more decades to come.

Alistair Spalding CBE  
Artistic Director and Chief Executive

## **How to build a theatre**

Sadler's Wells has undergone a radical transformation over the last 20 years. We have grown into a world-leading dance house, commissioning and producing more new dance work than any other theatre in the world. That transformation has been built on the fundamental belief that dance as an art form has a vital power for us all. It transcends social, linguistic and cultural barriers, inviting us to open our minds.

There are, of course, several vital ingredients. At the heart of our theatre are artists, and our principal aim is to give them the support and conditions to make their best work. Our goal is to create game-changing productions, by striking up collaborations across different disciplines and giving artists the space and licence to imagine and experiment.

We also rely on our theatre buildings and the people running them to realise each artist's vision and articulate their voice. This year, we celebrate 20 years of our current theatre building in Islington with its large lyric stage, intimate studio theatre and expansive public spaces.

This site, like our other venue, The Peacock, has a history stretching much further back of course, and there is a reason for their enduring popularity and success. The final, crucial ingredient is what breathes life into our theatres, and it's you: our supporters and audience.

Almost a century ago, Lilian Baylis set out a vision that we hold fast to today: that great art should belong to everybody. We want to continue to welcome people of all ages and from all walks of life to experience dance – to take part, learn, experiment and be inspired. And we look forward to sharing the coming year's programme with you. Thank you for your support!

## **20 commissions for 20 years**

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the current Sadler's Wells theatre, redesigned in 1998 on the site of the original 1683 building, we have commissioned 20 new works.

We would like to thank The Monument Trust for their generous support of our new commissions.

More details on the commissions will be announced throughout the year.

- 1 **National Youth Dance Company / Sharon Eyal**  
Used To Be Blonde
- 2 **balletLORENT**  
Rumpelstiltskin
- 3 **one step at a time like this**  
upsidedowninsideout
- 4 **Breakin' Convention '18**  
Jazz Refreshed
- 5 **Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan**  
Formosa
- 6 **Akram Khan Company**  
XENOS
- 7 **Company of Elders**  
Mixed Bill
- 8 **Natalia Osipova**  
Pure Dance
- 9 **William Forsythe**  
A Quiet Evening of Dance

- 10 **Young Associates**  
Mixed Bill
- 11 **Julie Cunningham / Alesandra Seutin / Botis Seva**  
Reckonings
- 12 **Jasmin Vardimon Company**  
New Work
- 13 **Mark Morris Dance Group**  
Layla & Majnun
- 14 **Nitin Sawhney & Wang Ramirez**  
Dystopian Dream
- 15 **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui & Antony Gormley**  
Icon
- 16 **Rambert 2**  
Mixed Bill
- 17 **Jefta van Dinther**  
Dark Field Analysis
- 18 **Eva Recacha**  
New Work
- 19 **Mavin Khoo**  
From Man to Monk - Part 1
- 20 **Wilkie Branson**  
TOM

For more information, dates and details of all these productions, see [blog.sadlerswells.com](http://blog.sadlerswells.com)

## **Sadler's Wells on tour**

### **March - June 2018**

Sadler's Wells' impressive portfolio of productions continues to tour across the UK and internationally, giving more and more people the opportunity to experience high quality dance in their own neighbourhood.

In September 2017, we premiered *Dystopian Dream* at Les Théâtres de la Ville in Luxembourg. Created from a concept originated by Sadler's Wells Associate Artist Nitin Sawhney and co-devised with Honji Wang and Sébastien Ramirez, *Dystopian Dream* is a theatrical realisation of Sawhney's acclaimed 2015 album of the same name.

Sébastien and Honji direct, and performs alongside singer Eva Stone, in a visual spectacle guaranteed to delight the eyes as well as the ears.

*Dystopian Dream* is touring to Paris and Perpignan before coming to Sadler's Wells in autumn 2018. Keep checking the website for priority booking information.

For full tour dates and information on all of our productions, see **[sadlerswells.com/touring](http://sadlerswells.com/touring)**

**Find Sadler's Wells on tour****Michael Keegan-Dolan / Teac Damsa****Swan Lake/Loch na hEala**

14 - 23 March

Wellington, Luxembourg

**Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Antony Gormley with monks from the  
Shaolin Temple****Sutra**

16 March - 15 May

Amsterdam, Heerlen, Oxford, Rotterdam, The Hague, Tilburg,  
Tiel, Utrecht, Bruges, Hasselt, Arnhem, Gronigen, Quebec,  
Montreal, Toronto, Sherbrooke**Acosta Danza****Debut**

25 April - 1 June

New York, Norwich

**Nitin Sawhney & Wang Ramirez****Dystopian Dream**

22 May - 8 June

Paris, Perpignan



## **Behind the scenes**

### **Supporting artists**

“Every artist was first an amateur” Ralph Waldo Emerson,  
American poet (1803-1882)

How do artists become artists? This is a much debated question about creativity and our human condition: are we all potentially artists? Are artists born artists or do they become artists through a choice and a process? It's a compelling debate.

What we know for sure is that we believe in artists and our theatre wouldn't exist without them. They are the lifeblood of Sadler's Wells. Supporting them and their visions of the world is therefore at the heart of what we do. Our support ensures that we can continue to commission, produce and present inspiring and thought-provoking dance, giving it a platform to reflect our times.

We support artists at different stages of their careers in different ways. From the promising young talent in National Youth Dance Company, to early-career artists consolidating their work with presentations in the Lilian Baylis Studio and in our Wild Card evenings, to our more established Associate Artists programme supporting artists such as Hofesh Shechter and Crystal Pite.

We also run two programmes for early to mid-career dance artists. With Sadler's Wells Summer University a new generation of artists gather to exchange, debate and learn from one another. While the New Wave Associates programme offers a longer term relationship to selected artists, currently Alexander Whitley, Hetain Patel and Wilkie Branson.

In addition, Breakin' Convention specifically supports artists working within hip hop dance theatre with programmes such as Open Art Surgery.

The support we offer to a wider community of artists is often more informal, with one-to-one meetings, mentoring, artistic and producing advice as well as encouragement and critical feedback on work we go and see. We follow artists across their development in and away from our theatre. Our aim is to nurture, encourage and support artists to sustain their practice, giving them a platform to develop their creative voice and meet with the audience to share their work.

This season, you can take part in three Wild Card evenings in the Lilian Baylis Studio (see pages 30, 31 and 34). Curated by younger artists, these bespoke events all bring a diverse range of fresh perspectives to our theatre. You can discover our recently appointed Young Associates (see page 39) and join Candoco Dance Company for our New Wave Associate Hetain Patel's first production on the main stage.

A good number of Sadler's Wells Patrons have generously donated towards our artist development programmes this year and we are extremely grateful for this support. If you are interested to find out more, please contact **Katie Wellington** at **[katie.wellington@sadlerswells.com](mailto:katie.wellington@sadlerswells.com)**

## **Meet the inaugural Young Associates**

Sadler's Wells is passionate about supporting and nurturing young talent. We have provided lots of performance opportunities for young people in recent years, with National Youth Dance Company supporting over 180 young dancers over six successful years, large scale productions in the Sadler's Wells Theatre, as well as hosting the BBC Young Dancer final in 2015 and 2017.

As an organisation, we have a long track record of supporting choreographers, with our 17 Associate Artists and three New Wave Associates providing a platform for established and early career artists respectively. As choreographers are at the heart of our artistic programme and we have an ambition to shape the future of the art form, we feel it is important to support young dance artists from the very beginning of their professional careers. This has led us to create the Young Associates programme, to celebrate and support talented young people and provide a first crucial step into their career as choreographers.

Sadler's Wells is proud to announce Anthony Matsena, Wilhelmina Ojanen, Ruby Portus and Christopher Thomas as the inaugural Young Associates.

We have been blown away by the exciting work that we have seen during the selection process and are delighted to champion these four young artists and welcome them into the Sadler's Wells family.

The Young Associates programme kicked off in August 2017 with a summer school for 14 young artists, who were either nominated by their vocational training school or selected from our NYDC alumni. Seven of these artists were invited

back over the autumn, with further support as they tested ideas, pushed boundaries and developed their choreographic voices. Following a final sharing of their work, our inaugural Young Associates were selected and will now embark on a two-year programme that will include mentoring, intensive training, networking and the opportunity to create and present work at Sadler's Wells.

As we celebrate 20 years since the opening of the current Sadler's Wells building in October 2018, the Young Associates showcase their work for the first time as part of the 20th anniversary commissions (see page 39). These performances in the Lilian Baylis Studio offer the chance to catch these exceptional young artists right at the start of their careers.

We hope you will enjoy following and supporting their progress with us.

## **Artist Focus: William Forsythe**

Reinvention is a powerful driver of creativity and yet is so elusive: making us see the familiar in a new light, and creating something distinctive in the process, is something many artists strive for. And this is exactly what William Forsythe did with ballet, reinventing the form for our times. But he is not a figure without controversy. While he is now widely acclaimed as a pioneer of post-modern dance, this was not always the case.

Born in 1949, native New Yorker William Forsythe danced with the Joffrey Ballet and the Stuttgart Ballet, Germany, where he became resident choreographer. But it was his appointment as artistic director of Ballet Frankfurt in 1984 that put Forsythe on the international map, turning it into the most intrepid neoclassical ballet company of the century.

Revisiting the language of ballet, he created lines that were inverted, tilted off balance and extended. He staged productions in a manner closer to visual arts than traditional ballet.

Ballet lovers and contemporary audiences alike applauded him, and every ballet company in the world wanted to commission him. After Ballet Frankfurt was closed in 2004 due to budget cuts, Forsythe started a smaller, more independent company.

The Forsythe Company ran successfully for ten years, until 2015. During that time, Sadler's Wells forged a close relationship with Forsythe, supporting and presenting his work regularly, including our 2009 Focus on Forsythe.

Not content with revolutionising ballet, Forsythe pioneered the use of new technologies for research and since the late '80s has been commissioned to produce architectural and performance

installations called Choreographic Objects. Forsythe continues to create new stage works and Choreographic Objects, and is currently a professor of dance and artistic advisor for the Choreographic Institute at the University of Southern California Glorya Kaufman School of Dance.

In 2018, we are delighted to share his work in three different productions. First as part of our Associate Company English National Ballet's Voices of America, in a triple bill by Semperoper Ballett (see page 18) and a brand new evening which promises to be a season highlight. A Quiet Evening of Dance, produced by Sadler's Wells, will mark the first time a full length evening of Forsythe's work has been produced since his company closed (see page 26).

There is something both profound and thrilling in the experience of watching Forsythe's choreography. Beyond the dancer's breath-taking virtuosity, watching his work is like seeing time being suspended, with dancers opening a gateway to a form of intelligence beyond words.

## Akram Khan Company

### XENOS

Tuesday 29 May - Saturday 9 June

UK PREMIERE

Mon - Sat at 7.30pm

No perf on Fri 1 & Thu 7 June

£12 - £45

Sadler's Wells Patrons' Event: Tue 29



Insight into Akram Khan's XENOS: Sun 3 at 4pm Akram Khan in conversation with members of the creative team  
£15 (£10 with XENOS ticket)

Marking his final performances as a dancer in a full-length piece, Akram Khan takes to the stage alongside five world-class musicians.

Khan conjures the shell-shocked dream of a colonial soldier in the context of the First World War. Meaning "stranger" or "foreigner," XENOS takes place where humanity stands in wonder and disarray, on the border between East and West, past and present, mythology and technology.

A stellar creative team joins the journey, including fellow Sadler's Wells Associate Artist and lighting designer Michael Hulls, dramaturg Ruth Little, Canadian playwright Jordan Tannahill, German designer Mirella Weingarten, costumier Kimie Nakano and composer Vincenzo Lamagna.

Commissioned by 14-18 NOW, the UK's arts programme for the First World War centenary, and sponsored by COLAS.

**Birmingham Royal Ballet****Romeo and Juliet**

Tuesday 12 & Wednesday 13 June

Tue & Wed at 7.30pm

Wed at 2pm

£12 - £45

£12 - £35 (Wed matinee)

Kenneth MacMillian's visceral masterpiece returns to Sadler's Wells for the first time since 2010.

Woven into the famous tragedy of two young lovers, caught in the midst of an erupting feud between their noble families, are some of the most beautiful and ardent pas de deux ever choreographed. All set to the stirring Prokofiev score, played live by the Royal Ballet Sinfonia.

★★★★★ "Irresistible passion ending in glorious tragedy"  
Daily Express



**Birmingham Royal Ballet**  
**In the Upper Room mixed programme**  
Friday 15 & Saturday 16 June

Fri & Sat at 7.30pm  
Sat at 2.30pm

£12 - £45

Pre-show talk: Sat at 6.30pm (Free to BRB Friends and same-day ticket holders)

In an exhilarating triple bill, Twyla Tharp's monochrome *In the Upper Room* is set ablaze by energetic choreography and red pointe shoes, the virtuosity of ballet technique is glorified by Sadler's Wells New Wave Associate and former Birmingham Royal Ballet dancer Alexander Whitley in *Kin.*, plus new work by George Williamson as part of the Ballet Now programme.

"Dazzling. If your pulse isn't racing, check you have one"  
The Guardian on *In the Upper Room*

## **Semperoper Ballett**

### **All Forsythe**

Thursday 21 - Saturday 23 June

Thu - Sat at 7.30pm

£12 - £27

Based in Dresden, the Semperoper Ballett has conquered the world with its now acclaimed blend of fierce ballet technique with both classical and contemporary repertoire. This triple bill of works by the visionary William Forsythe brandishes this identity.

Opening the programme is the fiendishly magnificent *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated*.

*Neue Suite* is made up of a series of pas de deux, choreographed between 1987 and 1999, set to music by Bach, Berio and Handel.

Finally, lit by a single spotlight, 11 dancers cavort around a winding wooden wall in the energetic and expeditious *Enemy in the Figure*.

**Nederlands Dans Theater 1**  
**León & Lightfoot / Pite / Goecke**

Tuesday 26 - Friday 29 June

Tue - Fri at 7.30pm

£12 - £40



Audio Described performance: Fri at 7.30pm

The celebrated NDT returns with a revelatory programme featuring two works by Sol León and Paul Lightfoot: *Shoot the Moon*, an exploration of hidden emotions to a score by Philip Glass, and *Stop-Motion*, an attempt to capture the past, set to Max Richter's haunting music.

There's a battle for control in *The Statement*, created by Sadler's Wells Associate Artist Crystal Pite with playwright Jonathon Young, the masterminds behind the Olivier Award-winning *Betroffenheit*. And Marco Goecke takes inspiration from the music of Jeff Buckley in the emotion-driven *Woke up Blind*.

"One of world dance's truly great companies" Daily Telegraph

## **Hofesh Shechter Company**

### **Grand Finale**

Wednesday 4 - Saturday 7 July

Wed - Sat at 7.30pm

£12 - £32

Age guidance: 14+

Sadler's Wells Associate Artist Hofesh Shechter is known for his distinctive mix of dance, theatre and music-gig, combined to form an altogether original and exhilarating experience. After its thundering run last autumn, Grand Finale revives a vision of a world in freefall that is both bleak and beautiful.

In a design by Tom Scutt, ten dancers summon a world at odds with itself. Amongst a series of monolithic structures, they are driven on by Shechter's original music and an on-stage band playing on throughout the anarchic energy and violent comedy.

★★★★ "Heart-stopping. Shechter's [Grand] Finale has arrived with a bang" Financial Times

**L-E-V**

**Love Chapter 2**

Friday 13 & Saturday 14 July

UK PREMIERE

Fri & Sat at 7.30pm

£20

Following her guest artistic direction of NYDC, Sadler's Wells' newest Associate Artist Sharon Eyal brings L-E-V, the Israeli company that she heads up alongside Gai Behar, in its first reappearance since its Sadler's Wells Debut in 2016.

OCD Love, with its focus on the heart through the lens of obsessive-compulsive disorder, elicited critical and audience praise alike in 2016. Love Chapter 2 builds on those themes with an even darker take on loneliness, despair and the search for connection, in Eyal and Behar's trademark club-like atmosphere, enhanced with a score by music collaborator Ori Lichtik.

★★★★ "A grave beauty" The Guardian on OCD Love

**Company Wayne McGregor**  
**Autobiography**

Thursday 26 - Saturday 28 July

Thu - Sat at 7.30pm

£12 - £32

For 25 years, Sadler's Wells Associate Artist Wayne McGregor has made choreography that interrogates life through the experience of the body.

Now McGregor turns his attention to the body as archive, with a dance portrait illuminated by the sequencing of his own genome. In a continuous reimagining, *Autobiography* is reinvented at each performance, assembled from a collection of choreographic volumes which unfold uniquely every time.

Wayne McGregor is joined by an impressive set of collaborators: electronic musician and producer Jlin, designer Ben Cullen-Williams, lighting designer Lucy Carter, artist and designer Aitor Throup and dramaturg Uzma Hameed.

★★★★★ "Mesmerisingly good" The Guardian

**Natalia Osipova****Pure Dance**

Wednesday 12 - Sunday 16 September

WORLD PREMIERE

Wed 12 - Sat at 7.30pm

Sat at 2.30pm

Sun at 4pm

£12 - £60

Sadler's Wells Patrons' Event: Wed

Superstar ballerina Natalia Osipova brings together a handpicked programme of exciting and eclectic dance works. Taking the audience on a journey from the world of classical ballet to contemporary repertoire, Osipova will dance pieces that she has rarely performed in the UK, alongside two brand new works that have been specially commissioned for her.

She will be joined on stage by three dancers, including a very special guest artist to be announced in early 2018.

See [sadlerswells.com](http://sadlerswells.com) for more details.

"A spirit of joy, of technical bravura, of sheerest delight"  
Financial Times on Natalia Osipova

## **Carmen La Cubana**

Wednesday 1 - Saturday 18 August

UK PREMIERE

Tue - Sat at 7.30pm

Sat at 2.30pm

Sun at 2pm & 7pm

Wed 8 & 15 at 2.30pm

£15 - £68



Audio Described performance: Sat 11 at 2.30pm  
Touch Tour at 12.45pm

Carmen La Cubana is a sizzling new musical featuring Bizet's classic score flavoured with authentic Cuban styles, set against the simmering turmoil of revolution in Cuba, 1958.

Inspired by Oscar Hammerstein II's Broadway hit Carmen Jones, Christopher Renshaw (The King and I) directs this UK premiere, with new orchestrations by Tony Award-winner Alex Lacamoire (Hamilton), mixing opera with salsa, mambo, rumba and cha-cha-cha and including musical favourites such as Habanera.

Featuring a cast of over 40 singers, dancers and musicians, Carmen La Cubana is a rousing take on one of the most sultry operas ever created.

"Hugely enjoyable and sexy. A fantastic adaptation" Le Parisien



## **English National Ballet**

### **Lest We Forget**

Thursday 20 - Saturday 29 September

Mon - Sun at 7.30pm

Thu at 2pm

Sat at 2.30pm

£12 - £60

To commemorate 100 years since the end of the First World War, English National Ballet revive their "moving and ambitious" (The Independent) triptych reflecting the experiences of those who fought, and those who stayed behind.

The programme features works by two Sadler's Wells Associate Artists: Russell Maliphant's *Second Breath*, in which 20 dancers rise and fall, and Akram Khan's award-winning *Dust* which is "full of pain and power" (The Independent), as well as Liam Scarlett's *No Man's Land* – evoking the entwined destinies of the soldiers and munition workers.

★★★★ "True to its title – it stays with you long after curtain-down"  
Daily Telegraph

**William Forsythe**

**A Quiet Evening of Dance**

Thursday 4 - Saturday 6 October

Thu - Sat at 7.30pm

£12 - £27

William Forsythe is undoubtedly one of the foremost choreographers of his generation. For this unusual configuration of new and existing work, Forsythe has imagined something akin to an evening of chamber music, designed to be listened to.

The works range from sparse analytic condensation to baroque inspired counterpoint. The intricate phrasing of the dancers' breath is the primary accompaniment for a distillation of the geometric origins of classical ballet.

The evening is performed by seven of Forsythe's most trusted collaborators, who promise to provide insight into the workings of ballet and the mind of the man who has dedicated his work to this task.

## **New Adventures**

### **Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake**

Tuesday 4 December - Sunday 27 January

Performance times vary on selected dates. For full schedule visit [sadlerswells.com](http://sadlerswells.com)

£12 - £72

Family Ticket available

Swan Lake returns with a fresh look for the 21st century. Retaining the iconic elements of the original, Matthew Bourne and award-winning designers Lez Brotherston (set and costumes) and Paule Constable (lighting) will create an exciting re-imagining of the classic production.

Thrilling, audacious and emotive, this Swan Lake is perhaps best known for replacing the female corps-de-ballet with a menacing male ensemble, shattering convention and taking the dance world by storm.

Collecting over 30 international accolades including an Olivier and three Tony Awards, Bourne's powerful interpretation of Tchaikovsky's masterpiece is a passionate and contemporary Swan Lake for our times.

★★★★★ "Witty, menacing, lyrical and wild" Daily Telegraph

## **Lilian Baylis Studio**

The turning world In the most intimate of our three theatres, we see artists attuned to our fast changing world raise pressing questions. Underpinned by ongoing dialogue, the curation of the Lilian Baylis Studio aims to shine a light onto these singular perspectives. Often these artists are concerned with what is happening around us and how this affects us. Identity, race, sexuality, spirituality, ecology and the meaning of community are issues in this season's productions.

As a platform, the studio also gives a voice to artists often at the earlier stages of their careers but also from key acclaimed artists seldom seen in London.

In our Wild Card series, we hand over the curation to dance-makers creating their own bespoke events, opening the door to bold experiments. This season we give the reins to three young companies from across the UK: Neon Dance, Spoken Movement and Humanhood.

We also introduce the poetic world of Roberta Jean, the Latin melodrama of DeNada Dance Theatre and join forces with Akram Khan Company for their new talent showcase. Plus, you will have the chance to discover our Young Associates (see page 39 for more).

Over the summer, two internationally acclaimed artists bring their work to London: the British duo, Jonathan Burrows and Matteo Fargion, joined by a cast of four other dance artists; and Alexandra Waierstall, a distinctive new voice from Germany we are delighted to support. We also welcome back the Company of Elders as well as present our first virtual-reality experience with WHIST by the young company AΦE (see our website for more details).

What dance can do in this “turning world,” to quote British poet T.S. Eliot, is at the core of the experience of seeing work at the Lilian Baylis Studio. Join us to make sense of it together.

For the latest production listings visit [sadlerswells.com/lilianbaylisstudio](http://sadlerswells.com/lilianbaylisstudio)

**Wild Card: Neon Dance**

Thursday 22 & Friday 23 March

Thu & Fri at 8pm

£17

Pre-show activities from 7pm

Free post-show talk: Thu

Wild Card sees the next generation of dance-makers take over, in uniquely artistcurated evenings. Our first of the season combines live music, design and dance, with a special place given to the piano. The night features excerpts from Empathy, choreographed by Neon Dance's founder, Adrienne Hart. Guests include visual artist Lily Hunter Green, composer John Kameel Farah and cellist Anne Müller (Erased Tapes). Part of Nils Frahm's international Piano Day.

"Fascinating, unsettling and aesthetically stunning" British Theatre Guide

Adrienne Hart is supported by Sadler's Wells Summer University

## **Wild Card: Spoken Movement**

### **Obibini**

Thursday 12 April

Thu at 8pm

£17

Pre-show activities from 7pm

Contains strong language

Kwame Asafo-Adjei, founder and artistic director of Spoken Movement, curates an evening which tackles the concept of identity within black culture for his Wild Card, our series showcasing new talent.

Alongside special guest artists rooted in hip hop, Spoken Movement opens a dialogue on cultural hierarchies and how they affect and shape our world today. Experience a historical relapse in this immersive evening, where questions, laughter and religion collide.

Kwame Asafo-Adjei is supported by Breakin' Convention and Sadler's Wells Summer University

**DeNada Dance Theatre**  
**TORO: Beauty and the Bull**

Wednesday 25 & Thursday 26 April

Wed & Thu at 8pm

£17

Free post-show talk: Wed

Contains nudity and sexual references

Spanish up-and-coming choreographer Carlos Pons Guerra's Hispanic take on Beauty and the Beast is a darkly comic tragedy about the monsters men create through power, fear and oppression.

Set in a circus sideshow of a dystopian South America, TORO is a bold take on the eroticism of the fairy tale.

"Perverse, sexy and flamboyant" The Observer on  
Ham and Passion



**Jonathan Burrows and Matteo Fargion****Any Table Any Room**

Thursday 10 & Friday 11 May

Thu & Fri at 8pm

£17

Acclaimed duo Jonathan Burrows and Matteo Fargion return with a new work performed with four London-based artists: Seke Chimutengwende, Tanja Erhart, Jacky Lansley and Alesandra Seutin.

Using 72 clay objects, communal singing and Indian drones, *Any Table Any Room* is a gregarious exploration of being and working together.

"A beguiling mix of the scholarly, the quizzical and the righteously indignant" *The Guardian* on *Body Not Fit For Purpose*

**Wild Card: Humanhood**

Thursday 24 & Friday 25 May

Thu & Fri at 8pm

£17

Pre-show activities from 7pm

Free post-show talk: Thu

Humanhood's universe lands with a specially curated evening as part of our popular, artist-led, Wild Card series.

Rudi Cole and Júlia Robert Parés ground their work in physics, astrophysics and Eastern mysticism, fascinated by the connections that lie between these seemingly disparate fields. This visual and sonic experience is a chance to catch this young company's latest works, including ZERO.

"Extraordinary performance. Like time stopped"  
Exeunt Magazine on ZERO

**Roberta Jean**

**Brocade**

Thursday 31 May & Friday 1 June

Thu & Fri at 8pm

£17

Free post-show talk: Thu

Choreographer Roberta Jean's Brocade was created in collaboration with, and is performed by, an exceptional ensemble of female dancers, including Stephanie McMann, Helka Kaski and Laura Dannequin.

Somewhere between a procession and a concert, movement and sound are propelled along a catwalk in this poetic response to both historical and contemporary notions of craft and physical work, featuring live music by Angharad Davies.

**Akram Khan Company****Portraits in Otherness**

Tuesday 5 - Friday 8 June

Maya Dong and Dickson Mbi: Tue 5 & Wed 6 at 8pm

Ching-Ying Chien and Joy Alpuerto Ritter: Thu 7 & Fri 8 at 8pm

£17

Portraits in Otherness is a new platform initiated by Akram Khan and his producer Farooq Chaudhry, seeking to transfer the intangible values and philosophy of Akram Khan Company to a new generation of talents.

They invite four highly charismatic and distinctive dance artists to present their solo work: Joy Alpuerto Ritter, Ching-Ying Chien, Dickson Mbi and Maya Dong, each embodying the echoes and primitive beauty of many dance languages both learned and inherited.

**Alexandra Waierstall**

**And here we meet**

Thursday 14 & Friday 15 June

UK PREMIERE

Thu & Fri at 8pm

£17

Free post-show talk: Thu

Contains nudity

Together with dancers Dani Brown, Evangelia Randou and composer HAUSCHKA, Alexandra Waierstall delves into hidden geographies, abandoned cities and no man's lands, and investigates the relationship between man and woman, the environment and choreography.

With an acute sense of musicality and the body's materiality, Waierstall, a distinctive new voice from Germany, creates a convincing world where new relationships arise between language, movement and space.

"Timeless beauty" opernnetz.de

## **Company of Elders**

### **Mixed Bill**

Friday 6 July

Fri at 8pm

£12 (£6 concessions. Concessions available for Over 60s, Access members, Students and Under 18s)

Since 1989, Company of Elders, Sadler's Wells' inspirational resident over-60s performance company, has been demonstrating the power of lifelong creativity and proving it is never too late to start dancing.

In this mixed bill they bring new work from three exciting female choreographers: Holly Blakey, Adrienne Hart and Seeta Patel. Showcasing their own unique style, these choreographers draw out new ways of moving from this established company.

## **Young Associates**

### **Mixed Bill**

Tuesday 9 & Wednesday 10 October

Tue & Wed at 7.30pm

£12 (£6 concessions. Concessions available for Over 60s, Access members, Students and Under 18s)

This exciting mixed bill is the first opportunity to see the work of the inaugural Young Associates, Sadler's Wells' new programme that aims to both celebrate and support young artists under the age of 25, as they embark on their choreographic careers.

In their Sadler's Wells debuts, burgeoning choreographers Anthony Matsena, Wilhelmina Ojanen, Ruby Portus and Christopher Thomas showcase the innovative talent and original voices that mark them out as choreographers to watch.

## **The Peacock**

The Peacock theatre this year continues to host exciting companies from all around the world, and once again, as well as inspirational dance, many feature exceptional live music.

A late, but not to be missed, addition to our spring programme is the return of the talented tango superstar Germán Cornejo and his fabulous company. In this UK premiere of his hit show *Tango After Dark*, Germán brings world-class tango dancers, musicians and the rhythms of Astor Piazzolla direct from Buenos Aires to the streets of London.

By contrast, just a few months later *The Tap Pack* will make their way from Australia for some old school entertainment inspired by the age of Las Vegas glamour.

With a live band to keep things swinging, the five-strong *Pack* mix wisecracking banter, slick moves and Sinatra standards with a more modern songbook and, of course, lots of tremendous tapping.

Kicking off the summer season, *Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo* join us once again and take on the ballet classics with pointe shoes and panache. Not content with merely being funny, their send ups of all things ballet are elevated by the dancers' artistry and skill.

As part of an important national anniversary *New English Ballet Theatre* commemorate the end of the Great War with a new work by Wayne Eagling. The piece, *Remembrance*, is inspired by the wartime experiences of *Ballet Russes* dancer, Marie Rambert who went on to found the company we now know as *Rambert*. The evening will also feature Jenna Lee's *The Four Seasons*.



To round off the season, and before The Snowman flies in, we are thrilled to welcome back Taj Express. Last summer the show mesmerised audiences with its swirl of energetic choreography from Vaibhavi and Shruti Merchant, hundreds of colourful costumes, songs by A.R. Rahman and phenomenal performers lifted straight from Bollywood. A truly spectacular show.

Don't forget to go to **[peacocktheatre.com](http://peacocktheatre.com)** for the latest show listings, and visit our YouTube channel to see all the latest video previews of these shows.

**Germán Cornejo's  
Tango After Dark**

Wednesday 28 February - Saturday 17 March

Tue - Sat at 7.30pm

Sat at 2.30pm

Sun 4 at 2pm & 6pm

No perf Sun 11

£15 - £42

When the night falls, the tango is revealed in its most authentic and pure form. Tango After Dark is an intimate and sensual performance with exquisitely danced choreography to the wonderful rhythms of the great tango composer, Astor Piazzolla.

Tango superstar Germán Cornejo leads his superb dance company of ten world-class Argentinean dancers in this mesmerising new show.

Accompanied by two sensational singers and seven musicians playing tango classics, this is an unforgettable evening that will keep your passion for tango burning deep into the night.

## **Motionhouse**

### **Charge**

Wednesday 21 - Saturday 24 March

Wed - Sat at 7.30pm

Sat at 2.30pm

£15 - £29

Under 16s half price. Max two half price child tickets per full paying adult.

Working with partners from the University of Oxford, the acclaimed Motionhouse unearths the science behind our beating hearts and the memories we make using dance and acrobatics in this electrifying new multi-media show, inspired by the role of electricity in the human body.

Following on from the success of Broken and Scattered, Charge is the third element of Kevin Finnan's Earth Trilogy.

"Practically jet-propelled" The Times on Scattered

**Phoenix Dance Theatre****Windrush: Movement of the People - part of a mixed programme of work**

Thursday 26 - Saturday 28 April

Thu - Sat at 7.30pm

£15 - £29

Commemorating 70 years since the Empire Windrush docked is a new work from Phoenix's artistic director Sharon Watson, with a score inspired by the sounds of the Caribbean and music of black origin by Gary Crosby.

Also featuring in this programme is Calyx, created by company dancer Sandrine Monin and composer Roberto Rusconi, inspired by Baudelaire's *Les Fleurs du Mal* (Flowers of Evil), and Christopher Bruce's acclaimed work: *Shadows*.

## **The Tap Pack**

Tuesday 1 - Saturday 19 May

Tue - Sat at 7.30pm

Sat at 2.30pm

Sun at 4pm

£15 - £45

Inspired by the kings of swing: Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr, The Tap Pack are bringing a new, exhilarating energy to a timeless style.

With slick suits, sharp wit and songs from Sinatra to Ed Sheeran, Australia's finest tap dancing performers are a cocktail of pure entertainment.

The Tap Pack and their four-piece live band serve up classics with a twist, infused with world-class tap dance.

"Fantapstic!" The Sunday Telegraph (Australia)

## **Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo**

Tuesday 11 - Saturday 22 September

Programme A: Tue 11 - Sat 15 at 7.30pm, Sat 15 at 2.30pm,  
Sun 16 at 2.30pm

Programme B: Tue 18 - Sat 22 at 7.30pm, Sat 22 at 2.30pm,

£15 - £38

The award-winning all-male comedy ballet company, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo (or "The Trocks," as they've become known) storms back to The Peacock with two programmes of side-splitting send-ups and hilarious homages to classical ballet.

Programme A includes Swan Lake (Act II), Trovatiara and The Little Humpback Horse.

Programme B features Les Sylphides, Napoli and Raymonda's Wedding.

★★★★★ "One of the funniest evenings you'll ever spend in the theatre" Time Out

Presented by Dance Consortium

**New English Ballet Theatre**  
**The Four Seasons / Remembrance**

Thursday 27 - Saturday 29 September

Fri & Sat at 7.30pm

£18 - £42

Gala Performance Thu at 7.30pm

Tickets to the Gala Performance available directly through New English Ballet Theatre at [nebt.co.uk/tickets](http://nebt.co.uk/tickets)

A company dedicated to nurturing emerging talent, New English Ballet Theatre returns with two contrasting works.

Former English National Ballet soloist and choreographer Jenna Lee takes Max Richter's vibrant recomposition of Vivaldi's The Four Seasons as the foundation of her neoclassical ballet. In Remembrance, world-renowned choreographer Wayne Eagling is inspired by Marie Rambert's life during the Great War, set to Handel's Ode for St Cecilia's Day, played live by The English Concert.

## **Taj Express**

Tuesday 2 - Saturday 20 October

Tue - Sat at 7.30pm

Sat at 2.30pm

Sun at 2pm & 6pm

£15 - £45

Under 16s half price. Max two half price child tickets per full paying adult.

Vaibhavi and Shruti Merchant's glitzy Bollywood extravaganza is set to dazzle audiences once more following its sparkling summer run in 2017.

Featuring music by Academy Award-winning composer A.R. Rahman, and acclaimed Bollywood composers, Salim & Sulaiman Merchant and Monty Sharma, Taj Express showcases a captivating fusion of classical Indian and contemporary dance in a celebration of the world's most prolific film industry.

★★★★ "The dancing goes straight to the heart" Sunday Express



## Family shows

### Rising stars

Talent knows no age limit, and there's certainly proof of that this season in our family shows.

Over Easter weekend, Year Two and Three pupils from our Islington based Associate Schools will be joining ballet LORENT to perform alongside the professionals in Rumpelstiltskin. Come to show your support, and stay to take part in all the fun activities that are happening during Family Weekend, including an immersive installation in and around the building made especially for its 20th anniversary. upsidedowninsideout, by Melbourne-based company one step at a time like this, will see families dive into secret spaces not usually accessible to the public, guided by an interactive storybook, in a quest to discover the secret at the heart of Sadler's Wells.

Over at The Peacock there's an opportunity to catch the dance superstars of the future, as they make their first steps on stage. In a company composed entirely of gifted youngsters, London Children's Ballet brings us David Fielding's The Canterville Ghost, performed by dancers aged between nine and 16. While in My First Ballet: Swan Lake, second year students from the prestigious English National Ballet School take on Tchaikovsky in a family-friendly version of the most famous ballet ever created.

Thinking ahead to Christmas, we're looking forward to welcoming the next cohort of boys who will star alongside our frosty friend The Snowman (and more importantly, learn how to fly!) in December.

For those parents whose children just can't sit still and are desperate to get involved, we are expanding our work to offer regular opportunities to do so with Family Fridays, when we welcome families with young children into the building, on the last Friday of the month. Children aged between two and four (although younger siblings are more than welcome to join in) can spend the afternoon exploring creative movement and other fun things with a professional dance artist.

**balletLORENT****Rumpelstiltskin**

Friday 30 & Saturday 31 March

Sadler's Wells Theatre

Fri & Sat at 3pm

Sat at 11am

Adults £18 Children £12

As part of Family Weekend, balletLORENT performs one of its fantastical fairy-tale adaptations. Directed by Liv Lorent, and retold by Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy, Rumpelstiltskin is the story of the outsider, shunned for being different. With a score by Murray Gold, costumes by Michele Clapton and Ben Crompton narrating, Rumpelstiltskin is the perfect Easter treat.

★★★★ "An admirably fleet-footed show, as satisfying for adults as for kids" The Guardian on Snow White

Age guidance: Families and children age 7+

**English National Ballet and English National Ballet School**  
**My First Ballet: Swan Lake**

Thursday 29 March - Saturday 7 April

The Peacock

For full schedule visit [peacocktheatre.com](http://peacocktheatre.com)

£10 - £25

Family Ticket available

The ever popular My First Ballet series is a unique collaboration between English National Ballet and English National Ballet School. This beautiful, newly adapted, version of Swan Lake features a shortened version of Tchaikovsky's music, and a narrator to guide the young audience through the story of the beautiful princess Odette, who was turned into a swan by the evil magician Rothbart.

★★★★ "A pocket-sized delight" The Times

Age guidance: 3+

**London Children's Ballet****The Canterville Ghost**

Thursday 19 - Sunday 22 April

The Peacock

Fri at 6.30pm

Sat at 1.30pm & 5.30pm

Sun at 12.30pm & 4.30pm

£14 - £55

Premiere Performance Thu at 6.30pm

Tickets to the Premiere Performance available directly through London Children's Ballet on 020 8969 1555

Sir Simon Canterville has haunted his ancestral home for centuries, until the roaring '20s takes hold and an American family moves in. While the youngest family members gleefully torment the indignant ghost, their older sister bravely decides to set him free forever.

David Fielding's charming adaptation of Oscar Wilde's witty novella is performed by an all-child cast and set to the music of a live orchestra.

No under 3s admitted

**Birmingham Repertory Theatre****The Snowman™**

Thursday 22 November - Sunday 30 December

The Peacock

11am, 2.30pm & 7pm

For full schedule visit [peacocktheatre.com](http://peacocktheatre.com)

£15 - £38

Family ticket available

Based on the much-loved book and film, this festive stage show has transported generations of children to the wintry wonderland of a boy and his magical Snowman. With an enchanting mix of exquisite dancing and live music – including *Walking in the Air*.

“Go see *The Snowman* and melt” *The Times*

Based upon the book by Raymond Briggs and the film directed by Dianne Jackson and produced by John Coates.

With music and lyrics by Howard Blake.

Design by Ruari Murchison, lighting by Tim Mitchell, choreography by Robert North and direction by Bill Alexander. By arrangement with Snowman Enterprises Limited (A Penguin Company) and Chester Music Limited.

Suitable for all ages

## Talks, classes and assisted performances

### Director's Conversations

#### **Fabrizio Cassol & Alain Platel**

Tuesday 20 March, 6pm - 6.45pm in the Rosebery Room:  
£7.50 (or £4 with ticket to show)

Sadler's Wells artistic director Alistair Spalding in conversation with les ballets C de la B's artistic director Alain Platel and composer Fabrizio Cassol about their new work Requiem pour L.

### Pre and Post-Show Talks



#### **Ballet British Columbia**

Tuesday 6 March  
Post-show talk

#### **Wild Card: Neon Dance**

Thursday 22 March  
Post-show talk

#### **François Chaignaud and Cecilia Bengolea**

Monday 23 April  
Post-show talk

#### **DeNada Dance Theatre**

Wednesday 25 April  
Post-show talk

#### **Wild Card: Humanhood**

Thursday 24 May  
Post-show talk



#### **Rambert**

Thursday 24 May  
Pre-show talk, 6.30pm

**Roberta Jean**

Thursday 31 May

Post-show talk

**Alexandra Waierstall**

Thursday 14 June

Post-show talk

**Birmingham Royal Ballet**

Saturday 16 June

Pre-show talk, 6.30pm

**Talks and Events****Akram Khan**

Sunday 3 June, 4pm - 5.30pm in the Lilian Baylis Studio:  
£15 (or £10 with XENOS ticket)

Akram Khan and Sadler's Wells artistic director Alistair Spalding in an extended conversation with members of the creative team for XENOS. Together they will explore the making of XENOS and the themes within the work.

**Dance Classes and Workshops****English National Ballet – My First Ballet: Swan Lake**

30 March, 3 - 6 April at 4.45pm - 5.45pm

Children's dance workshops. Book through English National Ballet, [ballet.org.uk](http://ballet.org.uk)

**Breakin' Convention**

Saturday 5 &amp; Sunday 6 May

International hip hop dance masterclasses: £10

**Birmingham Royal Ballet**

Saturday 16 June, 11.45am

Open company class on stage: £10 (free to BRB friends)



## Assisted Performances



### **Candoco Dance Company**

Friday 9 March, 7.30pm

Touch Tour, 5pm



### **Breakin' Convention**

Saturday 5, Sunday 6 & Monday 7 May

Co-compered by BSL interpreter



### **Northern Ballet**

Saturday 19 May, 2.30pm

Insight workshop at 12pm

Touch Tour at 12.45pm



### **Rambert**

Thursday 24 May, 7.30pm

Sign language interpreted performance



### **Nederlands Dans Theater 1**

Friday 29 June, 7.30pm



### **Carmen La Cubana**

Saturday 11 August, 2.30pm

Touch Tour at 12.45pm

## **Patrons' Events**

For an opportunity to meet our artists, special events are held throughout the year for our Patrons.

### **Ballet British Columbia**

**Emily Molnar / Crystal Pite / Sharon Eyal**

Wednesday 7 March

### **English National Ballet**

**Voices of America**

**Robbins / Forsythe / Barton**

Wednesday 18 April

### **Akram Khan Company**

**XENOS**

Tuesday 29 May

### **Natalia Osipova**

**Pure Dance**

Wednesday 12 September

To find out more about becoming a Patron, visit  
**[sadlerswells.com/patrons](http://sadlerswells.com/patrons)**