



## **Sadler's Wells**

**Spring 2019**

## **A message from Alistair Spalding**

Having celebrated the 20th anniversary of our current theatre building in 2018, we enter 2019 with a renewed sense of purpose. How do we respond to what's happening around us? How do we keep innovating in dance? How do we stay relevant to you, our audience? We do this by remaining receptive and keeping alive the local, national and international conversations and mutual learning we share with the artists, partners and communities we work with. By being European and global at the same time. And by holding onto all the diverse and novel perspectives we continue to bring to our stages for people to be inspired, entertained and provoked.

This approach underpins decisions on the work that we produce, support and invest in. Over and over again, we choose to collaborate with inquisitive, outward-

looking artists of different backgrounds and experiences, who possess an inclusive worldview. This spring season is a case in point, filled as it is with new creative partnerships involving artists from all over the world. Vessel is an extraordinary and visually stunning collaboration between French-Belgian choreographer Damien Jalet and Japanese sculptor Kohei Nawa. Inspired by the myth of Theseus and the Minotaur, The Thread sees our Associate Artist Russell Maliphant work with Greek composer Vangelis, as well as another of our Associate Artists, lighting designer Michael Hulls. In La Fiesta, flamenco star Israel Galván brings together dancers, musicians and singers of different genres, including a sarod player and a Tunisian singer. Chinese dance star Yang Liping's distinctive take on The Rite of Spring features Stravinsky's original score blended with new compositions inspired by traditional Tibetan music. For her exploration of Bach's Cello

Suites, Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker collaborates with celebrated French cellist Jean-Guihen Queyras.

We are proud to be co-producers of all these works (and more, but there is no room to list them all here). As a non-verbal art form, dance is perfectly placed to build bridges and promote understanding between countries and peoples. In the strange and uncertain times we are in, this has never been more important. We are grateful to work with many talented people and to have the backing of supporters like you as Sadler's Wells keeps leading in the creation and sharing of mind-opening dance.

## **Richard Alston Dance Company**

### **Quartermark**

Friday 1 & Saturday 2 March

Fri & Sat at 7.30pm

£48 - £15

Still in celebration mode following the 50th anniversary of Richard Alston's first piece of choreography, the festivities continue as his company enters its 25th year with two new works and the revival of Proverb, one of Alston's most telling pieces, set to the vocals of Steve Reich.

Alston's Brahms Hungarian uses the hugely popular Johannes Brahms music, as dancers are carried along by fast steps and an abandoned fervour, to live accompaniment from pianist Jason Ridgway.

Detour, Martin Lawrance's new work, is set to Michael Gordon's pulsing Timber with the choreographer's customary quick-paced style.

"His dancers skim across the stage like birds in flight"

The Independent on Mid Century Modern

## **BalletBoyz**

### **Them/Us**

Tuesday 5 - Saturday 9 March

Tue - Sat at 7.30pm

Sat at 2.30pm

£50 - £15

Sadler's Wells Patrons' Event: Tue

BalletBoyz has always been a company to forge exciting new collaborations and create inventive new projects. The internationally celebrated company's latest venture, *Them/Us*, is created closely with the dancers of the company and the Olivier Award-winning choreographer and Sadler's Wells Associate Artist Christopher Wheeldon.

Set to contrasting scores by cult singer-songwriter Keaton Henson and emerging composer Charlotte Harding, this innovative double bill asks where we see

ourselves in relation to the “other,” and explores the fine balance between them and us.

“Wheeldon uses the BalletBoyz’ muscular style to show vulnerability as well as strength” The Independent on

FOURTEEN DAYS

## **Russell Maliphant & Vangelis**

### **The Thread**

Friday 15 - Sunday 17 March

WORLD PREMIERE

Fri - Sun at 7.30pm

£55 - £15

Sadler's Wells Associate Artist Russell Maliphant, inspired by Greek mythology and historic Hellenic dances, portrays the changing form of traditional and contemporary dance, and the flow of inspiration from one to the other. Maliphant and his partners excel in ravelling and unravelling these transformations through dance, movement, music, costumes and light.

The Thread features lighting by fellow Sadler's Wells Associate Artist, the "choreographer of light" Michael Hulls, and the explosive electronic music of Greek

composer Vangelis, whose famous score for Chariots of Fire won him an Oscar in 1981.

“The dance world would be very much the poorer without Russell Maliphant” The Guardian

## Mark Morris Dance Group

### Pepperland

Wednesday 20 - Saturday 23 March

Wed - Sat at 7.30pm

Thu at 2pm

Sat at 2.30pm



Free post-show talk: Wed

£55 - £15

In 1967, one of the best-selling albums of all time was released: The Beatles' Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. 50 years later, Mark Morris Dance Group, renowned for their commitment to live music, took on the challenge of producing work inspired by the experimental studio album that famously couldn't be performed live.

Forming the perfect environment for Mark Morris' witty and heartfelt choreography, his frequent collaborator,

Ethan Iverson, creates new orchestrations to be played alongside original, Pepper-influenced pieces by an unprecedented ensemble of voice, theremin, soprano sax, trombone, keyboards and percussion.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ "A truly joyous, celebratory work of art"

Daily Telegraph

Presented by Dance Consortium

## Northern Ballet

### Victoria

Tuesday 26 - Saturday 30 March

Tue - Sat at 7.30pm

Thu & Sat at 2.30pm

£60 - £15



Sat at 2.30pm

Insight Workshop at 12pm

Touch Tour at 12.45pm

Northern Ballet's reputation for outstanding narrative works has been sealed by their sensational streak of award-winning and critically acclaimed productions.

Following the success of her adaptations of Jane Eyre and Ethan Frome, Cathy Marston's new ballet reveals the life of one of history's most intriguing women 200 years after her birth. Queen Victoria's irrepressible love for Albert sparked a royal dynasty, but his untimely

death brought the world's most powerful woman to her knees with grief. Victoria features dramaturgy by Uzma Hameed and an original score by Philip Feeney.

"Cathy Marston catches that fierceness in deft, character-driven storytelling" The Independent on Jane Eyre

## **English National Ballet**

### **She Persisted**

Thursday 4 - Saturday 13 April

Mon - Sat at 7.30pm

£70 - £12

Age guidance: 12+

In 2016, English National Ballet made headlines when they commissioned three female choreographers to create work that both celebrated and promoted women's voices in dance.

In their follow up to *She Said, She Persisted*, the Sadler's Wells Associate Company revives Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's biopic of Frida Kahlo, *Broken Wings* and Pina Bausch's "epic, harrowing and ecstatic" (The Guardian) *Le Sacre du printemps* (The Rite of Spring).

And, for her first main-stage commission, Stina Quagebeur, a first artist with the company, takes

inspiration from Henrik Ibsen's play *A Doll's House* in her new work, *Nora*.

"Really rather special. A beautiful and poignant spectacle" *Daily Telegraph* on *Broken Wings*

## Damien Jalet & Kohei Nawa

### Vessel

Tuesday 16 & Wednesday 17 April

UK PREMIERE

Tue & Wed at 7.30pm

£20



Wed at 7.30pm

Touch Tour at 5.30pm



Free post-show talk: Tue

Sadler's Wells Patrons' Event: Wed

Age guidance: 12+

In a striking collaboration between the Olivier Award-winning Damien Jalet, who choreographed Hussein Chalayan's Gravity Fatigue in 2015, and Japanese experimental sculptor Kohei Nawa, Vessel blurs the lines between the human form and its environment.

Inspired by the body's composition predominately being made up of water, the near-naked dancers inhabit a flooded stage, both reflected and hidden by its mirror-like surface.

To an electronic score by Marihiko Hara and Ryuichi Sakamoto, seven beings perform strange rituals, exploring the organic structure that floats atop the water, merging together to form a new type of entity in a visually arresting cycle of life and death.

**Anne Teresa De Keersmaecker, Jean-Guihen Queyras  
& Rosas**

**Mitten wir im Leben sind/Bach6Cellosuiten**

Wednesday 24 & Thursday 25 April

UK PREMIERE

Wed & Thu at 7.30pm

£20

The Cello Suites of Johann Sebastian Bach, while now considered a landmark in the history of music, were almost lost to it, until they were rediscovered in a second-hand shop.

Placing the world-renowned cellist Jean-Guihen Queyras at the centre of the piece, contemporary dance luminary Anne Teresa De Keersmaecker builds on her choreographic language, developed in tune with Bach's musical one, to capture an affinity between the

music and the five dancers, of which De Keersmaecker herself is one.

In a feat of physical endurance, the suites are played in their entirety, making this a rare chance to hear all six together live.

## **Israel Galván**

### **La Fiesta**

Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 April

UK PREMIERE

Sat & Sun at 7.30pm

£37 - £15

Now considered a genius of his generation in the world of flamenco, Israel Galván spent his childhood staying up late to partake in the "fin de fiesta," the time after a show when the performers would throw off the restrictions of their roles and improvise together.

Galván brings together a company of dancers and musicians including Bobote, Eloísa Cantón, Emilio Caracafé, Ramón Martínez, Niño de Elche, Alejandro Rojas-Marcos, Alia Sellami and Uchi, encouraging them to cross genre divides and invite us to this most flamenco of celebrations.

“To call Galván a brilliant dancer is like saying Einstein was pretty good at physics” Daily Express

## **Breakin' Convention 2019**

### **International Festival of Hip Hop Dance Theatre**

Friday 3 - Sunday 5 May

#### **Lilian Baylis Studio**

Fri at 8pm

£25

#### **Sadler's Wells Theatre**

Sat & Sun at 6pm

Doors open at 4pm

£30 - £25 (£18 concessions)

£15 standing



Performances on the main stage are co-compered by a BSL interpreter

Following a sensational 15th anniversary, Sadler's

Wells' annual celebration of hip hop hosted by

Associate Artist Jonzi D returns with a fresh line-up.

Expect a packed programme of explosive breakin' crews, innovative popping, creative krump and soulful house dance, as well as non-stop entertainment from old skool pioneers and the freshest street dancers from around the world and around the corner.

Spilling off stage and out into the theatre, the festival includes free activities, taster sessions, dance circles and workshops across the entire building.

"It's a platform for big personalities and amazing moves" The Independent

## **Yang Liping**

### **Rite of Spring**

Thursday 9 - Saturday 11 May

UK PREMIERE

Thu - Sat at 7.30pm

£50 - £15

Sadler's Wells Patrons' Event: Thu

Choreographer Yang Liping is known as the "Peacock Princess" in her native China. This affectionate nickname stems from her most famous dance work, *Spirit of the Peacock*, inspired by the traditional peacock folk dancing of her youth.

In 2016, she brought her beautiful visions to Sadler's Wells with *Under Siege*. For her new work, she reunites with Oscar-winning designer Tim Yip, to create a unique take on Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* –

utilising the iconic score alongside original compositions inspired by traditional Tibetan music.

Returning to her roots for this piece, Yang's sacrificial Chosen One takes the form of a peacock.

"Breathtakingly gorgeous" Financial Times on Under Siege

**Rambert****McGregor / Motin / Shechter**

Tuesday 14 - Saturday 18 May

Tue - Sat at 7.30pm

Sat at 2.30pm

£55 - £15

Free pre-show talk: Wed at 6.30pm

Schools' matinee: Thu at 1.30pm

World leading contemporary dance company Rambert uncovers early works by two Sadler's Wells Associate Artists and a new piece by a rising star.

Created for Rambert by Wayne McGregor in 2002, PreSentient marked the arrival of a major new talent with its perfect match between McGregor's angular movement and the lyrical phrasing of Steve Reich's music.

Hofesh Shechter had a similar impact in 2007 with *In Your Rooms*, blending the personal and political with heart-stopping intensity.

Completing the triple bill is a new work by Marion Motin, whose hip hop influenced style is best known through her work for *Christine and the Queens*.

## **TAO Dance Theater**

### **4 & 9**

Friday 24 & Saturday 25 May

Fri & Sat at 7.30pm

£37 - £15

Age guidance: 12+

Master of minimalist movement Tao Ye founded TAO in 2008. Now famous for their stripped-down forms, the company brings two pieces from its Numerical Series, both featuring music from Tao's regular collaborator, the avant-garde composer Xiao He.

In 4, a quartet move together in perfectly coordinated formation, without ever touching, as if drawn by a magnetic wave.

Tao's latest work, 9, signifies a departure from the previous seven works in the series. A significant number in Chinese culture, representing a cycle of

hardship and renewal, nine dancers hide connections within chaos.

“Tao has an ability to draw you inside his austere, meditative world” New York Times on 4

## **Company focus: San Francisco Ballet**

A company as old and established as San Francisco Ballet (in fact, it is the oldest professional ballet company in the United States) could have settled for a reputation as a heritage company, living off a diet of Coppélias and Sleeping Beauties quite comfortably into perpetuity.

However, despite having a stable of classics at their disposal, they also invest in creating new ones. Under the direction of the choreographer Helgi Tomasson for over 30 years, San Francisco Ballet has built up an enviable repertoire.

As part of the programme they are bringing to London, an astonishing eight pieces premiered in 2018 alone.

These brand new works (a phrase that cannot be emphasised enough, as none of the works featured in the four mixed bills are more than five years old)

include a host of world-class names that will be familiar to Sadler's Wells audiences: Liam Scarlett, Cathy Marston and Arthur Pita to pick out just a few whose work has graced our stages to huge acclaim recently (and in the case of Marston, her new full-length work will be performed here by Northern Ballet in March).

Works by Alexei Ratmansky and Justin Peck have been seen as part of two of Sadler's Wells' own productions. Ratmansky created *Valse Triste*, a new pas de deux on Natalia Osipova and David Hallberg for *Pure Dance*, which premiered here in September 2018, while Peck's *Belles-Lettres* is being performed by Acosta Danza on tour. And, of course, we could not fail to mention the Olivier Award-winning Christopher Wheeldon. One of our Associate Artists, Wheeldon's work can also be seen when BalletBoyz return in March.

All this, as well as names rarely seen in the UK.

Coming for their fourth visit to our current theatre, San Francisco Ballet is still a company to keep you on your toes.

## **San Francisco Ballet**

Last seen at Sadler's Wells in 2012, San Francisco Ballet is back with four triple bills to update us on their progress. Each of the programmes is entirely composed of work created since their last visit, by some of the greatest and most exciting choreographers working today.

"The dancers of San Francisco Ballet are very hard to resist" Daily Telegraph

£70 - £15

## **Programme A**

### **Shostakovich Trilogy**

Wednesday 29, Thursday 30 May & Sunday 2 June

UK PREMIERE

Wed & Thu at 7.30pm

Sun at 4pm

Sadler's Wells Patrons' Event: Thu

In a triptych of works, world-renowned choreographer

Alexei Ratmansky pays homage to Dmitri

Shostakovich. Attracted by the theatricality of his

music, Ratmansky has returned time and time again to

the work of the Russian composer. The three works,

Symphony #9, Chamber Symphony and Piano

Concerto #1 reflect Shostakovich's life and

experiences in abstract form.

“A remarkable journey through mood – and Soviet  
Russian history and politics” The San Francisco  
Examiner

## **Programme B**

### **Liang / Marston / Pita**

Friday 31 May & Saturday 1 June

UK PREMIERE

Fri & Sat at 7.30pm

Sat at 2pm

In *The Infinite Ocean*, Taiwanese-born American choreographer Edwaard Liang interprets loss and letting go. Cathy Marston adapts Edith Wharton's haunting tale of adultery, *Ethan Frome*, in *Snowblind*. And, in a match made in Wonderland, the fantastically surreal choreographer Arthur Pita is inspired by the music of the Icelandic icon, Björk Guðmundsdóttir for his *Björk Ballet*.

"Amazingly odd" New York Times on *Björk Ballet*

## **Programme C**

### **Welch / Scarlett / Peck**

Wednesday 5 & Saturday 8 June

UK PREMIERE

Wed & Sat at 7.30pm

Sat at 2pm

Set to the violin concertos of Johann Sebastian Bach, Stanton Welch's *Bespoke* explores dance itself in a love letter to ballet. The critically-acclaimed *Hummingbird* by British choreographer Liam Scarlett is accompanied by Philip Glass' *Tirol Concerto*, with shadowy designs by regular collaborator John Macfarlane. "Virtuoso of the form" (New York Times)

Justin Peck uses the electronic music of M83 for *Hurry Up, We're Dreaming*.

“Showcase[s] the really remarkable beauties of the company’s classical style” New York Times on Bespoke

## **Programme D**

### **McIntyre / Wheeldon / Dawson**

Thursday 6 & Friday 7 June

UK PREMIERE

Thu & Fri at 7.30pm

With the title lifted from the work of Walt Whitman, *Your Flesh Shall Be a Great Poem* inhabits the eccentric world of Trey McIntyre's grandfather. Sadler's Wells Associate Artist Christopher Wheeldon joins forces once again with the composer Keaton Henson to take on the modern world in *Bound To*. And, in his first work for the company, David Dawson's *Anima Animus* is ballet technique stretched to its outer limit, set to Ezio Bosso's *Esoconcerto*.

"[An] extravaganza of swirling bodies" San Francisco Chronicle on *Anima Animus*

## **Elixir Extracts Festival**

By offering a platform to nonprofessional older artists, the Elixir Extracts Festival aims to celebrate lifelong creativity and challenge assumptions that dance is only for the young.

£12 (£6 concessions\*)

## **Company of Elders**

### **Mixed Bill**

Friday 14 June

Lilian Baylis Studio

Fri at 8pm

Celebrating 30 years since the inception of an over-60s programme at Sadler's Wells, our very own resident company, the inspirational Company of Elders, follows up last year's sold-out show with an evening of exciting works. Fresh from her debut on the Sadler's Wells stage as part of Reckonings, Alesandra Seutin

creates a brand new work for the company. And looking back into the archives, the Elders revive *Natural*, a piece mixing text and dance that was created for them in 2005 by Clara Andermatt.

## **Elixir Extracts**

Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 June

Lilian Baylis Studio

Programme A

Sat at 5pm

Programme B

Sun at 5pm

Following an open call-out, older adult dance groups from around the UK converge in the Lilian Baylis Studio to showcase their work, demonstrating the diversity to be found around the country in two different programmes.

## **Workshops**

Throughout the weekend there will be opportunities to get involved with dance masterclasses across a range of styles and Experience Workshops with the Company of Elders.

Full festival listings can be found at:

[sadlerswells.com/elixir](http://sadlerswells.com/elixir)

\*Concessions available for Over 60s, Students and  
Under 18s

## **Birmingham Royal Ballet**

Marking the end of David Bintley's tenure at Birmingham Royal Ballet, where he has served as artistic director since 1995, the company brings one of Bintley's most popular ballets alongside a triple bill featuring the latest commission in the Ballet Now series – an initiative that provides emerging choreographers with the opportunity to take their voices to the main stage.

£55 - £15, £25 (Wed matinee)

### **[Un]leashed**

Tuesday 25 & Wednesday 26 June

Tue & Wed at 7.30pm

Wed at 2pm

Pre-show talk: Wed at 6.30pm

(Free to BRB Friends and same-day ticket holders)

Following the success of *Arcadia* last year, comes a new work from Ruth Brill, first artist with the company and choreographer. *Peter and the Wolf* fuses ballet with urban influences for a contemporary take on Sergei Prokofiev's original. For the third Ballet Now commission Didy Veldman creates a new work set to a score by Gabriel Prokofiev. Jessica Lang's surprising *Lyric Pieces*, with its ingenious giant folding props, and beautiful piano music from Edvard Grieg, receives its first London revival.

### **Hobson's Choice**

Friday 28 & Saturday 29 June

Fri & Sat at 7.30pm



Sat at 2.30pm

Touch Tour at 10.30am

Behind the scenes at a shoe-shop in Edwardian

Salford, headstrong Maggie manages to ditch her

drunkard dad, and find success in both love and business. With choreography by David Bintley, and a score by Paul Reade, played live by Royal Ballet Sinfonia and influenced by music hall, opera and brass bands, Hobson's Choice is a gleefully comedic modern classic.

"A warm and tender ballet that just radiates with David Bintley's mischievous sense of fun and his great love of British dance" The Stage

## **Our National Partner Companies**

Sadler's Wells thrives on creative collaboration. We pride ourselves on being an organisation that is outward-looking and internationally connected, working with artists to create and share first-class dance with as many people as possible.

An integral part of this is our role as the UK's national dance house. We don't just bring the best dance from all over the world to our audiences in London and through our touring productions around the country, we also support exceptional companies based outside the capital, providing them with a London platform to show work and build their audiences.

Over the last year, we have strengthened our relationship with three companies: Newcastle's balletLORENT, Leeds' Phoenix Dance Theatre and Leicester's Aakash Odedra Company. All of them have

strong and original choreographic voices at their helm, and we have been supporting them in different ways for some time. As our National Partner Companies, in addition to welcoming them regularly to our stages each year, we are sharing advice, skills and knowledge with them in a variety of areas, including marketing and communications, in order to build audiences for their work and raise their profile.

“Over the last ten years, Sadler’s Wells has given balletLORENT invaluable critical support and artistic advice. Our relationship has developed steadily since our first appearance in the Lilian Baylis Studio in 2008, and progressed to the commissioning of three full-length narrative works on the Sadler’s Wells stage for family audiences: Rapunzel in 2013 and 2014, Snow White in 2016 and Rumpelstiltskin in 2018. We are delighted to be a National Partner”

**Liv Lorent, artistic director of balletLORENT**

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

**Oct 2018 - June 2019**

Sadler's Wells' bumper portfolio of home-produced productions continues to tour internationally, giving people world over the opportunity to see exceptional choreographic works.

A Quiet Evening of Dance, choreographed by formidable ballet game-changer William Forsythe, premiered at Sadler's Wells in October 2018 before heading to Europe and Australia. For this programme, Forsythe has worked with seven of his most trusted collaborators to create a new work, imagining a programme analogous to an evening of chamber music. Sadler's Wells was delighted to win the prestigious FEDORA – Van Cleef & Arpels Prize for Ballet 2018 for this production.

Natalia Osipova's Pure Dance arrives at New York City Centre in April, following a celebrated premiere on the Sadler's Wells stage in September 2018. Lighting designer Michael Hulls' installation LightSpace heads to Hong Kong in November 2018. Plus, the highly anticipated Dystopian Dream arrives at Sadler's Wells after its premiere at Théâtres de la Ville, Luxembourg, and touring France and Stanford, USA. A collaboration between Sadler's Wells Associate Artist Nitin Sawhney, Honji Wang and Sébastien Ramirez, the production is a superb interpretation of Sawhney's celebrated album of the same name.

For full tours dates and information:

[sadlerswells.com/touring](http://sadlerswells.com/touring)

**Find Sadler's Wells on tour****Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui & Antony Gormley with monks  
from the Shaolin Temple****Sutra**

Oct & Nov 2018

Toulouse, Dusseldorf, Bilbao, Gijón, Brussels,

New York, Adelaide

**Nitin Sawhney, Sébastien Ramirez & Honji Wang****Dystopian Dream**

Oct & Nov 2018

Stanford, London (Sadler's Wells)

**William Forsythe****A Quiet Evening of Dance**

Oct 2018 - June 2019

Antwerp, Melbourne, Luxembourg, Montpellier, Athens

**Vamos Cuba!**

Nov 2018 - May 2019

Beirut

Michael Hulls

**LightSpace**

Nov 2018

Hong Kong

**Natalia Osipova**

**Pure Dance**

April 2019

New York

## **Checking in on the Young Associates**

Back in February 2018 Sadler's Wells launched Young Associates, a talent development programme supporting young dance-makers under the age of 24. Since then, our four inaugural Young Associates, Anthony Matsena, Wilhelmina Ojanen, Ruby Portus and Christopher Thomas have been hard at work.

Young Associates is a two-year programme led by our Learning & Engagement team and the independent choreographer Tim Casson, which provides each artist with a tailored programme of professional development that includes training weekends, opportunities to collaborate with other young artists and the chance to create new work.

In 2018, the Young Associates have had the chance to take part in collaborative workshops with students from London College of Fashion, receive mentoring

from leading choreographers and theatre-makers and present their work, starting with their Sadler's Wells debuts in the Lilian Baylis Studio in October 2018.

Over the following year, we'll see their work grow in scale and ambition, and we're excited to share their next steps with you! During 2019 we will also start the process of recruiting our second cohort of Young Associates, whom we will support through 2020/2021 and will join our original four young artists in helping shape the future of dance in the UK and beyond. You can read more about each of the Young Associates at: [sadlerswells.com/young-associates](http://sadlerswells.com/young-associates)

## **Q&A between Alistair Spalding and Matthew Bourne**

**Alistair: Your Romeo and Juliet will be the latest historic ballet to receive your unique interpretation.**

**What do you hope to discover in revisiting the classical dance canon?**

Matthew: When I choreographed Nutcracker!, my first 'classic,' I realised that these wonderful scores were written to tell a story. Maybe not the exact story that I'm telling, but the music drives the plot and creates wonderful opportunities for drama and character. The music is the reason why these pieces have a timeless appeal and why the ballets still attract fresh interpretations.

New Adventures is not a classical ballet company, so we can actually take things further by reinterpreting the music much more freely. We're not tied to the original choreography so it's a very creative

experience involving lots of questions being asked and many new answers being found.

**What is it about the story of Romeo and Juliet in particular that has made it so timeless?**

Audiences know it's a great love story, that it's about young people, some kind of conflict and that they're going to be moved. That's already a great basis for any storyteller!

I'm approaching the story very openly. It's certainly not a slavish interpretation of Shakespeare; for a start we do not use the words, of course. I like to have a few surprises up my sleeve, so the audience doesn't know exactly what's going to happen.

**Lord of the Flies was groundbreaking for incorporating a new, non-professional local cast at each venue on its tour. Will you be using a similar model this time around?**

It's a bit different in this case – Lord of the Flies was about inspiring boys to develop an interest in dance; this is more of a talent search – we're picking up young cast members around the country in each city we go to, but looking for young dancers who may already have begun their training.

The whole show centres on young talent, both on and off stage! I'm working with our young associate choreographer Arielle Smith, but we also have a young designer, lighting designer, sound, music – even marketing. We hope to involve young people in every aspect of the show.

**Swan Lake returns to Sadler's Wells in Christmas 2018. I understand that you're making some changes to the production since it was last on tour. Why is it important to you to reimagine and rediscover your shows each time you stage them?**

For many years Swan Lake was being produced by a separate company, and now it's back with New Adventures. It's a chance to ask a lot of questions along the way: Why did we do that? Can we try something else? How do we make this better?

One important change has been the advancements in theatrical technology in the last 20 years, particularly projection and lighting. We're taking it into the next era in its life.

**You've known Sadler's Wells as a visitor, then as a choreographer, and since 2005 as one of our inaugural Associate Artists. This year is the 20th anniversary of our current building – what changes have you seen in the world of dance in the last two decades?**

There's been a lot more conversation among genres, to the extent that it's now difficult to define something as exactly 'ballet' or 'contemporary dance.'

Huge cultural landmarks like Billy Elliot or Strictly Come Dancing on TV have really raised the profile of dance nationwide, so there are many more people aspiring to be dancers and choreographers... and critics!

I think we will see these trends continue – the democratisation, and conversations across genres and cultures – in ways that will ensure the vitality and dynamism of the art form.

## **New Adventures**

### **Matthew Bourne's Romeo and Juliet**

Wednesday 7 - Saturday 31 August

Performance times vary on selected dates.

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

£69 - £15

Age guidance: 12+

Matthew Bourne's Romeo and Juliet is a passionate and contemporary re-imagining of Shakespeare's classic love story. Confined against their will by a society that seeks to divide, our two young lovers must follow their hearts as they risk everything to be together.

Bursting with youth, vitality and Matthew Bourne's trademark storytelling, London's brightest young dance talent join the New Adventures company, with direction and choreography by Bourne, design by Lez

Brotherston, lighting by Paule Constable, sound by Paul Groothuis and new orchestrations of the Sergei Prokofiev score by Terry Davies.

This new production of Romeo and Juliet joins the popular New Adventures repertoire which includes Swan Lake, Cinderella and The Red Shoes.

## **Family shows**

### **The countdown is on...**

You can tell that Easter is fast approaching when excitement amongst the staff at Sadler's Wells builds to alarming levels. Bunting is brought out of storage, balloons are blown up and a mountain of coloured paper is unloaded, all ready for Family Weekend on 19 and 20 April.

It's an awe-inspiring sight: four floors, from the foyer right up to the second circle and everything in between, is given over to all sorts of crafts and fun activities, designed to complement the show taking place in the main house (more on that to follow! Keep an eye on [sadlerswells.com](http://sadlerswells.com) to be the first to find out).

Even the Fox Garden Court Café gets in on the action, serving up a special family-friendly menu to keep the little ones fuelled through all their adventures.

Can't wait? Join us every month at Family Fridays – a chance for two-to-four year olds to get down and groovy with their parents and carers (and any younger siblings who want to have a go) in a workshop led by professional dancers.

For dates check [sadlerswells.com/familyfridays](http://sadlerswells.com/familyfridays)

## **Birmingham Repertory Theatre**

### **The Snowman™**

Thursday 22 November 2018 - Sunday 6 January 2019

The Peacock

11am, 2.30pm & 7pm

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

£38 - £15

Family Ticket available

Swooping back into The Peacock for its 21st consecutive year, this festive show is now as firm a fixture of Christmas as mince pies and fairy-lights.

Based on the much-loved film and book, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, The Snowman stage-adaptation transports children to a wintery wonderland to discover exquisite dancing and live music, including Walking in the Air.

Friendship is kindled between a boy and his magical Snowman as they embark on a starry-skied adventure to the North Pole, where they meet dancing penguins, Father Christmas, Ice Princess, and escape the clutches of Jack Frost.

“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.

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## **English National Ballet and English National**

### **Ballet School**

#### **My First Ballet: Sleeping Beauty**

Tuesday 16 - Saturday 27 April

#### **The Peacock**

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

£37 - £10

Family ticket available

Age guidance: 3+

This pocket-sized version of the classic ballet is the perfect introduction for any budding balletomane.

With a narrator to guide the young audience through the tale of Princess Aurora, spindles and the triumph of true love, English National Ballet School students dance to a shortened version of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's sumptuous music.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ "A gorgeous treat for kids and parents"

Daily Express

## **London Children's Ballet**

### **Ballet Shoes**

Thursday 4 - Sunday 7 July

### **The Peacock**

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

£65 - £14

Premiere Performance Thu 4 at 7pm

Premiere tickets available from

[londonchildrensballet.com](http://londonchildrensballet.com)

No under 4s admitted

For 25 years London Children's Ballet has been staging professional-scale productions, performed by all-child casts and accompanied by a live orchestra. For this special anniversary, Noel Streatfeild's 1936 novel is newly adapted for the stage by Birmingham Royal Ballet first artist, and former LCB performer, Ruth Brill after Cathy Marston's original choreography for the

company. Ballet Shoes is the enduring tale of the determined Fossil sisters, Pauline, Petrova and Posy, as they take to the stage in order to support their adoptive family.

**Mavin Khoo****Man to Monk: Part 1, Man**

Thursday 29 & Friday 30 November

**Lilian Baylis Studio**

Thu & Fri at 8pm

£17

Free post-show talk: Thu

In the first of a two-piece series, the bharatanatyam and contemporary dance artist Mavin Khoo is joined by Victor Callens in a male duet which charts the trials and devotions experienced on the journey between base human emotion and spiritual transcendence.

This exploration of lust is choreographed by the artistic director of DeNada Dance Theatre, Carlos Pons Guerra, whose Hispanic take on Beauty and the Beast was performed in the Lilian Baylis Studio in spring 2018.

**Akram Khan Company****Until the Lions**

Friday 11 - Thursday 17 January

**Offsite: Roundhouse**

Tue - Sat at 7.30pm

Sun at 6pm

£45 - £18

Following the sold-out success of XENOS in 2018, Akram Khan returns to the stage to perform *Until the Lions* for the final time in the atmospheric, in-the-round setting of the Roundhouse.

Using a powerful blend of kathak movement and contemporary dance, Khan explores notions of gender and time, in a battle for justice and liberty taken from Karthika Nair's poetic retelling of the Sanskrit epic, *Mahabharata*.

★ ★ ★ ★ "Cosmic tale of destiny and revenge"

The Guardian

## **Sisters Grimm**

### **INALA**

Tuesday 30 April - Saturday 18 May

### **The Peacock**

Tue - Sat at 7.30pm

Sat at 2.30pm

Sun at 2pm & 6.30pm

£55 - £18

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

Created to celebrate 20 years of democracy in South Africa, INALA ("abundance of goodwill" in Zulu) returns to London after sell-out runs at Sadler's Wells.

Choreographed by Rambert's former artistic director, Mark Baldwin, this "Zulu ballet" fuses South African and contemporary dance, accompanied by the Emmy and two-time Grammy<sup>®</sup>-winning Soweto Gospel Choir

performing the Grammy® Award nominated score by  
Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Ella Spira.

“A massive hit” Daily Telegraph

## **Masters of Choreography**

### **Beats on Pointe**

Tuesday 21 May - Sunday 16 June

### **The Peacock**

Tue - Sat at 7.30pm

Sat at 2.30pm

Sun at 2pm & 6.30pm

£55 - £18

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

After its thrilling 2018 run, the classical ballet and street dance mash-up that is Beats on Pointe is back.

As two opposing dance worlds clash, electric dancers go toe-to-toe in this fun-fuelled fusion of ballet and street dance. This high-energy show features dazzling dance, freestyle acts, singing, beatboxing, moments of well-timed comedy and plenty of feel-good music

covering an all-embracing mix of classical music, old school grooves and current hits.

## **Phoenix Dance Theatre**

### **The Rite of Spring / Troy Game**

Thursday 27 & Friday 28 June

### **The Peacock**

Thu & Fri at 7.30pm

£40 - £18

For his first work created in the UK, Haitian contemporary and folklore choreographer Jeanguy SAINTUS re-envisions The Rite of Spring, introducing the sacred arts of Haiti along with contemporary global issues in his bold approach to the near riot-causing original by Vaslav Nijinsky.

Robert North's capoeira and aikido-infused homage to macho athletics, Troy Game, created on an all-male cast in 1974, gets a makeover to include female dancers for Phoenix Dance Theatre.

## **Another Kind of Blue**

### **Flirt with Reality**

Tuesday 9 - Sunday 14 July

### **The Peacock**

Tue - Sat at 7.30pm

Sat at 2.30pm

Sun at 4pm

£40 - £18

Under 16s half-price (excluding Sat at 7.30pm). Max two half-price child tickets per full-paying adult.

Modern dance meets cutting-edge drone technology in a new work by Britain's Got Talent semi-finalists, *Another Kind of Blue*.

Dutch choreographer and digital designer David Middendorp unites humans and technology in five pieces that twist perspective and illusion to question our very perception of reality. Dancers collide with

digital matter and flying drones in an imaginative, gravity-defying dreamscape that explores how borders have become blurred in our increasingly virtual world.

## **Fame**

Wednesday 11 September - Saturday 19 October

## **The Peacock**

Tue - Sat at 7.30pm

Sat at 2.30pm

Sun at 2pm & 7pm

£65 - £18

Under 16s half price (Tue - Thu). Max two half-price child tickets per full-paying adult

Age guidance: 12+

Get ready for the musical that lives forever. 31 years after its premiere in Miami, it's time to re-join the fame-hungry students of New York's High School For The Performing Arts as they tackle life, love and legwarmers alongside the eternal search for stardom.

Based on the classic 80s film, Fame the musical features the Oscar-winning title song, ingenious and

audacious dance routines from director and choreographer Nick Winston, tales of teenage triumphs and troubles, and a dynamite cast of fearless performers.

"An unstoppable buzz of energy, music, and fun"

Manchester Evening News

## Talks, classes and assisted performances

### Pre and Post-Show Talks

#### Mark Morris Dance Group

Wednesday 20 March

Post-show talk

#### Damien Jalet & Kohei Nawa

Tuesday 16 April

Post-show talk

#### Rambert

Wednesday 15 May

Pre-show talk, 6.30pm

#### Birmingham Royal Ballet

Wednesday 26 June

Pre-show talk, 6.30pm

## **Dance Classes and Workshops**

### **Sampled**

Saturday 9 February

Dance workshops: £4

Age guidance: 18+

### **Breakin' Convention 2019**

Saturday 4 & Sunday 5 May

International hip hop dance masterclasses: £10

### **Birmingham Royal Ballet**

Saturday 29 June, 11.45am

Open Company Class on stage:

£10 (free to BRB friends)

### **Family Fridays**

Last Friday of every month

Dance workshops for 2 - 4 year olds and their carers,

£2 for children, £4 for adults

## **Assisted Performances**

### **Northern Ballet**

Saturday 30 March, 2.30pm

Audio Described performance

Insight Workshop at 12pm

Touch Tour at 12.45pm

### **Damien Jalet & Kohei Nawa**

Wednesday 17 April, 7.30pm

Audio Described performance

Touch Tour at 5.30pm

### **Breakin' Convention 2019**

Saturday 4 May & Sunday 5 May

Co-compered by BSL interpreter

### **Birmingham Royal Ballet**

Saturday 29 June, 2.30pm

Audio Described performance

Touch Tour at 10.30am

## **Patrons' Events**

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

### **BalletBoyz**

#### **Them/Us**

Tuesday 5 March

### **Damien Jalet & Kohei Nawa**

#### **Vessel**

Wednesday 17 April

### **Yang Liping**

#### **Rite of Spring**

Thursday 9 May

### **San Francisco Ballet**

#### **Programme A**

### **Shostakovich Trilogy**

Thursday 30 May

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