

BIRMINGHAM



Director Carlos Acosta

Lazuli Sky

29 – 31 Oct 2020

Our Waltzes Vicente Nebrada

Liebestod Valery Panov

Lazuli Sky Will Tuckett

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Carlos Acosta. © Johan Persson

Running Order

Our Waltzes 30 minutes

Pause 5 minutes

Liebestod 8 minutes

Pause 15 minutes

Lazuli Sky 30 minutes

WELCOME

A warm welcome to Sadler's Wells. This is my first season as Director of Birmingham Royal Ballet and I am delighted to present this season of ballets, all new to our repertory.

The specially commissioned *Lazuli Sky* by Will Tuckett is an uplifting piece using state-of-the-art technology and is set against two ballets that I am thrilled to introduce to the Company. *Our Waltzes* by Venezuelan choreographer Vicente Nebrada, which I performed aged 18, is a beautiful, technically challenging piece, and Valery Panov's *Liebestod* is a stunning solo which puts our male dancers firmly in the spotlight.

I hope you enjoy this production – if you would like to watch it again, alongside insights into the creative process, it will be available online for seven days from noon on 1 November. Tickets cost just £10 and are available now at brb.org.uk/lazuli-sky-film. I would like to thank Oak Foundation for its support of *Lazuli Sky*. I would also like to extend a very sincere thank you to Aud Jebsen for her extraordinary support of my Directorship of Birmingham Royal Ballet across the 2020/21 season.

Looking ahead, we return to London's wonderful Royal Albert Hall from 30 December to 2 January to celebrate the New Year with our spectacular version of *The Nutcracker*. For more information visit brb.org.uk/rahnutcracker.

Thank you for your support and please stay safe.

CARLOS

Our Waltzes

Music: Teresa Carreño, Salvador Llamozas, Manuel Guadalajara, Isabel de Maury, Sofia Limonta, Ramon Delgado Palacios, Heraclio Fernández

Choreography Vicente Nebrada

Lighting Peter Teigen

Sound design Yvonne Gilbert

Costume makers Parkinson Gill Ltd and Phil Reynolds Costumes
Dyeing Sheila White
Costume Supervisor Elaine Garlick

Our Waltzes celebrates love, romance and passion and is danced to Latin-infused waltzes from Vicente Nebrada's native Venezuela.

Cast

Thursday 29 Oct, 7.30pm; Saturday 31 Oct, 2.30pm

Red couple Momoko Hirata, César Morales
Brown couple Yijing Zhang, Yasuo Atsuji
Lilac couple Samara Downs, Tyrone Singleton
Pink couple Yaoqian Shang, Mathias Dingman
Orange couple Miki Mizutani, Tzu-Chao Chou

Friday 30 Oct, 2.30pm

Red couple Momoko Hirata, César Morales
Brown couple Yijing Zhang, Brandon Lawrence
Lilac couple Samara Downs, Tyrone Singleton
Pink couple Yaoqian Shang, Mathias Dingman
Orange couple Miki Mizutani, Tzu-Chao Chou

Friday 30 Oct, 7.30pm; Saturday 31 Oct, 7.30pm

Red couple Momoko Hirata, César Morales
Brown couple Yijing Zhang, Brandon Lawrence
Lilac couple Samara Downs, Tyrone Singleton
Pink couple Yaoqian Shang, Mathias Dingman
Orange couple Beatrice Parma, Max Maslen

Pianist Jonathan Higgins



Miki Mizutani and Tu-Chao Chou. © Johan Persson

Liebestod

Music: Richard Wagner (*arranged by* Ian Farrington)

Choreography Valery Panov

Lighting Peter Teigen

Sound design Yvonne Gilbert

Costume makers Phil Reynolds Costumes
Costume Supervisor Elaine Garlick

Liebestod offers a powerful, visceral solo for the Company's male Principals. Valery Panov, Artistic director and founder of Israel's Panov Ballet Theatre, is a former Principal of Kirov Ballet and was hailed as one of the most brilliant virtuoso dancers of his generation.

Cast

Thursday 29 Oct, 7.30pm

Brandon Lawrence

Friday 30 Oct, 2.30pm

Yasuo Atsuji

Friday 30 Oct, 7.30pm

Tzu-Chao Chou

Saturday 31 Oct, 2.30pm

Brandon Lawrence

Saturday 31 Oct, 7.30pm

Yasuo Atsuji



Brandon Lawrence. © Johan Persson

Lazuli Sky

Music John Adams (Shaker Loops, *Chester Music Limited t/a G.Schirmer o/b/o Associated Music Publishers Inc.*)

Choreography Will Tuckett

Design Samuel Wyer, Nina Dunn

Video design Nina Dunn

Costume design Samuel Wyer

Lighting Peter Teigen

Sound design Yvonne Gilbert

Lazuli Sky is generously supported by Oak Foundation

Birmingham Royal Ballet is extremely grateful to Aud Jebesen for her generous support of Lazuli Sky and for her support of Carlos Acosta's Directorship of the Company and artistic plans across the 2020/21 season.

Production Video Engineer Harrison Cooke

Video Programmer Luigi Sardi

Video Engineer Matt Somerville

Notch Artist Luigi Sardi

Animator Nathan Fernée

Production Co-ordinator Laura Salmi

Creative Technologist (AR) James Simpson

Costume makers Phil Reynolds Costumes,

Dyeing Sheila White

Costume Supervisor Elaine Garlick

“In the Renaissance, this metamorphic rock was ground to create the hugely valuable pigment. Similarly, to regain our open skies, we have had to pay an enormous price”

Will Tuckett

The deep, speckled blue of lapis lazuli was the base for the most precious and expensive of colours in the Renaissance painter's palette, providing the clear sky blue so familiar in the paintings of Leonardo da Vinci.

During lockdown, the team was drawn to the open clarity of sky, wind-shaped landscapes, and birdsong, without the distractions of normal everyday living. These are the inspiration and backdrop to this outward looking, hopeful and regenerative ballet.

Cast

Damen Axtens, Laura Day, Karla Doorbar,

Ryan Felix, Haoliang Feng, Kit Holder,

Yu Kurihara, Gus Payne, Emma Price,

Tom Rogers, Eilis Small, Yuki Sugiura

Members of the Royal Ballet Sinfonia

Conductor Paul Murphy

Robert Gibbs (*Leader*), Vanessa David (*First Violin*),

Mary Martin (*Second Violin*), Errika Horsley (*Viola*),

Antonio Novais (*Cello*), Jane Rainey (*Cello*),

Vera Pereira (*Bass*)



© Johan Persson

For biographies of the creative team visit brb.org.uk/lazuli-sky and dancers brb.org.uk/the-company

Birmingham Royal Ballet Technical Team for this production

Company Manager Will Mauchline

Assistant Company Manager Tristan Rusdale

Technical Director Paul Grace

Abigail Reeves Producer

Senior Stage Manager Diana Childs

Deputy Stage Manager Eliska Robenn

Head of Stage Ben Leveson

Deputy Head of Stage Paul Moore

Stage Technicians Paul Fisher-Bazan, Tom Reilly

Head of Lighting Johnny Westall-Eyre

Deputy Head of Lighting Andy Wilson

Senior Lighting Technicians Alastair Phillips, Andy Rumble

Lighting Technician Scott Smith

Apprentice Lighting Technician Marcus Trombley

Sound Engineer Mark Noble

Head of Costume / Costume Supervisor Elaine Garlick

Senior Costume Technicians Stella Mansfield, Samantha Priest

Costume Technicians Jennifer Priestley, Gabrielle Raven

Shoe Supervisor Michael Clifford

Production Assistant Leanne Ward

Please let us know what you think

Please share your views on this production via our short survey.

Your feedback is invaluable to us as an organisation and will help us to understand and measure the impact of what we do.

Visit brb.org.uk/swt-survey



Please note this data will be shared between Birmingham Royal Ballet and Sadler's Wells Theatre