

Northern
Ballet

CELEBRATING
50
years



A CELEBRATION OF
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
DAVID NIXON OBE

Leeds Playhouse
22 October 2020



Welcome

David Nixon OBE
Artistic Director

This season we had planned to perform *The Great Gatsby* and present the world première of Drew McOnie's *Merlin*. However, the restrictions in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic have made this impossible. Our dancers have endured months of trying to maintain their fitness from home in the confines of their kitchens and living rooms. For the majority of them, it was the longest time they had been away from a ballet studio since they began classes as children. With the majority of our staff furloughed and watching our planned performances get cancelled week by week, a spark of hope was ignited as restrictions loosened a little and finally allowed our dancers to return to training in small groups.

By the summer, the hunger and need the Company has to perform, as well as the community's desire to regain some sense of normality, was palpable. In the face of numerous challenges, we determined to find a way to return to the stage for live performances.

It was impossible for us to stage one of our large-scale productions due to social distancing restrictions and the financial viability of performing to smaller audiences. However, with the support of Leeds Playhouse, we established this programme of three one-act mixed bills and the revival of *Dangerous Liaisons*. This programme gives us an opportunity to stage work that we would not normally do and work that is rarely staged, alongside excerpts from some of our more recent productions. Again, it has not been possible to stage these works in the way we usually would; we have had to use our Sinfonia made up of less players and cannot feature the sets. But we are committed to maintaining as much production value as we possibly can, whilst prioritising the safety of our dancers, musicians, backstage staff, venue staff and audiences.

As I write this, I am fully aware that with the ever-changing situation we find ourselves in this year, there is always a chance that these performances will not be able to go ahead after all. Even if they do, we still find ourselves with an uncertain future ahead as we try to plan our 2021 tour without knowing what the situation will be by then. The arts industry has been badly affected by lockdown and as it stands, the future for many organisations is not guaranteed. If you are in a position to be able to do so, you can help by donating money, or not claiming a refund on cancelled tickets, instead please consider accepting a credit voucher or transferring your ticket to another event. If you would like to donate to Northern Ballet, we would be incredibly grateful. Please see northernballet.com/magic for details of our current appeal.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our audiences, individual and corporate supporters, and trusts and foundations who have continued to support us throughout this time, as well as Arts Council England and Leeds City Council.

I would also like to thank every person who works for Northern Ballet. You have all shown tremendous resilience in the face of huge difficulty and anxiety over the last few months, and your determination in making it possible for us to offer these performances just shows the spirit that Northern Ballet has as a community.

Thank you for joining us for these performances. Keep well. Stay safe.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Production supported by



THE LIZ & TERRY BRAMALL
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John Ellerman
Foundation

Performances

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Titania and Oberon Pas de Deux

Choreography
David Nixon OBE

Music
Felix Mendelssohn and Johannes Brahms

Costume Design
David Nixon OBE

Staged by
David Nixon OBE

Released from Puck's mischievous magic, Titania and Oberon move beyond their anger and manipulation and are lovingly reconciled.

Wuthering Heights

On the Moors Pas de Deux

Choreography
David Nixon OBE

Music
Claude-Michel Schönberg

Costume Design
David Nixon OBE

Staged by
David Nixon OBE and Daniel de Andrade

Cathy's father has brought home a ragged child known as Heathcliff. As they grow older, Cathy and Heathcliff spend their time together on the desolate moors where the bond between them grows ever closer.

Wuthering Heights

Wedding Pas de Deux

Choreography
David Nixon OBE

Music
Claude-Michel Schönberg

Costume Design
David Nixon OBE

Staged by
David Nixon OBE and Daniel de Andrade

Cathy and Edgar are married, but in the midst of the festivities, Heathcliff arrives richly dressed and newly genteel. He and Cathy dance together reawakening their feelings for one another.

Wuthering Heights

Garden Pas de Deux

Choreography
David Nixon OBE

Music
Claude-Michel Schönberg

Costume Design
David Nixon OBE

Staged by
David Nixon OBE and Daniel de Andrade

Determined to take revenge against Cathy in her happiness, Heathcliff kisses Isabella and is jealously confronted by a melancholy Cathy.

I Got Rhythm

Three Preludes

Choreography
David Nixon OBE

Music
George Gershwin

Costume Design
David Nixon OBE

Solo Piano
Andrew Dunlop

Staged by
Daniel de Andrade

An excerpt from the toe-tapping spectacle that is *I Got Rhythm*, *Three Preludes* celebrates some of the best music of the roaring 20s.

The Little Mermaid

Act II Pas de Deux

Choreography
David Nixon OBE

Music
Sally Beamish

Costume Design
David Nixon OBE

Staged by
Christelle Horna

At a community gathering of dancing and celebration, time suspends as Marilla dreams of how she would dance with her beloved Prince Adair if only he loved her as she does him.

Performances

The Great Gatsby

Heavenly Space Pas de Deux

Choreography
David Nixon OBE

Music
Sir Richard Rodney Bennett CBE

Costume Design
David Nixon OBE

Staged by
Daniel de Andrade

Reunited with his lost love, Gatsby takes Daisy to his mansion where the two become reacquainted and their old feelings for one another begin to resurface.

Music licenced by Wise Music Group.

The Three Musketeers

Act I Pas de Deux

Choreography
David Nixon OBE

Music
Sir Malcolm Arnold

Costume Design
David Nixon OBE

Staged by
Christelle Horna

Initially shy in their feelings for each other, Constance and d'Artagnan are left alone and realise that they are falling in love.

Music licenced by Wise Music Group.

A Sleeping Beauty Tale

Rose Adagio Pas de Deux

Choreography
David Nixon OBE

Music
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Costume Design
David Nixon OBE

Staged by
David Nixon OBE and Christelle Horna

Resentful of the arranged marriage, Korak dances exuberantly with his bride Aurora, seeming to simultaneously mirror and mock her elegance and beauty.

A Sleeping Beauty Tale

Act I Garden Duet

Choreography
David Nixon OBE

Music
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Costume Design
David Nixon OBE

Staged by
David Nixon OBE and Christelle Horna

Alone in a beautiful and peaceful garden, Adameter expresses his love for his friend Aurora who must reject her own love for him as she is destined to marry another to save her beloved planet.

Production credits

Wardrobe

Head of Wardrobe Kim Brassley

Wardrobe Supervisor Mikhaila Pye

Assisted by Julie Anderson
Carley Marsh

With help from Donna Hardcastle
Ellie Kemp
Holly Prescott
Roxanne Major

Hair, Make-Up & Wigs Supervisor Harriet Rogers

Technical

Production Manager Steve Wilkins

Lighting recreated by Alastair West

Company Manager Emily Deller

Production Stage Manager Lyndsey Holmes

Production Deputy Stage Manager Chun-Yen Chia

Production Electrician Chris Alexander

Lighting Programmer Abbi Fearnley

Production Sound Engineer Kevin Heap

Props Northern Ballet Stage Management

Lighting Equipment Hawthorn

Logistics Stagefreight



The Dancers - Our Collaborative Artists

Premier Dancers

Antoinette Brooks-Daw
Javier Torres

Principal Soloists

Ashley Dixon
Abigail Prudames

Leading Soloists

Mlindi Kulashe
Ayami Miyata
Joseph Taylor

First Soloists

Sean Bates
Sarah Chun
Rachael Gillespie
Riku Ito
Minju Kang
Matthew Koon
Dominique Larose
Kevin Poeung

Soloists

Jonathan Hanks
Matthew Topliss

Junior Soloists

Filippo Di Vilio
Lorenzo Trossello

Coryphée

Miki Akuta
Gavin McCaig
Mariana Rodrigues

Dancers

Harris Beattie
Helen Bogatch
Alessandra Bramante
Wesley Branch
Natalia Kerner
Sena Kitano
Kyungka Kwak
Heather Lehan
George Liang
Harriet Marden
Charlotte McKay
Aerys Merrill
Matthew Morrell
Julie Nunès
Bruno Serraclara
Andrew Tomlinson

Apprentices

Sara Dos Remedios
Albert Gonzalez Orts
Leandro Olcese
Aurora Piccininni
Archie Sherman

For dancer biographies visit northernballet.com/dancers

Northern Ballet Sinfonia

Music Director
Jonathan Lo

Orchestra Manager
Steve Costello

Sinfonia Supporters
Nick Lyle & Sheila Nelson

1st Violin
Geoffrey Allan
Helen Boardman
Raimonda Koço

2nd Violin
Winona Fifield
Laura Concar
Oliver Morris

Viola
Rosalyn Cabot
Hannah Horton

Cello
Alexander Volpov
Toby Turton

Double Bass
Gemma Murray

Piano
Andrew Dunlop

Flute/Piccolo
Tom Hancox

Oboe / Cor Anglais
Mary Gilbert

Clarinet
Joanna Rozario
Alan Asquith

Bassoon
Paul Boyes

Horns
Nick Wolmark
Dave Horwich

Trumpet
Tracey Redfern

Trombone
Richard Scoates

Timpani
Ian Hood

Percussion
John Melbourne

Harp
Elinor Nicholson

With Grateful Thanks

We extend our deepest thanks to our corporate sponsors, individual supporters and trusts and foundations whose essential support has become even more critical as we try to overcome the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We cannot list everyone here, but we are so grateful for your ongoing support during this difficult time, and please know that we remain committed to ensuring that the company you love will return to the tours and productions you expect, better than ever, as soon as it is permitted and safe to do so.



For more information on ways you can support Northern Ballet, please visit northernballet.com/support-us

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A ballerina in a vibrant blue dress is captured in a graceful leap, her arms extended and one leg kicked high. She is set against a magical, ethereal background of soft, glowing clouds and a starry, nebula-like sky. The overall mood is one of wonder and enchantment.

BRING BACK THE MAGIC APPEAL

We began this year celebrating 50 years of Northern Ballet with plans to bring two new ballets, *Geisha* and *Merlin*, to audiences nationwide.

However, in place of celebration, we now find ourselves facing the tremendous strain that the Covid-19 pandemic places upon our ability to create, perform and teach ballet. As a result, our 2020 world première of *Merlin* has been postponed.

We need your help to ensure the magic of *Merlin* finally becomes a reality for its rescheduled world première in 2021.

Find out more about how your donation will help at northernballet.com/magic

Rachael Gillespie in *Merlin*. Photo Guy Farrow.