

Northern
Ballet

CELEBRATING
50
years



CONTEMPORARY CUTS

Leeds Playhouse
23 - 24 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
FOUNDATION

John Ellerman
Foundation

Performances

Mamela...

Opening Trio

Choreography
Mlindi Kulashe

Music
Jack Edmonds

Costume Design
Kimie Nakano

Staged by
Daniel de Andrade

Mamela... encompasses the themes of frustration, escapism and imprisonment. The feeling of being trapped in the unknown and the conflict between the head and the heart.

1984

Countryside Pas de Deux

Choreography
Jonathan Watkins

Music
Alex Baranowski

Costume Design
Simon Daw

Staged by
Daniel de Andrade

Winston and Julia plan a secret meeting away from the omnipresent eyes of Big Brother. They travel to the countryside where they give in to their lust and begin a passionate love affair.

Little Monsters

Choreography
Demis Volpi

Music
Elvis Presley

Costume Design
Katharina Schlipf

Staged by
Daniel de Andrade

In *Little Monsters* a love story is told from the beginning to its end based on the scenarios expressed through the lyrics and emotional landscapes created in three songs by Elvis Presley.

Jane Eyre

Proposal Pas de Deux

Choreography
Cathy Marston

Music
Philip Feeney

Costume Design
Patrick Kinmonth

Staged by
Daniel de Andrade & Christelle Horna

Mr Rochester attempts to revive the intimacy with a hesitant Jane who believes he is engaged to another. He gently mocks her, encouraging her to unleash her jealousy and passion before proposing marriage.

Performances

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.

States of Mind

World Première

Choreography
Kenneth Tindall

Assistant
Christelle Horna

Music
Johann Sebastian Bach,
Jacob Ter Veldhuis & Aretha Franklin

Sound Design
Neill Rigg

Costume Design
Hannah Bateman

Inspired by a collection of thoughts, feelings and news headlines from lockdown, this work is an abstract response through movement, to a selection of situations experienced in recent months.

Music licensed by Basta Music



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

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 blue dress is captured in a graceful, suspended pose against a magical, starry background. She is surrounded by glowing particles and ethereal light effects. The text 'BRING BACK THE MAGIC APPEAL' is overlaid on the image in large, white, bold letters.

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.