

For immediate release

Northern Ballet returns for first post-lockdown live performances



Leeds Playhouse: 21 – 31 October 2020

[Northern Ballet](#) is returning to the stage for its first live performances since the initiation of lockdown in March. The Company will perform three different hour-long [mixed programmes](#) at [Leeds Playhouse](#) from 21 – 24 October 2020 followed by four full-length performances of David Nixon OBE's [Dangerous Liaisons](#) from 28 – 31 October 2020.

Northern Ballet's season at Leeds Playhouse will be the Company's first live performances in more than seven months. The last performance the Company held prior to lockdown was the world première of Kenneth Tindall's *Geisha*. With government guidelines now permitting indoor performances with socially distanced audiences, working with Leeds Playhouse, Northern Ballet has been able to establish a viable programme to get the Company performing again. However, as ongoing social distancing restrictions continue to apply to the dancers, musicians and backstage staff, Northern Ballet is still unable to present its planned repertoire for 2020 and has instead selected work it can perform whilst respecting the current guidelines.

The first [mixed repertoire programme](#) will be *Iconic Classics* on 21 Oct. The performance will include excerpts from ballet classics including *Don Quixote*, *Swan Lake*, *Le Corsaire* and *Giselle*. A *Celebration of Artistic Director David Nixon OBE* on 22 Oct celebrates 20 years of Artistic Director David Nixon OBE's creations for the Company including excerpts from *The Great Gatsby*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Little Mermaid*. The final mixed programme, *Contemporary Cuts* will be performed on 23 and 24 Oct including excerpts from *1984*, *I Got Rhythm* and a new work by Northern Ballet Choreographer in Residence Kenneth Tindall.



From 28 – 31 Oct, Northern Ballet will perform David Nixon OBE's [Dangerous Liaisons](#) in the first revival of this work in 10 years. Inspired by the original scandalous novel and acclaimed Hollywood retellings, danced to Vivaldi's rousing *The Four Seasons*, *Dangerous Liaisons* is the bodice-ripping tale of two bored aristocrats as they spin a web of heartbreak and ruin.

With the exception of *Contemporary Cuts*, all performances will include live music played by members of Northern Ballet Sinfonia. All performances will be performed in full costume but 'black box style' without sets.

David Nixon OBE said: “Although we are still far from business-as-usual, we are thrilled to be able to return to the stage and present a significant run of live performances. This year has been incredibly difficult for everyone and the arts is one industry that has been badly affected by COVID-19. It is vital for our dancers to be able to return to performing and we feel fortunate that they are now able to do so. We recognise the challenges faced by our industry in ensuring the safety of staff and patrons and the financial viability of holding performances with reduced socially distanced audiences. So many arts organisations are still fighting for their existence and countless people have been made redundant. We hope that successfully holding our performances will contribute to setting a path for the curtain to lift on more live performance across the UK.

“We don’t know what the coming months will bring for our company, or the industry as a whole. However, we are continuing to liaise with our venue partners and explore more opportunities for live performance in the coming months. For now, we hope our audiences will feel safe and confident to join us at Leeds Playhouse, support our industry and have a brief escape from the uncertainty of the times that dance can so beautifully provide.”

Tickets go on general sale on Tuesday 29 September. To book visit leedsplayhouse.org.uk

In line with current government guidelines, audiences will be of limited capacity with social distancing and temperature checks in place. Audiences are also required to wear face coverings at all times. Ticket holders will be notified of these measures in advance

Dangerous Liaisons age guidance 12+

-ENDS-

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Notes to Editors

Leeds Playhouse Season Details

Iconic Classics

21 October 2020

Box Office: 0113 213 7700

leedsplayhouse.org.uk

A Celebration of Artistic Director David Nixon OBE

22 October 2020

Box Office: 0113 213 7700

leedsplayhouse.org.uk

Contemporary Cuts

23 – 24 October 2020

Box Office: 0113 213 7700

leedsplayhouse.org.uk

Dangerous Liaisons

28 – 31 October 2020

Box Office: 0113 213 7700

leedsplayhouse.org.uk

Northern Ballet

In 2020 Northern Ballet is celebrating its 50th Anniversary.

Northern Ballet is one of the UK's leading ballet companies and the widest touring ballet company in the UK. Bold and innovative in its approach, Northern Ballet is prolific at creating new full-length work with a unique blend of strong classical technique and impressive storytelling. Northern Ballet's repertoire embraces popular culture and takes inspiration from literature, legend, opera and the classics, pushing the boundaries of what stories can be told through dance.

A champion for the cultural exports of the North, Leeds-based Northern Ballet is dedicated to bringing ballet to as many people and places as possible, under the leadership of Artistic Director David Nixon OBE. Northern Ballet's Company of 43 dancers performs a combination of its full-length ballets and specially created ballets for children at more than 40 venues annually.

For more details of Northern Ballet's tour, on sale dates and booking information, please visit northernballet.com/whatson



Photos by Merlin Hendy and Emma Kauldhar.