

Friday 27 March 2020

For immediate release

## Northern Ballet announces Pay As You Feel Digital Season



**Productions featured include: Jonathan Watkins' *1984*; Mariana Rodrigues' *Little Red Riding Hood*; extended highlights from Northern Ballet's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Gala; and David Nixon OBE's *Dracula*. Kenneth Tindall and Dan Lowenstein's dance film *EGO* will also be released.**

[northernballet.com/pay-as-you-feel](http://northernballet.com/pay-as-you-feel)

[Click here to download images](#)

Due to the impact of COVID-19, many of Northern Ballet's upcoming performances have been cancelled or are under threat of cancellation. Whilst the Company is not performing live at this time, a selection of ballets from Northern Ballet's repertoire plus a new original dance film will be available to watch online or on television as part of the Company's Pay As You Feel Digital Season.

Over the next few weeks people will be able to tune into *1984*, *Little Red Riding Hood* and *Dracula* from the comfort of their home. The Company will also release a new dance film, Kenneth Tindall and Dan Lowenstein's *EGO* plus the extended highlights of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Gala which took place at Leeds Grand Theatre at the beginning of the year.

Northern Ballet are asking audiences to consider making a donation as they watch content from the Pay As You Feel Digital Season to support the Company, their people and work during these unprecedented times and the significant financial hardship the Company is facing. Lost income from cancelled performances could affect Northern Ballet's ability to pay their workforce, many of whom are freelancers, as well as their ability to present new ballets, including *Merlin* which is planned to première this autumn. Those who wish to support the Company can donate at [northernballet.com/pay-as-you-feel](http://northernballet.com/pay-as-you-feel)

Kenneth Tindall and Dan Lowenstein's new dance film *EGO* kicks off the season and will be available to watch online today, Friday 27 March, from 7pm at [northernballet.com/ego](http://northernballet.com/ego). *EGO* explores parallel versions of one couple's relationship. At first appearing the perfect Hollywood romance, the couple's alter egos tell a different story filled with raw animalistic emotion, asking 'How much does your ego control your behaviour?'

First premièred in 2015 to critical acclaim, Jonathan Watkins' award-winning *1984* will be available to watch from Friday 3 April at [northernballet.com/1984](http://northernballet.com/1984). Based on George Orwell's masterpiece, the ballet follows the story of Winston Smith and his life of conformity under the watchful eye of Big Brother.

CBeebies will screen their special version of Mariana Rodrigues' *Little Red Riding Hood* on Friday 10 April at 9.30am. Created especially for children, *Little Red Riding Hood* retells the classic fairytale with a Northern Ballet twist.

From Friday 17 April, extended highlights from Northern Ballet's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Gala will be available to watch at [northernballet.com](http://northernballet.com). This sell-out performance featured excerpts of productions from Northern Ballet's history and brought together dancers from The Royal Ballet, English National Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Scottish Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet and Phoenix Dance Theatre alongside Northern Ballet's dancers.

After wowing audiences during its live to cinema performances last Halloween, David Nixon OBE's *Dracula* will make its television debut as part of the BBC's [Culture in Quarantine Season](#). Seducing countless generations, Bram Stoker's legendary vampire lives on in this extraordinary ballet which will be available to watch in the coming weeks on BBC Four and iPlayer.

To find out more about Northern Ballet's Pay As You Feel Digital Season, please visit [northernballet.com/pay-as-you-feel](http://northernballet.com/pay-as-you-feel)

**-ENDS-**

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### **Notes to Editors**

#### **Pay As You Feel Digital Season**

Kenneth Tindall and Dan Lowenstein's *EGO*  
Available from Friday 27 March at 7pm  
[northernballet.com/ego](http://northernballet.com/ego)

Jonathan Watkins' *1984*  
Available from Friday 3 April  
[northernballet.com/1984](http://northernballet.com/1984)

Mariana Rodrigues' *Little Red Riding Hood*  
Friday 10 April, 9.30am  
CBeebies

50th Anniversary Celebration Gala - Extended Highlights  
Available from Friday 17 April  
[northernballet.com](http://northernballet.com)

David Nixon OBE's *Dracula*  
Part of the BBC's Culture in Quarantine Season  
Available in the coming weeks  
BBC Four / iPlayer

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### **About Northern Ballet**

In 2020 Northern Ballet is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> 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.



Photos Emily Nuttall and Emma Kauldhar.