

1 FEBRUARY 2021

Northern Ballet Announces New Digital Season

Including an original dance film by Mthuthuzeli November



Spring Digital Season: Feb – Mar 2021

This week [Northern Ballet](#) is launching a new digital season of dance including ***What Used To, No Longer Is***, an original dance film by Olivier Award-winning Mthuthuzeli November. In addition, the Company will premiere two more original films; ***Northern Lights*** and ***Have Your Cake***, by Northern Ballet's Artistic Director of Digital and Choreographer in Residence, Kenneth Tindall. The season also includes Cathy Marston's ***Victoria*** which will be released on-demand, whilst an excerpt of Kenneth Tindall's ***States of Mind***, part of the BBC and Sadler's Wells' [Dancing Nation](#), will be available to watch online.

The films will be released on [digitaldance.org](#) every two weeks from **5 Feb – 19 Mar 2021**.

All films will be available to stream for free, but viewers are encouraged to pay what they can to help the Company on its mission to bring world-class dance to everyone, everywhere. Contributions can be made at northernballet.com/PAYC

5 February 2021 | *Northern Lights* (Première)

The second collaboration of Kenneth Tindall and filmmaker Dan Lowenstein, *Northern Lights* injects the beauty and art of ballet into the streets of Leeds. Converting the city's walls and landscapes into an imaginative playground painted by movement and creativity, the artists' longing to perform and connect resiliently shines through.

19 February | *Victoria*

Winner of the South Bank Sky Arts Award for Dance, Cathy Marston's *Victoria* is a glimpse into the life of Queen Victoria whose diaries revealed a story so fascinating that her daughter Beatrice tried to rewrite history. Previously released in cinemas and on BBC Four, this full-length award-winning ballet is captured splendidly for the screen in partnership with The Space and is available for free on-demand.

5 March | *Have Your Cake* (Première)

Partly inspired by the nation's enthusiasm for baking banana bread during lockdown, Kenneth Tindall's *Have Your Cake* is a light-hearted, tongue-in-cheek short film exploring the playfulness of a group of friends making the best of it. Friendship, love and togetherness shines bright on the darkest days.

19 March 2021 | *What Used To, No Longer Is* (Première)

Olivier award-winning Ballet Black artist Mthuthuzeli November makes his choreographic debut with Northern Ballet with *What Used To, No Longer Is*. Choreographed and created entirely remotely in a Northern Ballet first, this new work explores the evolution of life, the passing of time and the human response to the beauty of an ever-growing life, even in the most difficult of circumstances.

Until 26 February 2021 | *States of Mind* (excerpt)

Inspired by a collection of thoughts, feelings and news headlines from lockdown, Kenneth Tindall's *States of Mind* is an abstract response to a selection of experiences from the events of 2020. Available as part of the BBC and Sadler's Wells' [Dancing Nation](#), the film of this striking stage work was captured during its première as part of Northern Ballet's first and only post-lockdown live performances at Leeds Playhouse in October 2020.

For details of all Northern Ballet's available and upcoming digital works see digitaldance.org

Kenneth Tindall, Northern Ballet's Artistic Director of Digital, said: "Northern Ballet has turned a challenging situation into an incredibly creative and inspired time. While we have not been able to hold live performances due to Covid-19 restrictions, we have been able to establish a safe way to continue working to create new digital dance and experiment with filming away from the stage. I am especially excited that we commissioned the hugely talented Mthuthuzeli November to work with us for the first time.

Developing and innovating with our digital offering is integral to the evolution of our artform and I am proud of what the Company has delivered."

-ENDS-

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For high resolution images for press use – [click here](#)

Notes to Editors

Northern Ballet Spring Digital Season Release Dates:

5 February 2021 – *Northern Lights*

19 February 2021 – *Victoria*

5 March 2021 – *Have Your Cake**

19 March 2021 – *What Used To, No Longer Is**

Until 26 February 2021 – *States of Mind* (excerpt)

*Also available with audio-description.

Northern Ballet

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 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



Photo by Emily Nuttall.