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For immediate release

Premier Dancer Javier Torres to retire from Northern Ballet after 12 Years with the Company



Javier Torres. Photo Justin Slee.

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Premier Dancer Javier Torres will retire from [Northern Ballet](#) this May, after 12 years with the Company. His final performance will be in the titular role of Kenneth Tindall's [Casanova](#) at Sadlers Wells on Saturday 14 May, marking the end of his 22-year career as a professional ballet dancer. A testament to his craft, Javier has been nominated for and won numerous awards throughout his career, both in the UK and abroad. These include the Cuban Artists and Writers Union Villanueva Prize and a nomination for the [Dancing Times](#)'s Best Male Dancer award in 2018. Javier joined Northern Ballet in 2010 during a landmark period for the Company as they moved into their new headquarters in Leeds city centre. His debut performance was as Anthony in [David Nixon OBE's Swan Lake](#) at Bradford's Alhambra Theatre, and he has gone on to play leading roles in countless performances with the Company.

Over the course of his twelve-year tenure, Javier has performed in David Nixon's [*The Nutcracker*](#), [*Swan Lake*](#), [*Ondine*](#), [*Beauty & the Beast*](#), [*Hamlet*](#), [*Madame Butterfly*](#), [*Wuthering Heights*](#), [*Peter Pan*](#), and David Nixon and Claude-Michel Schönberg's [*Cleopatra*](#), as well as Hans Van Manen's [*Concertante*](#), Massimo Morricone's [*A Christmas Carol*](#), Daniel de Andrade's [*The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*](#), Cathy Marston's [*Jane Eyre*](#) and [*Victoria*](#), Jonathan Watkins' [*1984*](#), Demis Volpi's [*Little Monsters*](#) and Jean Christophe Maillot's [*Romeo and Juliet*](#).

Upon his retirement from dancing, Javier will begin an exciting new venture, of which the details will be announced in due course.

Northern Ballet's Artistic Director David Nixon OBE, who steps down from his role this April said:

"Javier Torres has had an extraordinary international career and we have been fortunate that a good part of his time was spent at Northern Ballet. His engaging stage presence and his charisma have contributed to him being an audience favourite and a true leading man. Since joining Northern Ballet Javier has had the opportunity to dance and create an impressive repertoire and through these opportunities developed especially his acting skills to an exceptional level. His performances will be very much missed. We wish him the very best on his next adventure."

Javier Torres said:

"I am incredibly proud of the time I have spent at Northern Ballet. This company has shaped me as an artist and marked a before and after in my professional career. I will always be grateful to David Nixon for the opportunity he gave me 12 years ago and for seeing in me what others could not see at that time. I am leaving with my heart full of gratitude and am honoured to have met so many beautiful people. Northern Ballet will always have a special place in my heart, and I only hope that my artistic contribution has served as an inspiration for some and supported the place where the company is right now. I wish Northern Ballet the best in continuing its evolution and taking up the challenges of tomorrow."

Northern Ballet will perform [*Casanova*](#) at Sadlers Wells from 10 to 14 May. Tickets to the performances can be booked now via sadlerswells.co.uk.

-ENDS-

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Notes to Editors

Javier Torres

Javier Torres began his ballet training in Cuba in 1994, first at the Vocational Art School Olga Alonso in the city of Santa Clara, and continued at the Elementary School Alejo Carpentier in Havana. He finished his ballet studies at the National School of Ballet in Havana where he graduated as a Ballet Dancer and Ballet Teacher. In 2000, he joined the Ballet Nacional de Cuba, under the artistic-technical guidance of Alicia Alonso, and where he worked very closely with many ballet coaches like Loipa Araujo, Josefina Mendez, Aurora Bosch, Martha Garcia, Maria Elena Llorente, and Azari Plisetski among others; he was promoted to Principal Dancer in 2004 and Premier Dancer in 2009. With the Ballet Nacional de Cuba he has performed in many different countries across the Americas, Europe and Asia. He has participated as a Guest Star in International Galas in El Escorial, Spain (2006, 2008, and 2012); Carlos Acosta and his Friends (2007) in London; Teresa Carreño Theatre Gala, Venezuela (2008, 2009 and 2010); in Brazil at the International Ballet Festival of Fortaleza "Fendador" (2012); and at Salzburg Ballet (2016 and 2019) among others.

His repertoire includes the leading roles of the romantic-classical tradition, among them, *Giselle*, *La Fille mal gardée*, *Coppélia*, *Nutcracker*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Don Quixote*, and *Swan Lake* as well as works by Cuban and foreign creators' contemporary choreographies: Alicia Alonso's *Gottschalk Symphony*; *Shakespeare and his Masks*; *Romeo and Juliet*; *Naked Light of Love*; Alberto Mendez's *Suite Générés* and *Poem of Fire or Prometheus*; Alberto Alonso's *Carmen*; *Majísimo*; Cranko's *Onegin*; Balanchine's *Theme and Variation*; *Agon and Apollo*; Antonio Gades' *Blood Wedding*; Azari Plizetski's *Canto Vital*; Maurice Bejart's *Bahkti*; Roland Petit's *La Arlesienne* and *Proust ou Les Intermittences du Coeur* (pdd); Ivan Tenorio's *Hamlet*; John Neumeier's *Othello* (pdd); *As You Like it*; Sir Anton Dolin's *Variations For Four*; Kader Belarbi's *La Reine Morte*; and Michel Desconvey's *Dying Swan*, among others.

He was awarded the Cuban Artists and Writers Union Villanueva Prize for his performance in the ballet *Agon* in 2002. In 2006 he received Mention in the Honour Book of the Havana Grand Theatre for his performance with Carla Fracci in the ballet *Desnuda Luz de Amor* (Naked Light of Love), in 2009 for his performance in the role of Prince Desiré in *Sleeping Beauty* and in 2012 for his performance as Prometheus in the Ballet *Poem of the Fire*. In 2012 he received the award "Constructores de la Danza" for his contribution to the Culture of the state of Ceara in Brazil. He was nominated for the Dancing Times Award for Best Male Dancer at the 19th National Dance Awards 2018.

He joined Northern Ballet in 2010 as Premier Dancer under the artistic guidance of David Nixon OBE. He has performed with the Company around the UK, performing leading roles in Nixon's *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, *Ondine*, *Beauty & the Beast*, *Hamlet*, *Madame Butterfly*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Peter Pan*, and David Nixon and Claude-Michel Schönberg's *Cleopatra*, as well as Hans Van Manen's *Concertante*, Massimo Morricone's *A Christmas Carol*, Daniel de Andrade's *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, Cathy Marston's *Jane Eyre* and *Victoria*, Jonathan Watkins' *1984*, Demis Volpi's *Little Monsters* and *Aus Ihrer Zeit*, and Jean Christophe Maillot's *Romeo and Juliet* among others. Recently he performed leads in Kenneth MacMillan's *Las Hermanas* and *Gloria*; he also performed in the latter at the Royal Opera House as part of their *Kenneth MacMillan: a national celebration* programme. For his performance as Julius Caesar in Nixon's *Cleopatra* he was voted one of the top hundred dancers of the season 2010-2011 by the critics of the UK in *Dance Europe* magazine. The same magazine also voted him one of the top hundred dancers of the season 2011-2012 for his performance in Nixon's *I've Got Rhythm*.

Every year since 2000 he has performed in the prestigious International Ballet Festival of Havana Cuba. In 2019 he performed in *The Kingdom of Back* at Latitude Festival.

- He is a One Dance UK Member as well as a Member of the International Dance Council CID, UNESCO;
- Clore Leadership - Emerging Leaders 2019;
- Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts FRSA.

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. 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.

Launched in 2019, Northern Ballet's digital dance platform ensures more people can access their work, from full-length films of popular ballets through to exciting short dance films by up-and-coming choreographers and filmmakers. Visit digitaldance.org to discover more.

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