

Principal of The Royal Ballet to guest star alongside Northern Ballet dancers in *The Great Gatsby*



- **Ryoichi Hirano, Principal of The Royal Ballet, to guest perform in Northern Ballet's *The Great Gatsby* in Leeds and London**
- **Principal cast announced for *The Great Gatsby***

[Northern Ballet](#) has announced Principal casting for their upcoming revival of David Nixon CBE's [The Great Gatsby](#).

Joining the Company in the role of Gatsby for performances in Leeds and London is Principal of The Royal Ballet, [Ryoichi Hirano](#). Hirano joined The Royal Ballet as a Prix de Lausanne apprentice in 2001, developing through the ranks of the company to Principal in 2016. He has also performed as Guest Principal for Norwegian National Ballet and Scottish Ballet.

Hirano will be partnered with Northern Ballet First Soloist Saeka Shirai. Hirano and Shirai will dance together in the following performances at Leeds Grand Theatre:

Thursday 9 March, 2.30pm

Saturday 11 March, 7.30pm

Friday 17 March, 7.30pm

Saturday 18 March, 7.30pm

London dates to be announced.

Also partnered as Gatsby and Daisy are Principal Soloist [Joseph Taylor](#) & First Soloist [Dominique Larose](#), First Soloists [Sean Bates](#) & [Saeka Shirai](#) and First Soloist [Jonathan Hanks](#) & Leading Soloist [Sarah Chun](#).

Northern Ballet's *The Great Gatsby* first premiered in March 2013 to critical acclaim at Leeds Grand Theatre and this year celebrates its 10th anniversary.

[Federico Bonelli](#), Northern Ballet's Artistic Director said:

'I am thrilled to be welcoming my former colleague Ryoichi to our ranks this spring as we revive one of Northern Ballet's most beloved productions. Jay Gatsby is a rich, challenging and complex character that finds new nuances in each dancer's interpretation, so I look forward to seeing what Ryoichi brings to the role.'

Principal casting is available on northernballet.com where you can also find more information about Northern Ballet's dancers. Casting is subject to change.

In addition to *The Great Gatsby*, Northern Ballet will be touring [Beauty & the Beast](#) and [The Nutcracker](#) to theatres this year, visit northernballet.com/whats-on to find out more.

-ENDS-

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Notes to editors

Production credits

Choreography, Direction, Scenario & Costume Design David Nixon CBE

Co-Direction & Scenario Patricia Doyle

Music Sir Richard Rodney Bennett CBE

Set Design Jérôme Kaplan

Lighting Design Tim Mitchell

Orchestrations John Longstaff & Gavin Sutherland

Music Advisor Anthony Meredith

Costume Design Assistant Julie Anderson

Ryoichi Hirano

Japanese dancer Ryoichi Hirano is a Principal of The Royal Ballet. He joined the The Royal Ballet as a Prix de Lausanne apprentice in 2001 and became an Artist in 2002, promoted to First Artist in 2007, Soloist in 2008, First Soloist in 2012 and Principal in 2016. Guest principal of Norwegian National Ballet in 2016 and guest principal of Scottish Ballet in 2022.

His repertory with The Royal Ballet includes Albrecht (Giselle), Prince Florimund (The Sleeping Beauty), Leontes and Polixenes (The Winter's Tale), Espada (Don Quixote), Tybalt, Paris and Romeo (Romeo and Juliet), Princeton Gremin, Onegin (Onegin), Jean de Brienne (Raymonda Act III), Crown Prince Rudolf (Mayerling), Prince (The Prince of the Pagodas, The Nutcracker), Rasputin (Anastasia), Witch (Hansel and Gretel), Robert Wood (Sweet Violets), Prince Siegfried (Swan Lake), Black Knight (Checkmate), Dr Samuel-Jean Pozzi (Strapless), Creature (Frankenstein), Solor (La Bayadère), Lt. Colonel Vershinin (Winter Dreams), Ivan Tsarevich (The Firebird) and roles in After the Rain, Woolf Works, Song of the Earth, The Two Pigeons, Gloria, Concerto, Chroma, Viscera, Emeralds and Diamonds in Jewels, Serenade, DGV: Danse à grande vitesse, Voluntaries (pas de trois), Aeternum, Within The Golden Hour, Multiverse and Medusa.

Northern Ballet

Northern Ballet is one of the UK's leading and widest touring ballet companies. 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 Federico Bonelli. Northern Ballet's Company of dancers performs a combination of its full-length ballets and specially created ballets for children at more than 30 venues annually.

Audiences can also enjoy Northern Ballet's work on screen through their digital dance platform. Visit digitaldance.org to discover more.



Pictured: Ryoichi Hirano, photo Johan Persson.