

For immediate release

24 May 2018

Northern Ballet announces World Première of *Victoria*



Touring to Leeds, Sheffield, London, Leicester, Edinburgh, Milton Keynes, Cardiff & Belfast from March – June 2019

Northern Ballet also announces performance programme until October 2019

Today, on the anniversary of Queen Victoria's birth, [Northern Ballet](#) has announced it is to première [Victoria](#), a ballet by [Cathy Marston](#) in spring 2019. This new ballet will coincide with the 200th anniversary of the birth of one of Britain's most iconic monarchs. The world première will take place in Leeds on 9 March 2019 followed by a UK wide tour until June.

Victoria tells the astounding life story of Queen Victoria through the eyes of her youngest child and lifelong companion Beatrice. Travelling back in time from Victoria's death bed,

Beatrice relives her memories of her mother as a secluded widow before discovering her anew as she transcribes the Queen's intimate diaries. From the accession of the teenage princess Victoria, Beatrice uncovers her mother's challenging relationship with her own mother; the truth about her passionate marriage to Prince Albert; and her ambiguous relationship with John Brown; as well as key events of her reign from the Opium Wars to the Great Exhibition. Wife, mother, lover, Empress; *Victoria* presents the various, often conflicting faces of this emblematic monarch, and shows how an act of daughterly devotion became one of history's most notorious revisions.

Victoria will be choreographed and directed by the internationally acclaimed Cathy Marston, who is also responsible for the recent creation of Northern Ballet's *Jane Eyre* which was nominated for a South Bank Sky Arts Award. Sets and costumes will be designed by [Steffen Aarfing](#) whose recent projects include designs for *Król Roger* at the Royal Opera House. Lighting will be designed by [Alastair West](#) who was recently nominated at the Knight of Illumination Awards for his designs for Northern Ballet's *Casanova*. Dramaturgy is by British director and writer Uzma Hameed whose previous projects include *Wolf Works* for The Royal Ballet. The scenario for *Victoria* has been written by Marston and Hameed in collaboration. *Victoria* will be set to an original score by Philip Feeney whose previous scores for Northern Ballet include *Jane Eyre* and *Cinderella*.

David Nixon OBE, Artistic Director of Northern Ballet, said: 'Queen Victoria is arguably one of the most iconic women of all time. The legacy of her extraordinary reign extends into the current day and we are privileged to be able to tell her story in dance.'

I am delighted that Cathy Marston accepted my invitation to create this new ballet for us. Cathy's last creation for Northern Ballet was *Jane Eyre* which was incredibly well received and a fine addition to our repertoire. Cathy is an exciting and innovative choreographer and a wonderful collaborator so we look forward to welcoming her back to our studios once again to begin Victoria's journey'.

Cathy Marston said: 'Northern Ballet explores and commits to its subjects with an incredible depth, bringing not only their amazing technical expertise but a constant desire to use their imagination to transform the way stories can be told through dance. I am very excited to return to the Company to work on such a rich story as that of Queen Victoria for her bicentenary year. Her life was full of extraordinary innovations and characters and I feel very inspired by the unusual perspective of Victoria's daughter Beatrice, from whom we hope to discover our iconic, but nevertheless elusive subject. Responsible for shaping much of what

we know of Queen Victoria today, this mother/daughter relationship will be both a historically and emotionally compelling engine for our new ballet.'

Victoria will tour to Leeds, Sheffield, London, Leicester, Edinburgh, Milton Keynes, Cardiff and Belfast from March to June 2019. For more information, on sale dates and booking information visit northernballet.com/victoria

Northern Ballet Tour: April – October 2019

Northern Ballet has also announced details of its performance programme up to October 2019. As well as the World Première Tour of *Victoria*, during the Company's spring season, Northern Ballet will make its debut at Newcastle's Northern Stage with a [Mixed Programme](#) featuring work by choreographers Kenneth Tindall, Morgann Runcare-Temple and Mlindi Kulashe. Spring will also see the return of the Company's blockbuster adaptation of David Nixon OBE's [The Great Gatsby](#) which will be performed in Salford and Southampton for the first time. After a short break, Northern Ballet will kick off its autumn season with a new **Mixed Programme** in Leeds and Doncaster, before embarking on short tours of David Nixon OBE's [Cinderella](#) and [Dracula](#) which both return for the first time since 2014. Details of the Company's plans beyond October 2019 are to be announced with a special 14 month-long programme of events to celebrate Northern Ballet's 50th anniversary.

For further details and booking information visit northernballet.com/whatson

-ENDS-

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

Notes to Editors

Victoria: Production Credits

Choreography and Direction Cathy Marston

Music Philip Feeney

Set & Costume Design Steffen Aarfing

Lighting Design Alastair West

Dramaturgy and Scenario Uzma Hameed

March – October 2019: Tour Details

Victoria

Leeds Grand Theatre

9 – 16 March 2019

Box Office 0844 848 2700*

leedsgrandtheatre.com

On general sale 1 June 2018

Sheffield Lyceum Theatre

19 – 23 March 2019

Box Office 0114 249 6000

sheffieldtheatres.co.uk

On sale soon

London Sadler's Wells

26 – 30 March 2019

Box Office 020 7863 8000

sadlerswells.com

On sale soon

Leicester Curve

2 – 6 April 2019

Box Office 0116 242 3595

curveonline.co.uk

On sale June 2018

Edinburgh Festival Theatre

10 – 13 April 2019

Box Office 0131 529 6000

capitaltheatres.com

On general sale 4 June 2018

Milton Keynes Theatre

30 April – 4 May 2019

Box Office 0844 871 7652*

atgtickets.com/miltonkeynes

On sale soon

Cardiff New Theatre

21 – 25 May 2019

Box Office 029 2087 8889

newtheatreCardiff.co.uk

On general sale 14 September 2018

Belfast Grand Opera House

29 May – 1 June 2019

Box Office 028 9024 1919

goh.co.uk

On general sale 4 June 2018

Mixed Programme 1

Newcastle Northern Stage

16 – 18 April 2019

Box Office 0191 230 5151

northernstage.co.uk

On sale soon

The Great Gatsby

Salford The Lowry

8 – 11 May 2019

Box Office 0843 208 6000*

thelowry.com

On general sale 1 June 2018

Southampton Mayflower Theatre

15 – 18 May 2019

Box Office 02380 711811

mayflower.org.uk

On general sale 31 May 2018

Mixed Programme 2

Leeds Stanley & Audrey Burton Theatre

4 – 7 September 2019

Box Office 0113 220 8008

theatreleeds.com

On sale soon

Doncaster Cast

13 – 14 September 2019

Box Office 01302 303 959

castindoncaster.com

On sale soon

Cinderella

Woking New Victoria Theatre

18 – 21 September 2019

Box Office 0844 871 7645*

atgtickets.com/new-victoria-theatre

On sale soon

Sheffield Lyceum Theatre

24 – 28 September 2019

Box Office 0114 249 6000

sheffieldtheatres.co.uk

On sale soon

Dracula

Canterbury Marlowe Theatre

9 – 12 October 2019

Box Office 01227 787787

marlowetheatre.com

On sale soon

Hull New Theatre

15 – 19 October 2019

Box Office 01482 300 306

hulltheatres.co.uk

On sale soon

*Calls cost 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

Northern Ballet

Artistic Director – David Nixon OBE

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 world-class

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 world-class story ballets to as many people and places as possible, under the leadership of Artistic Director David Nixon OBE. Northern Ballet's Company of 46 dancers performs a combination of its full-length ballets and specially created ballets for children at almost 50 venues annually.

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

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Image: Abigail Prudames as Queen Victoria and Joseph Taylor as Prince Albert. Photo Guy Farrow.