

For immediate release

Details announced for Northern Ballet's 50th Anniversary Celebration Gala



Sat 4 Jan 2020, Leeds Grand Theatre

Today, on the 50th anniversary of their first official performance, [Northern Ballet](#) has announced details for its upcoming [50th Anniversary Celebration Gala](#). To be held at [Leeds Grand Theatre](#) for one night only on Saturday 4 January 2020, the gala will see some of dance's leading companies unite in a unique event celebrating Northern Ballet's 50-year journey. The gala will feature performances of excerpts from Northern Ballet's repertoire and works connected to the Company's history.

The gala includes pieces from Northern Ballet productions that have not been performed by the Company for decades. These include excerpts from Didy Veldman's [Carmen](#), Michael Pink's *Dracula* and Massimo Moricone's [Romeo & Juliet](#). The gala will also feature excerpts from some of the Company's more recent popular productions including David Nixon OBE's [A Midsummer Night's Dream](#) and Kenneth Tindall's [Casanova](#). Northern Ballet alumni,

including former Premier Dancers [Martha Leebolt](#) and [Tobias Batley](#), will also return to the Company to perform as part of the celebration.

Supporting Northern Ballet in this landmark moment in its history, the Company will be joined by dancers from [The Royal Ballet](#), [Birmingham Royal Ballet](#), [English National Ballet](#), [Scottish Ballet](#), [The Joffrey Ballet](#), [Phoenix Dance Theatre](#) and [Central School of Ballet](#).

Performances by the guest companies include The Royal Ballet's [Lauren Cuthbertson](#) and [Ryoichi Hirano](#) in Jonathan Watkins' [1984](#), English National Ballet's [Tamara Rojo CBE](#) with Jeremy Kerridge in Gillian Lynne's *A Simple Man* and Birmingham Royal Ballet's [Momoko Hirata](#) and [César Morales](#) in David Nixon OBE's [Madame Butterfly](#).

David Nixon OBE, Artistic Director of Northern Ballet, said: 'Our gala is a focal point for our anniversary celebrations. It is a moment for us to honour and celebrate Northern Ballet's 50-year story so far; the productions, the people and the milestones that have been achieved. I wish to thank our guests for joining us from as far afield as the USA and I am looking forward to presenting a truly one-off evening of performance which includes some works which only our longest-standing supporters will have seen before.'

Tickets for Northern Ballet's 50th Anniversary Celebration Gala are on sale now and selling fast. To book visit leedsgrandtheatre.com or call the Box Office on 0844 848 2700*.

-ENDS-

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

Notes to Editors

50th Anniversary Celebration Gala: Performance Details

Leeds Grand Theatre
4 January 2020

Box Office: 0844 848 2700*
leedsgrandtheatre.com

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

Gala information is correct at the time of sending but is subject to change without notice.

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 43 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



Photos by Guy Farrow.