

Press Release
20 June 2022

NYB

National Youth Ballet

NATIONAL YOUTH BALLET ANNOUNCES 2022 SEASON: RE|GENERATION

- National Youth Ballet presents **re|generation**, a mixed programme of new works choreographed by some of the country's most exciting choreographic talents, and three revivals of much-loved NYB repertoire
- The season, led by 2022 Residential Performance Company Artistic Director Louise Bennett alongside Creative Director Jo Meredith, features 105 young dancers aged 9-18 from across the UK
- Participants in NYB's Beyond Ballet® initiative share the spotlight, with young choreographer Alice O'Brien creating a new work for the company, *Mimos*
- Performances at the Crescent Theatre, Birmingham on Thursday 25 and Friday 26 August, and at Sadler's Wells, London on Sunday 4 September 2022

In 2022 National Youth Ballet (NYB) leaps back onto the stage with a diverse programme of new commissions and NYB repertoire, showcasing an exciting new generation of talented young artists.

re|generation encompasses themes of nature, of the animal world, of fantastical kingdoms found deep in the forest, and of our human connection and our care for each other. Building learning and performing opportunities for a stream of new talent from across the UK, **re|generation** embraces a variety of music and dance languages, reflecting NYB's ongoing commitment to creating the ballet of the future. The company provides transformational opportunities for young people to participate in, create and perform ballet.

The programme features four new works from the creative imaginations of a carefully selected team of dynamic choreographers: *The Green Umbrella* by Sophia Hurdley for the Junior Company, based on the book *Amelianne and the Green Umbrella*; *Infinite* by Monique Jonas, which focuses on nature's rhythms and cycles, revealing infinite journeys connected in space; *HOVER* by Daniel Davidson, a high intensity work that explores hive mentality and nature's resurgence; and *Rise*, a depiction and celebration of human resilience by Gerrard Martin.

From NYB's Beyond Ballet® scheme, Alice O'Brien will choreograph a new work, *Mimos*, for the company. Beyond Ballet® is an unparalleled initiative that supports emerging creative artists from all areas of the theatre industry in the early stages of their professional careers.

Other 2022 Beyond Ballet® artists will support the performance company as rehearsal directors and workshop leaders.

The programme will be completed by three exciting revivals by NYB alumni: ***Another Night's Dream*** by Matt Nicholson, a modern twist on Shakespeare's much loved comedy; the beautifully classical ***IKEN*** by Jonathan Payn, inspired by the Suffolk landscape with music by Benjamin Britten; and a modern take on Giselle, ***Athena*** by the celebrated choreographer Arielle Smith. These three choreographers have a special relationship to NYB, having made work for the company early in their careers.

At the heart of the NYB season is a two-week residential programme that sees the young company come together with a team of professional dancers, choreographers and teachers to take them on a journey from studio to stage, emulating the experience of being in a professional dance ensemble. All company activity is supported by NYB's Moving Minds programme to nurture physical and mental resilience and build confidence in all our young people.

Louise Bennett will lead the 2022 performance company as Artistic Director, working alongside NYB's Creative Director, Jo Meredith, to reimagine and shape the artistic vision of the performance company in 2022.

Louise Bennett said: *'I am absolutely delighted to return to NYB as Artistic Director of the performance company. I am passionate about creating opportunities for young people to develop, grow and thrive, and through working with NYB I have seen first hand how the company supports and empowers young dancers. The opportunity for dancers to experience company life from rehearsal to performance, working with an incredible team of creatives, is so exciting and special, and I can't wait for the 2022 season!'*

Tickets are now available for the performances in Birmingham (The Crescent, Thursday 25 and Friday 26 August) and London (Sadler's Wells, Sunday 4 September). Book tickets via www.nationalyouthballet.org

ENDS

For further information, images, interviews and tickets please contact Claire Bowdler on Claire.bowdler@nationalyouthballet.org / 0044 (0) 7801 538053

EDITOR'S NOTES

National Youth Ballet

National Youth Ballet (NYB) cultivates and nurtures talent in young people, who will create the ballet of the future.

For over 30 years NYB has provided transformational opportunities for young people to participate in, create and perform classical and contemporary ballet, enabling young people from all backgrounds to explore and develop their creativity.

The NYB annual **Performance Company** is a unique, intensive programme that replicates the experience of working in a professional company and provides a key stepping-stone to a future career in the performing arts. NYB's alumni make up 10% of the dancers and choreographers in major British ballet companies including The Royal Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet, English National Ballet, Northern Ballet, Scottish Ballet, Rambert and Matthew Bourne's New Adventures, and many more have gone on to work in dance and related industries worldwide.

Underpinning this are the NYB cornerstones of nurturing a truly diverse talent pipeline: **Beyond Ballet**[®], an unparalleled initiative of professional skills development for NYB alumni through mentoring and knowledge exchange with industry experts to support emerging creative artists in the early stages of their careers, from choreography to costume design. **Moving Minds**, a vital programme of health and wellbeing workshops reaching wider audiences and focusing on building physical and mental resilience and confidence in young people.

Dancers' Development Experience, a mobile, non-residential course, designed to open the doors to new participants from a wide range of geographic locations and welcome them to the network, to begin the participant journey with NYB.

For further information visit www.nationalyouthballet.org

Twitter.com/NYBofGB

Facebook.com/nationalyouthballet

instagram.com/nationalyouthballet_ofgb/

LISTINGS

THE CRESCENT THEATRE: Thursday 25 – Friday 26 August 2019

Sheepcote Street, Birmingham B16 8AE

Performances: Thursday 7.30 pm, Friday 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Tickets: Adults £26, under 16s and students £16, Family Ticket £66

Box Office: 0121 643 5858 / crescent-theatre.co.uk

SADLER'S WELLS: Sunday 4 September 2019, 7.30 pm

Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4TN

Tickets: £15-£65, students and under 16s £10 off per price band

Box Office: 020 7863 8000 / sadlerswells.com