

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Royal Ballet Stars Marianela Nuñez and Vadim Muntagirov will be Guest Performers in Carlos Acosta's *Don Quixote* for 2 nights only at Birmingham Hippodrome

Don **Quixote** **Images** [here](#)
Images of Marianela Nuñez and Vadim Muntagirov [here](#)

On the eve of Birmingham Royal Ballet's World Premiere of Carlos Acosta's dazzling production of Don Quixote, we are delighted to announce that Marianela Nuñez and Vadim Muntagirov will perform the roles of Kitri and Basilio for two nights only at the Birmingham Hippodrome next week (22 & 23 February).

Marianela and Vadim performed the roles for The Royal Ballet in 2019, and Marianela danced Kitri with Acosta in the original staging in 2013 - Acosta's first ever full length ballet.

For Birmingham Royal Ballet the production has been redesigned, reconfigured and choreographed in parts to keep it fresh, visually vibrant and tourable. The production began last week in Southampton and after it's Birmingham run (18 - 26 February) it will travel to The Lowry Salford, Sunderland Empire and Plymouth Theatre Royal. It could be said to be the most ambitious tour the company has undertaken - particularly as the company rehearsal and production period (just 4 weeks) began, covid was having a continued impact on protocol and safety measures.

Following the first UK performances in Southampton, we now look forward to the official world premiere in Birmingham and the rest of the tour.

Inviting international superstars Marianela and Vadim to share the stage with BRB dancers brings added excitement to the company, and for them to appear on the Hippodrome Stage makes it extra special.

Carlos Acosta said *'It's not unusual for international ballet stars to make guest appearances with other companies and on this occasion it feels so right. Marianela and Vadim know these roles so well. It will feel like stardust has been sprinkled on the already brilliantly bright stage. Everyone in the company is really excited to have them perform with us.'*

Argentine dancer Marianela Nuñez has performed all the leading roles in the classical, dramatic and contemporary repertory, including in works by Frederick Ashton, George Balanchine, John Cranko, William Forsythe, Jirí Kylián, Kenneth MacMillan, Wayne McGregor, Ashley Page, Jerome Robbins, Liam Scarlett, Glen Tetley, Will Tuckett, Antony Tudor and Christopher Wheeldon and she has created numerous roles in *Infra*, *Carbon Life*, *DGV: Danse à Grande Vitesse*, *Aeternum*, *Asphodel Meadows*, 'Diana and Actaeon' (*Metamorphosis: Titian* 2012), *Human Seasons*, *Tetractys*, Acosta's *Carmen* and *Multiverse*, among other works.

Nuñez's awards include Best Female Dancer at the 2005, 2012 and 2018 Critics' Circle National Dance Awards, Konex de Platino for Best Dancer of the Decade in Argentina in 2009 and the María Ruanova Award in 2011. She received the 2013 Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance, in recognition of her performances in *Viscera* and in roles created on her in *Aeternum* and 'Diana and Actaeon' (*Metamorphosis: Titian 2012*). She has appeared as a guest artist with companies including Vienna State Opera Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, La Scala, Milan, Ballet Estable del Teatro Colón, Ballet Argentino de La Plata and Australian Ballet, and in galas around the world.

Russian dancer Vadim Muntagirov joined the Royal Ballet from English National Ballet as a Principal in March 2014. His roles with the Company include Basilio (*Don Quixote*), Albrecht (*Giselle*), Prince Siegfried (*Swan Lake*), Aminta (*Sylvia*), Prince Florimund (*The Sleeping Beauty*), Prince (*The Nutcracker*), Colas (*La Fille mal gardée*), Franz (*Coppélia*), Apollo, the Girl's Cousin (*The Invitation*), Young Man (*Two Pigeons*), Onegin and Lensky (*Onegin*), Romeo (*Romeo and Juliet*), Des Grieux (*Manon*), Jack/Knave of Hearts (*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*), Florizel (*The Winter's Tale*), Don José (*Carmen*), Lt Colonel Vershinin (*Winter Dreams*) and in *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude*, 'Diamonds' (*Jewels*), *The Human Seasons*, *Symphonic Variations*, *Asphodel Meadows*, *The Four Temperaments*, *Afternoon of a Faun*, *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux*, *Raymonda Act III* and *Within the Golden Hour*.

Muntagirov's awards include the 2011 Outstanding Male Performance (Classical), 2015 and 2018 Best Male Dancer at the Critics' Circle National Dance Awards, the 2013 and 2018 Benois de la danse and the 2021 Dance Europe Outstanding Dancer Award. As a guest artist he has danced with such companies including Paris Opera Ballet, Mariinsky and American Ballet Theatre, in repertory including Solor (*La Bayadère*), Armand (*Marguerite and Armand*) and at National Ballet of Japan, Bavarian State Ballet, Mikhailovsky and Cape Town City Ballet.

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Listings

DON QUIXOTE

Music Ludwig Minkus

Choreography Carlos Acosta after Marius Petipa

Production Carlos Acosta

Designs Tim Hatley

Lighting Peter Mumford

Staged by Christopher Saunders

Marianela Nuñez (Kitri) and Vadim Muntagirov (Basilio)

Tuesday 22 and Wed 23 February ONLY (7.30pm)

Birmingham Hippodrome

Friday 18 - Saturday 26 February

brb.org.uk/quixote

Salford Lowry

Wednesday 2 - Saturday 5 March

brb.org.uk/quixote

Sunderland Empire

Thursday 10 - Saturday 12 March

brb.org.uk/quixote

Plymouth Theatre Royal

Wednesday 16 - Saturday 19 March

brb.org.uk/quixote

Notes to Editors:

Birmingham Royal Ballet

Based at Birmingham Hippodrome, Birmingham Royal Ballet is the United Kingdom's leading touring ballet company performing a range of traditional, classical and heritage ballets as well as ground-breaking new works with the aim of encouraging choreographers of the future.

The Company's Director since January 2020 is the internationally renowned Carlos Acosta.

Birmingham Royal Ballet standardly performs at Birmingham Hippodrome for approximately ten weeks of the year and the remainder of the year tours throughout the United Kingdom and overseas. On average, the Company performs 175 shows a year nationally and internationally.

The Royal Ballet Sinfonia is Birmingham Royal Ballet's permanent orchestra, it is also Britain's busiest ballet orchestra. The Sinfonia also plays frequently for The Royal Ballet and other leading ballet companies, including performances with Paris Opéra Ballet, New York City Ballet, Australian Ballet, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, the Kirov, Norwegian Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, San Francisco Ballet and La Scala Ballet.