

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

PRESS RELEASE: 19 April 2023
LINK TO PRESS IMAGES [HERE](#)

- BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET RETURN TO HIPPODROME STAGE THIS JUNE
- 'STILL LIFE' AT THE PENGUIN CAFÉ TRIPLE BILL FEATURING APOLLO AND INTERLINKED
- LAST CHANCE TO SEE BRB PRINCIPAL BRANDON LAWRENCE DANCE
- SPECIAL LIVE PERFORMANCE OF PAS DE DEUX FROM INTERLINKED ON MAIN STAGE AT BIRMINGHAM PRIDE
- BRB HOLDING FIRST DANCE PERFORMANCE AT MOSTLY JAZZ FESTIVAL

Birmingham Royal Ballet return to **Birmingham Hippodrome** in June with the much loved '**STILL LIFE' AT THE PENGUIN CAFÉ**, choreographed by Sir David Bintley, to round off the Company's 2022-23 season.

The Triple Bill from Thursday 8 – Saturday day 11 June will also feature George Balanchine's **APOLLO**, and BRB's acclaimed new ballet **INTERLINKED** by choreographer Juliano Nunes, that was commissioned for the Commonwealth Games' Birmingham 2022 Festival, all accompanied by live music performed by the Royal Ballet Sinfonia.

This exciting programme marks the last time audiences will see Principal Brandon Lawrence dance with the company before he leaves BRB to join Ballett Zürich at the end of the current season.

'Still Life' at the Penguin Café features a host of endangered animals who seek shelter from the storm in David Bintley's beautiful and much-loved production. Featuring a morris-dancing flea, a ballroom-dancing ram, a hoe-downing rat, a majestic zebra and many more, An enjoyable, yet bittersweet and poignant look at human impact on the world. All danced to Simon Jeffes's delightful score, originally composed for the Penguin Café Orchestra.

Apollo highlights the genius of its creator, the then 24-year-old **George Balanchine**, and launched his lifelong partnership with the composer Igor Stravinsky. This most exquisite of ballets was regarded by Balanchine as his artistic coming of age. Its

pared back elegance gives the perfect platform for the Company's world-class dancers to shine.

Brilliant young Brazilian choreographer Juliano Nunes's ***Interlinked*** was premiered in summer 2022 as part of the Birmingham 2022 Festival. Described as "stretching ballet's mould" (*The Guardian*) with a specially composed score by Australian composer **Luke Howard**, this beautifully abstract piece explores ideas of grace, beauty and harmony in ways that push the usual boundaries of classical dance.

Director of Birmingham Royal Ballet Carlos Acosta said: *'This programme really has something for everyone and demonstrates a continuation of our desire at BRB to present and perform work that highlights the company's rich repertoire whilst presenting new works by the best choreographers of today.'*

Audiences also have the opportunity to see BRB perform for the very first time on the main stage at this year's Birmingham Pride with the pas de deux from ***Interlinked*** danced by Brandon Lawrence and fellow Principal Tzu-Chao Chou

Brandon commented *"To have a spot on the main stage is absolutely fantastic. It's about the message of the company having a presence there. If there is any work genre area which is more LGBTQ+ friendly, it's the entertainment industry."*

As part of the celebration of the Triple Bill, BRB is also holding its first dance performance at Mostly Jazz Festival, Moseley on July 8 and 9. The piece will be created as part of the Penguin Performance Project, led by the company's Learning, Engagement, Access and Participation Department in partnership with Performers College.

Inspired by ***'Still Life' at the Penguin Café***, the project sees BRB principal Lachlan Monaghan and artist Rosanna Ely co-choreographing work with students to create multiple pop-up performances at the festival in a carnival-style party.

For tickets to Birmingham Hippodrome: www.birminghamhippodrome.co.uk

For tickets to Moseley Jazz Festival: www.mostlyjazz.co.uk

For tickets to Birmingham Pride: www.birminghampride.com/

-ENDS-

Media Enquiries:

Mandy Rose mandyrose@m7pr.co.uk 07454 365421

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 from 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. www.brb.org.uk