

# BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

## PRESS RELEASE

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### BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET PRINCIPAL DANCER, CÉSAR MORALES TO LEAVE THE COMPANY AFTER 16 YEARS TO JOIN SANTIAGO BALLET



Birmingham Royal Ballet Principal Dancer, **César Morales** will depart the Company after 16 years to take up the role of Artistic Director at Santiago Ballet in March 2024.

César's final performances with the Company will take place in *The Sleeping Beauty* at Birmingham Royal Ballet's home venue of Birmingham Hippodrome. He will partner Beatrice Parma for her debut in the role of Aurora at the matinee performance on Thursday 22 February and Miki Mizutani for his final stage appearance on the evening of Wednesday 28 February.

During his time with BRB, César has received acclaim for his leading roles in Company classic titles from Sir Peter Wright including *The Nutcracker* (Prince), *The Sleeping Beauty* (Prince Florimund) and *Swan Lake* (Prince Siegfried). He has performed in Frederick Ashton's *Enigma Variations* (Arthur Troyte Griffith), *Symphonic Variations* and *Les Rendezvous* (lead role) as well as George Balanchine's *Serenade* and *Theme and Variations*.

He also collaborated with Sir David Bintley on new productions including *Beauty and the Beast* (Beast), *Aladdin* (title role), *Sylvia* (Amynta), *Cinderella* (Prince) and *'Still Life' at the Penguin Café* (Southern Cape Zebra).

In 2021 he was awarded the Dancing Times Award for Best Male Dancer at the National Dance Awards.

**César Morales** said *“Thank you is the only thing I can say to all the audiences, dancers, ballet staff and all the departments in BRB, your support and love will always be appreciated by me. I am excited for the next chapter in my career, but of course, having spent the last 30 years as a dancer and 16 of those years in BRB, leading a company will be a big change for me.*

*“I have learnt so much from the many people I have had the pleasure of working with over my 15 years at BRB. I will do everything I can to pass on my knowledge and experiences in dance to the dancers of Ballet de Santiago with honesty and continued passion for this great art form.”*

Director of Birmingham Royal Ballet, **Carlos Acosta** said; *“All of us at Birmingham Royal Ballet are grateful to César for sharing such an incredible talent with us and our audiences over the past 16 years. He is a treasured part of BRB’s history and has danced a selection of the Company’s most prestigious roles during his illustrious career.*

*“It is a bittersweet pleasure to see César return to Santiago Ballet in the role of Artistic Director where he will oversee many new generations of talented dancers.”*

**Carmen Gloria Larenas**, General Director of the Municipal Theatre of Santiago added; *“After an extensive selection process, we have announced the new Artistic Director of the Santiago Ballet, a person who knows the company and the Municipal Theatre of Santiago well. His international career and achievements through his artistic merits make him an artist loved by the public and admired by the media. César Morales returns home.”*

A former student of the Santiago Municipal Theatre Ballet School and former member of the Santiago Ballet, César Morales began his career at Ballet de Santiago, Chile, where at the age of just 18 he was made a Principal. He then went on to join English National Ballet before beginning with Birmingham Royal Ballet in 2008.

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#### **Notes to Editors:**

##### **Birmingham Royal Ballet**

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 perform over 100 shows a year nationally and internationally.

Music is at the heart of BRB's activities and the company is committed to regularly commissioning new orchestral music for ballet. Through BRB's Ballet Now programme which was launched in 2017 BRB has commissioned the largest number of new orchestral music for Ballet since Diaghilev.

### **The Royal Ballet Sinfonia**

The Royal Ballet Sinfonia is Birmingham Royal Ballet's permanent orchestra, it is also Britain's busiest ballet orchestra. Alongside touring with Birmingham Royal Ballet The Royal Ballet Sinfonia 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.