

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

PRESS RELEASE
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‘BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET AT THE MUSEUM’

**NEW PARTNERSHIP UNITES BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET
AND BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY – TWO OF
THE CITY’S CELEBRATED CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS**

26 JUNE – 2 JULY 2024

***Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery’s Waterhall and
performances at Victorian Radicals exhibition***



BRB company at Victorian Radicals Exhibition at Gas Hall credit: Katie Edwards

To celebrate the re-opening of Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery’s Waterhall, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Britain’s biggest touring ballet company will fill the Waterhall with dancers, musicians and the Company’s behind-the-scenes teams for a week from 26 June – 2 July 2024. The residency offers a special “up close” insight into the life of an internationally renowned ballet company and includes a programme of FREE activities and paid for performances, some including the opportunity to see the acclaimed Victorian Radicals exhibition.

The programme includes free access to watch BRB's dancers taking class and a very special family-friendly Open Day featuring dance performances, demonstrations and a display of costumes, wigs & shoes. There will be invited workshops for schools, for community groups with Freefall (BRB's company for dancers with learning disabilities) and a "backstage careers day" for young people interested to find out about jobs in the performing arts. Paid for events include exclusive 'How to make a tutu' workshops, and 'A Night at the Museum' featuring the world premiere of a new ballet and access to the stunning pre-Raphaelite exhibition. In addition, for anyone attending Victorian Radicals at lunchtime on Wednesday 26 June, members of the Royal Ballet Sinfonia Robert Gibbs (violin), Joana Valentinaviciute (violin) and Errika Collins (viola) will be playing a concert of chamber music.

Caroline Miller OBE, Chief Executive of BRB said. "We are thrilled to be partnering with Birmingham Museum's Trust and celebrating the re-opening of this globally important Museum and Art Gallery. Together both our organisations want to shout to the world that Birmingham is a thriving cultural city.

"Our goal is to bring joy to audiences this summer with free and affordable entertainment, whilst also enabling audiences to see what our international ballet dancers, fantastic orchestra players, production and community teams do behind the scenes in our wonderful home city."

For anyone visiting the Victorian Radicals exhibition in the Gas Hall during the residency and picking up on the theme of romance and legend, there will be a display of BRB costumes. Alongside this BRB's partnership with leading motion capture experts, Holosphere will be showcased with an interactive installation within the main hall where visitors can experiment with their own movement and see how it is translated into instant digital art. The residency will also include live music from members of the Royal Ballet Sinfonia.

Toby Watley, Director of Collections, Birmingham Museums Trust, said: "We are delighted to be partnering with Birmingham Royal Ballet, helping to bring their world-class performers and creatives to a wider audience. Working closely with cultural partners in the city is hugely important for Birmingham Museums going forward.

"The Waterhall opening again is a key step in the phased reopening of Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery and it gives us the opportunity to showcase a wide variety of arts to the people of Birmingham. We can't wait to welcome people back into the space."

Visitors can get 'up close and personal' to an exhibition showcasing costumes from BRB's repertoire including *Cinderella* and *La Fille mal gardée* and find out more about the Company, including the creation of the recently acclaimed *Black Sabbath – The Ballet*, and a chance for those new to ballet to attend a lesson for the first time.

In addition, Freefall Dance, BRB's company of talented dancers with learning disabilities, will be sharing some of their acclaimed work with invited groups. And, alongside other arts organisations in the city, BRB will be part of a planning day designed to introduce secondary school students to the wide range of careers available in the performing arts.

"A Night at the Museum with BRB" offers the chance to experience BRB's popular 'unexpected places' events, and to visit the acclaimed Victorian Radicals Exhibition out of hours. The evening includes the world premiere of a new work by BRB Artist Olivia Chang-

Clarke, commissioned for this partnership by the London Ballet Circle, and joined by the Conservatoire Ensemble.

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET AT THE MUSEUM runs at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery's Waterhall from Wednesday 26 June to Tuesday 2 July. The schedule includes:

Wed 26 June: 11am BRB Company Class (free). 1pm Adult Beginners Ballet Class.
1pm Lunchtime Chamber Music (free to visitors to Victorian Radicals in Gas Hall).
3pm & 6pm Tutu Workshops

Thu 27 June: 11am BRB Company Class (free). 6pm "A Night at the Museum"

Fri 28 June: Freefall Workshops (by invitation)

Sat 29 June: Free Open Day (sessions at 10am, 12pm & 2pm)

Mon 01 July: 11am BRB Company Class (free)

Tue 02 July: GCSE Dance Workshops (by invitation).

Wed 03 July: 11am-4pm Cultural Careers Open Day (by schools invitation)

For full programme details and to book (all events must be pre-booked) go to www.brb.org.uk/bmag

Birmingham Royal Ballet return to perform at Birmingham Hippodrome with *La Fille mal gardée* (25-26 September) and the world premiere of *Luna* (3-5 October) Carlos Acosta's final part of his Birmingham Trilogy.

-ENDS-

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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. Under Carlos' leadership BRB has commissioned a trilogy of ballets inspired by the stories of Birmingham including *City of a Thousand Trades*, a collaboration with The Birmingham Rep including the voices of immigrants who have built their lives in Birmingham, *Black Sabbath – The Ballet*, and *Luna*, which is an abstract ballet inspired by pioneering women of Birmingham that will have its world premiere in autumn 2024 and will include a children's choir of 30 local children performing alongside BRB's dancers, orchestra and professional opera singers.

Birmingham Royal Ballet performs in Birmingham between eight and ten weeks each year and the remainder of the year tours throughout the United Kingdom and overseas from Southampton to Sunderland, Canterbury to Salford, as well as performing regularly in London at Sadler's Wells and the Royal Albert Hall. By the end of 2023/2024 BRB will have performed in New York, Orlando, Rotterdam, Luxembourg, Iceland, Hamburg and Glastonbury, championing the name of the City of Birmingham around the world. On average, the Company performs around 100 shows a year nationally and internationally.

Royal Ballet Sinfonia

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.