

## **World Premiere of *The Crucible* at the Edinburgh International Festival Ballet Black's Cira Robinson to feature in *The Crucible* USA tour announced**

Scottish Ballet is delighted to announce that the company will be joined by Senior Guest Artist Cira Robinson for the world premiere of Helen Pickett's *The Crucible*. The first major commission of Scottish Ballet's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the production will open the dance programme at the Edinburgh International Festival, 3–5 August 2019.

As part of a longstanding collaboration between the two companies, Ballet Black's Senior Artist Cira Robinson will join Scottish Ballet to dance the role of Tituba. Bringing a breadth of experience, Cira will play a vital role in developing this rich and complex character in Arthur Miller's drama of power and persecution. A story as relevant today as when it was first written, Miller's 1953 masterpiece explores the impact of the 17th-century Salem Witch Trials in Massachusetts.

Ballet Black is the UK's professional ballet company for international dancers of black and Asian descent. Their goal is to see a fundamental change in the number of black and Asian dancers in UK ballet companies. By creating a central black female character, rarely seen in the UK outside of Ballet Black repertoire, the two companies aim to openly address the challenges of diverse representation in UK ballet (on and off stage), and particularly the lack of black British female ballet dancers.

Scottish Ballet CEO/Artistic Director Christopher Hampson is a Board Member of Ballet Black and has choreographed two works for the company. Continuing the creative collaboration, Scottish Ballet's former dancer and Artist in Residence, choreographer, Sophie Laplane was commissioned by Ballet Black to create her latest work *CLICK!*, which premiered at the Barbican in March 2019.

### **Christopher Hampson, CEO / Artistic Director of Scottish Ballet, said:**

'We are very excited to present the world premiere of *The Crucible* at the Edinburgh International Festival, as part of Scottish Ballet's 50th anniversary. Furthermore, we're delighted to be working with our friends at Ballet Black and welcoming one of the UK's leading dancers, Cira Robinson, into Helen Pickett's production. We're also thrilled to be giving the U.S. premiere of *The Crucible* at the prestigious Kennedy Center in 2020.'

### **Cassa Pancho MBE, Founder & Artistic Director of Ballet Black, said:**

'I'm delighted that Scottish Ballet have invited Cira to guest with them at the Edinburgh International Festival this summer. Cira is one of the most exciting and versatile artists I have worked with, and I am thrilled that she will have the opportunity to share her talent with audiences at the Festival.'

### **Cira Robinson, Senior Artist at Ballet Black and Senior Guest Artist with Scottish Ballet said:**

'I am thrilled to be guesting with Scottish Ballet in their performances of *The Crucible* at Edinburgh International Festival, and honoured to be given the opportunity to explore this role.'

### **Helen Pickett, Choreographer of *The Crucible*, said:**

'It has been an incredible collaborative process working with Scottish Ballet to bring my vision of Arthur Miller's play to the stage. I am working with an exceptional creative team, Peter Salem, James Bonas, Emma Kingsbury and David Finn, and together we have translated this iconic drama into the powerful medium of dance. I am also thrilled about the partnership between Scottish Ballet and Ballet Black, this collaboration

highlights the strength of unity and inclusion. We are honoured to present *The Crucible* at the Edinburgh International Festival among the very best arts companies in the world.’

**Fergus Linehan, Artistic Director of Edinburgh International Festival said:**

‘Scottish Ballet has been inspiring audiences at the International Festival with unforgettable performances since the 1970s and we’re thrilled to welcome back the company as it celebrates 50 years. It’s especially exciting to open our 2019 dance programme together with a premiere of this scale and scope and look forward to sharing *The Crucible* with audiences from all over the world’.

Following the world premiere of *The Crucible* at Edinburgh International Festival, the production will tour to Glasgow, Aberdeen and Inverness in autumn 2019, before transferring to the USA in spring 2020.

*The Crucible* will have its **U.S. premiere** at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. in May 2020. The company will also return to perform in New York and other U.S. cities in 2020, with full programme to be announced. This comes after Scottish Ballet’s hugely successful USA tours of *A Streetcar Named Desire* in 2013, 2015 and 2017.

*The Crucible* will be the first major commission of Scottish Ballet’s **Five in Five**, an ambitious new commitment to stage five new full-length ballets over five years; one for every decade of their history. In total, the company seeks to raise £5 million over five years to deliver these new works, and associated access and engagement programmes.

As part of the Five in Five fundraising campaign, Scottish Ballet launches the **Millinery Appeal** to help make this production of *The Crucible* possible. Designed by Emma Kingsbury, hats play an essential role in adapting Arthur Miller’s play for dance: they help to define the hierarchy and status of each character. In total, 36 different hats, that each take up to eight hours to make, are being handcrafted by an experienced milliner.

For more information, to book tickets to *The Crucible*, and to donate to the Millinery Appeal, visit: [scottishballet.co.uk/event/crucible](http://scottishballet.co.uk/event/crucible)

## **Notes to Editors:**

**#SBCrucible**

[Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#)  
[Scottishballet.co.uk](http://Scottishballet.co.uk)

### ***The Crucible* Press Pack:**

*The Crucible* Press Pack can be downloaded [here](#)

### **Creative Team:**

Based on the play by: Arthur Miller  
Choreographer: Helen Pickett  
Composer: Peter Salem  
Artistic Collaborator: James Bonas  
Set & Costume Designer: Emma Kingsbury  
Set & Lighting Designer: David Finn

Performed in agreement with The Arthur Miller Trust.

### **Dates: August 2019 - May 2020**

World Premiere at Edinburgh International Festival:  
3-5 August 2019

Theatre Royal, Glasgow:  
26-28 September 2019

His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen:  
3-5 October 2019

Eden Court, Inverness:  
9-10 October 2019

U.S. premiere at the Kennedy Center, Washington D.C., USA:  
13-17 May 2020

Press enquiries and requests can be sent to Joy Parkinson, Communications Officer, Scottish Ballet:  
Joy Parkinson: [joy.parkinson@scottishballet.co.uk](mailto:joy.parkinson@scottishballet.co.uk) / 0141 333 1092 / 07780 310614

### **About Scottish Ballet**

- Scottish Ballet, founded in 1969, is Scotland's national dance company. Based in Glasgow, the company performs regularly across Scotland, and increasingly throughout the UK and internationally – promoting Scotland's pioneering spirit far and wide.
- Under CEO/Artistic Director Christopher Hampson, Scottish Ballet presents bold, adventurous performances rooted in strong classical technique, accompanied by the Scottish Ballet Orchestra. The company's broad repertoire includes new versions of the classics and ground-breaking commissions, as well as an innovative digital season every two years.
- Scottish Ballet runs an extensive engagement programme, tailored to the needs of diverse communities, which promotes confidence, fosters well-being and encourages creativity through dance.
- In 2019, Scottish Ballet celebrates 50 years of inspiring audiences on stage and beyond, with a creative vision crafted by Scotland. For more information about the anniversary season, visit: [www.scottishballet.co.uk/50](http://www.scottishballet.co.uk/50)
- Scottish Ballet is funded by the Scottish Government.

### **About Ballet Black**

- Ballet Black is a professional ballet company for international dancers of black and Asian descent. The company was founded in 2001 by Artistic Director, Cassa Pancho MBE, in order to provide role models to young, aspiring black and Asian dancers.

- Ballet Black aims to bring ballet to a more culturally diverse audience by celebrating black and Asian dancers in ballet. The company commissions and performs across the UK and offers community classes for dancers and students, young and old, with the ultimate goal of seeing a fundamental change in the number of black and Asian dancers in mainstream ballet companies.
- For more information about the company, visit [www.balletblack.co.uk](http://www.balletblack.co.uk)

#### **About Edinburgh International Festival:**

- Edinburgh International Festival is an unparalleled, city-wide, celebration of the performing arts for three weeks each August in Scotland's capital. Created in 1947 to celebrate the human spirit and bring people together through art, the International Festival remains dedicated to creative excellence and as a point of annual cultural exchange for a global audience exceeding 400,000 per year.
- Committed to virtuosity and innovation, the International Festival presents some of the finest performers and ensembles from the worlds of dance, opera, music and theatre. It also connects with local artists and communities through a range of programmes year-round. The International Festival is curated by Festival Director Fergus Linehan and takes place from 2-26 August 2019.
- To book tickets for *The Crucible*, visit [www.eif.co.uk/whats-on/2019/crucible](http://www.eif.co.uk/whats-on/2019/crucible)

#### **About The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**

- The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is America's living memorial to President John F. Kennedy, attracting millions of visitors each year to more than 2,000 performances, events, and exhibits. With its artistic affiliates, the National Symphony Orchestra and Washington National Opera, the nation's busiest performing arts center is dedicated to providing world-class art, powerful education, and outstanding memorial experiences to the broadest possible constituency.
- To learn more about the Kennedy Center, visit [www.kennedy-center.org](http://www.kennedy-center.org)

**ENDS**