

**World premiere of Christopher Hampson's *The Snow Queen*
brings Scottish Ballet's 50th anniversary year
to a spectacular close this winter**

In a year of celebrations for Scotland's national dance company, Scottish Ballet's 50th anniversary comes to a spectacular close with the world premiere of CEO / Artistic Director Christopher Hampson's *The Snow Queen*.

Inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's much-loved tale, which was also the basis for Disney's hit film *Frozen*, this glittering new production opens at Edinburgh's Festival Theatre on Saturday 7 December, before touring to Glasgow, Aberdeen, Inverness and Newcastle.

Scottish Ballet's *The Snow Queen* is a story of love and friendship that will delight audiences of all ages. The action is driven by three central female characters: the brave young Gerda on a quest to rescue her true love, the enigmatic pickpocket Lexi at her side, and the powerful Snow Queen at the centre of it all.

Created in collaboration with multi-award-winning designer Lez Brotherston, *The Snow Queen* will take audiences from a bustling winter's market, through a fairytale forest, and into the icy realms of the Snow Queen's palace. The production will include a colourful cast of characters dressed in a total of 111 custom-made costumes, from a circus ringmaster and his troupe to dancing snowflakes and, of course, the dazzling Snow Queen herself.

Set to the music of Russian composer Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov, the specially adapted score by Richard Honner will be performed live by the full Scottish Ballet Orchestra. One highlight will be an on-stage violin solo, set to send shivers down audiences' spines as the choreography, design and music come together for dramatic effect.

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

'It's been an extraordinary year for Scottish Ballet, and I'm thrilled that we bring our 50th anniversary celebrations to a close with the world premiere of *The Snow Queen*. Unpicking this fairytale to bring out its most compelling characters and focusing on their journeys has been a rewarding process. Working with the brilliant Lez Brotherston, we have reimagined the story in a spectacular new world and I hope it will entertain and delight audiences of all ages.'

Lez Brotherston, Designer, said:

'It's rare to be given the opportunity to create the visual imagery for a new piece of work; designing costumes and set to tell the story. Christopher and I have collaborated on creating our own version of *The Snow Queen*, giving opportunities to dance and movement as we create new characters and their backstories. For me, *The Snow Queen* has got magic, mystery and romance and it's my hope that audiences will be taken on a journey that catches their imagination this winter.'

The performances will be accompanied by an extensive community engagement programme in schools and care homes across Scotland, as well as a special inclusive performance in Edinburgh on 19 December.

Furthermore, *The Snow Queen* will provide the stage for the culmination of Scottish Ballet's **Five Wishes** campaign, which has seen the company make wishes come true across Scotland in 2019 as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations.

The fifth wish will see retired musician Colin, who is living with Parkinson's, invited to conduct the Scottish Ballet Orchestra in rehearsal for *The Snow Queen*. Finally, on 12 December, Alzheimer Scotland's Every Voice Community Choir from Dumbarton will be invited on stage to perform a Christmas song.

This will be the culmination of the *Five Wishes* story, followed by BBC Scotland for a special documentary of the same name that will be broadcast on BBC One (Scotland) on Monday 23 December at 7pm and will be repeated on Wednesday 25 December on BBC Scotland at 7pm.

Alongside the *Five Wishes* documentary, *The Snow Queen* will also be taking over televisions as BBC Scotland audiences are treated to a special performance of this new ballet as the glittering production is captured and presented as a feature length screening on BBC Scotland on Tuesday 24 December at 7.30pm and will be repeated on BBC Four at a later date.

The Snow Queen is the second 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 the company's history. In total, Scottish Ballet seeks to raise £5 million over five years to deliver these new works, and their associated access and engagement programmes.

As part of the Five in Five fundraising campaign, Scottish Ballet launches the **Costume Appeal** to help make this production of *The Snow Queen* possible. Audiences are encouraged to play their part and donate to help bring Lez Brotherston's stunning creations to life.

For more information, to book tickets to *The Snow Queen*, and to donate to the Costume Appeal, visit: scottishballet.co.uk/event/snow-queen

Notes to Editors:

#SBSnowQueen

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scottishballet.co.uk

***The Snow Queen* Press Pack:**

The Snow Queen Press Pack can be downloaded [here](#)

Creative Team:

Choreographer: Christopher Hampson
Composer: Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov
Designer: Lez Brotherston

Dates:

December 2019 - February 2020

Festival Theatre, Edinburgh:

7-29 December 2019

Press opening on 11 December 2019

Theatre Royal, Glasgow:

3-18 January 2020

His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen:

22-25 January 2020

Eden Court, Inverness:

29 January-1 February 2020

Theatre Royal, Newcastle:

12-15 February 2020

Press enquiries and requests can be sent to Joy Parkinson, Press Manager, Scottish Ballet:

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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: scottishballet.co.uk/50
- Scottish Ballet is funded by the Scottish Government.

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