

Beyond the 50th anniversary: Scottish Ballet announce their 2020/2021 season with a jam-packed year of work



Scottish Ballet's *Swan Lake*, *The Scandal at Mayerling* and *The Nutcracker* Campaign Images

Today, Scottish Ballet CEO/Artistic Director Christopher Hampson reveals an inspirational 2020/2021 programme that sees the company perform on local, national and international stages.

To celebrate the season launch, Scottish Ballet has collaborated with award-winning artist Alan McGowan to create a specially commissioned visual art projection that will be unveiled in Edinburgh tonight from 5-9pm. Presented on the French Institute for Scotland on the capital's Royal Mile and the University of Edinburgh's McEwan Hall, it features a time-lapse film of the artist painting the 2020 campaign imagery and follows previous teaser projections that took place over the weekend in Glasgow, Inverness and Aberdeen – cities that the company regularly tours to.

The 2020/2021 season includes:

- The world premiere of a reimagined production of Kenneth MacMillan's *Mayerling: 'The Scandal at Mayerling'* – the first time MacMillan's sumptuous historical masterpiece will be produced in the UK, outside of London.
- The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C. USA premiere, and Spoleto Festival USA transfer, of Helen Pickett's award-winning *The Crucible*, which gained audience and critical acclaim following its world premiere at Edinburgh International Festival in 2019.
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- Cutting-edge contemporary works *MC 14/22* and *Sibilo* to make the company's Linbury Theatre, Royal Opera House, London debut.
- The return of two of the world's most popular ballets: Scottish Ballet's raw and intense *Swan Lake*, and festive family favourite *The Nutcracker*.
- Tickets for Scottish Ballet's 2020/2021 season are now on sale at scottishballet.co.uk

Announcing the 2020/2021 season launch Christopher Hampson, CEO/Artistic Director of Scottish Ballet, said:

'It's been an incredibly exciting time for Scottish Ballet during the company's 50th anniversary year. The 2020/2021 season connects us with audiences from across the world through an invigorating repertoire showcasing some of today's most cutting-edge choreographers, and Scottish Ballet's adventurous, daring and unique style.'

SPRING

This Is My Body

Double bill: *MC 14/22* and *Sibilo*

Scottish Ballet launches their 2020/2021 season with a programme of contemporary work, which sees them make their Linbury Theatre, Royal Opera House, London debut with *This is My Body* from 31 March – 3 April.

A contemporary double bill of work that celebrates and tests the power and versatility of dancers' bodies, *This is My Body* includes *MC 14/22*, choreographed by Angelin Preljocaj and *Sibilo*, choreographed by Sophie Laplane.

MC 14/22 (*Ceci est mon corps*) is a meeting of the spiritual and the carnal, drawing on St Mark's version of The Last Supper in the Bible: 'Take, eat: this is my body'. Created for twelve male dancers by **Angelin Preljocaj**, with soundscapes by Tedd Zahmal, this powerfully sensual and passionate work is a hymn to the male body, stripped down to its deepest reality.

Sibilo, by Scottish Ballet's Artist in Residence, Choreographer, **Sophie Laplane**, is a joyful, humorous and surreal work featuring eight dancers, whose eclectic movement is led by audible whistles (*sibilo* is Latin for whistle) in the soundtrack. Laplane collaborated with Scottish electronic DJ and music producer Alex Menzies (aka Alex Smoke) to create the original musical composition for this piece.

This is My Body will also tour to New York, with details announced in November / December 2019. *Sibilo* is being presented in London and New York thanks to the generous support of Sir Sandy & Lady Crombie.

Swan Lake

Alongside work in London and New York, Spring will see Scottish Ballet present its

contemporary take on the ballet world's most popular title, as it tours Scotland, following a sold-out debut in 2016.

Opening on 9 April 2020, this sleek and unmissable *Swan Lake*, choreographed by **David Dawson**, is a production retold for a new generation.

Arching backs, spiralling arms and mesmerising patterns push the Company dancers to their physical limits in this tale of purity versus seduction. David Dawson's daring, visceral choreography is perfectly paired with the rich, romantic Tchaikovsky score, played live by the Scottish Ballet Orchestra.

Swan Lake will tour to Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Inverness and Glasgow from 9 April-2 May 2020.

The Crucible

Following a triumphant world premiere at the Edinburgh International Festival in 2019, and a critically acclaimed tour of Scotland, Helen Pickett's award-winning *The Crucible* will travel to its spiritual home to make its US premiere as it opens at **the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.** from 13-17 May, before transferring to open the dance programme at **Spoleto Festival USA** from 22-24 May 2020.

Adapted from Arthur Miller's masterpiece of power and persecution, Helen Pickett's award-winning choreography unleashes the full emotional force of the story as a new narrative ballet.

The first major dance adaptation of Miller's work, created in collaboration with director James Bonas, *The Crucible* is an allegorical comment on the McCarthy hearings of the 1950s; Miller's chilling account of the 1692 Salem witch trials that recalls a community destroyed by fear, hostility and hysteria.

Designers David Finn and Emma Kingsbury bring the theatrical elements to life with costumes, lighting and set, and the performances are vividly accompanied by Peter Salem's haunting new score.

The first of Scottish Ballet's ambitious commissioning programme *Five in Five* which will see the company stage five new full-length ballets over five years, *The Crucible* will tour the US from 13 May-24 May 2020.

AUTUMN

The Scandal at Mayerling

Dramatically reimagined and adapted for Scottish Ballet by Gary Harris and Christopher Hampson, *The Scandal at Mayerling* will feature bold new designs from Elin Steele and a new orchestration from Martin Yates. This dramatic new interpretation of **Sir Kenneth**

MacMillan's iconic ballet *Mayerling*, will open at Festival Theatre in Edinburgh, 17 September 2020.

True to the original, the story is set in Vienna in 1889 and follows the story of Crown Prince Rudolf, an anti-hero as compelling as Hamlet, who has a morbid fascination with death and a voracious sexual appetite. *The Scandal at Mayerling* is an intense and lavish period production, a story of obsession and mortality, with a backdrop of sumptuous set and costumes. The story is brought to life by the music of **Franz Liszt**, performed live by the **Scottish Ballet Orchestra**.

Developed in association with Lady Deborah MacMillan, this is the third of Scottish Ballet's ambitious commissioning programme Five in Five.

The Scandal at Mayerling tours to Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Inverness and Glasgow from 17 September - 10 October 2020.

WINTER

The Nutcracker

Rounding off the 2020/2021 season, *The Nutcracker* returns due to never-ending demand as it opens at the Festival Theatre in Edinburgh from 5 December 2020.

A firm family favourite, this magical story takes you on a journey through the eyes of a child as it follows the adventures of the Sugar Plum Fairy, the Nutcracker Prince and the larger-than-life Rat King.

Leaving children and adults in awe, this heart-warming tale places **Peter Darrell's** choreography centre-stage as dancers perform to **Tchaikovsky's** score, that transports audiences to a far-away land of dreams...and baubles.

The Nutcracker tours to **Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Inverness, Glasgow, Newcastle and Belfast** from 5 December 2020 – 13 February 2021.

Off-Stage Creative Collaborations

Alongside far-reaching partnerships that allow for work to be presented on local, national and international stages, Scottish Ballet continues to collaborate with creatives that respond to dance across multi-art forms.

Visual Artist Callout

As part of the 2020/2021 launch, Scottish Ballet invited visual artists to creatively respond to the season imagery of *Swan Lake*, *The Scandal at Mayerling* and *The Nutcracker*.

Over 70 artists submitted their proposals before fine-artist Alan McGowan was invited into Scottish Ballet where he spent the day in the studio, painting a canvas of each production.

The process of the artist painting each campaign images was filmed by Double Take Projections, culminating in a series of teaser time-lapse films that were projected on buildings in Glasgow, Inverness and Aberdeen.

To celebrate the 2020/2021 announcement, Scottish Ballet are projecting all three time lapse films, featuring dancers from *Swan Lake*, *The Scandal at Mayerling* and *The Nutcracker* on the walls of the French Institute for Scotland on the capital's Royal Mile and the University of Edinburgh's McEwan Hall on the evening of Tuesday 5 November.

Alan McGowan is an award-winning artist and teacher based in Edinburgh, who specialises in figurative drawing and painting. In 2018 he was awarded second prize in The Scottish Portrait Awards, and in 2014 he was a semi-finalist in the Sky Art Portrait Artist of the Year.

His work has been exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery in London, and appears in the public collections of the Royal Scottish Academy and Stirling University.

Talking about the collaboration Alan McGowan, said:

'I have for a long time been interested in music and dance and how movement might be translated into the static medium of painting, so I jumped at the chance to collaborate with Scottish Ballet. The challenge was to try to communicate the energy of dance in paint, and to reflect the different atmospheres of each production.'

Dancing with Words

Writer in Residence, delivered in partnership with The Work Room

Scottish Ballet and The Work Room are proud to announce that artist and writer Joyce Welsh Dixon will be welcomed into each organisation as their Writer in Residence, as part of a PhD residency funded by the Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities.

The residency welcomes her to develop a body of creative writing in response to dance and choreography. She will have the opportunity to observe choreographers and dance artists in creation and rehearsal periods, as well as have conversations with the artists and other creatives about their work.

A PhD researcher in History of Art at the University of Edinburgh, with an MA in Critical Writing in Art and Design from the Royal College of Art, London, she will form a language of practice that will respond to dance with a series of creative and critical writing across forms.

Her thesis was awarded the 2015 Critical Writing in Art and Design Award for the Best Final Major Project. She is a published writer and has appeared across a variety of books, Journals and magazines including Art Review, and is a regular lecturer.

Joyce Welsh Dixon, Writer in Residence, said:

'Everything about this creative writing residency with Scottish Ballet and The Work Room excites me – from the Tramway building itself where the organisations are based, to the highly skilled artists and dancers practising within. This is a unique opportunity to experience the inner workings and everyday goings on of two very different dance organisations, and to translate this experience into a body of work that explores my own creativity as a writer.'

Joyce Welsh Dixon's PhD residency is funded by the Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities.

For more information about Scottish Ballet's 2020/2021 season and to book tickets, please visit: scottishballet.co.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Scottish Ballet Press Contact:

For more information about Scottish Ballet, please contact Joy Parkinson, Press Manager:
joy.parkinson@scottishballet.co.uk / 0141 333 1092 / 07780310614

Scottish Ballet 2020/2021 Press Pack can be downloaded [here](#)

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2020/2021 Listings:

'This is my body...'

Contemporary double bill of *MC 14 /22* by Angelin Preljočaj & *Sibilo* by Sophie Laplane

Royal Opera House, London: 31 March – 3 April 2020

This is My Body will also be presented in New York, with more information announced in late November / early December.

Note:

MC 14/22 contains adult themes of violence and sexual nature.
#ScottishBallet

Swan Lake

Choreographed by David Dawson

Festival Theatre, Edinburgh: 9-11 April 2020
His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen: 16-18 April 2020
Eden Court, Inverness: 23-25 April 2020
Theatre Royal, Glasgow: 29 April – 2 May 2020
#SBSwanLake

***The Crucible* by Arthur Miller**

Choreographed by Helen Pickett

Kennedy Center, Washington DC, USA: 13-17 May 2020
Spoleto Festival USA, Charleston, USA: 22-24 May 2020
#SBCrucible

The Scandal at Mayerling

Choreographed by Sir Kenneth MacMillan

Festival Theatre, Edinburgh: 17-19 September 2020
Theatre Royal, Glasgow: 24-26 September 2020
Eden Court, Inverness: 2-3 October 2020
His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen: 8-10 October 2020
#SBMayerling

The Nutcracker

Choreographed by Peter Darrell

Festival Theatre, Edinburgh:	5-31 December 2020
Theatre Royal, Glasgow:	6-16 January 2021
His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen:	20-23 January 2021
Eden Court, Inverness:	27-30 January 2021
Grand Opera House, Belfast:	10-13 February 2021

The Nutcracker will also be presented in Newcastle, with more information announced in Spring 2020.

#SBNutcracker

About Scottish Ballet

- Scottish Ballet, founded in 1969, is Scotland's national dance company. Based in Glasgow, the company performs regularly across Scotland, 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, promoting confidence, fostering wellbeing and encouraging creativity through dance.
- Scottish Ballet is funded by the Scottish Government.
<https://www.scottishballet.co.uk/>

About Scottish Ballet's Five in Five Campaign

- Scottish Ballet's ambitious Five in Five campaign launched as part of the company's 50th anniversary in 2019 and is a commitment to commissioning and staging five new full-length ballets in five years, one for every decade of our company's history.
- The first Five in Five ballet was Helen Pickett's *The Crucible*, followed by Christopher Hampson's *The Snow Queen*. 2020 will see the third of the ballets open with *The Scandal at Mayerling* by Sir Kenneth MacMillan.
- To support Scottish Ballet and the Five in Five campaign visit:
<https://www.scottishballet.co.uk/support>