

## **Crafting costumes for *The Crucible*: Scottish Ballet's fourth wish comes true, as part of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations**

On Wednesday 9 October, Scottish Ballet made the fourth of five wishes come true as part of the company's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

Responding to a nationwide callout, Poppy Camden, a recent graduate of the Fashion Design programme at Glasgow School of Art, wished to work with Scottish Ballet's costume department to help bring a production to life.

After unveiling that her wish would come true, Scottish Ballet invited Poppy into the company's Glasgow home to get a behind-the-scenes insight into the workings of the wardrobe department as they approached the opening of *The Crucible* tour.

Created by award-winning choreographer Helen Pickett, with costume designs by Emma Kingsbury, a palette of light blues, greens and purples, contrasted against dark greys and blacks, transports audiences to the Salem Witch trials, set in Massachusetts in the 1690s.

Looking to make her career working with costumes for theatre and dance, Poppy had the opportunity to observe the intricacies of creating, fitting and maintaining the costumes, before getting hands-on experience with the team; helping to prepare outfits worn by main characters such as Abigail, and Elizabeth Proctor.

From crafting costumes at the company's base in Glasgow to taking the show on the road, Poppy joined Scottish Ballet as the company travelled to open *The Crucible* at Eden Court in Inverness.

Getting hands-on experience during the production's get in and get out, Poppy also had the exclusive opportunity to work with the wardrobe team at the side of stage during opening night; helping dancers get into character, and assisting with quick changes from one scene to another.

Becoming part of the Scottish Ballet company, Poppy gained a unique insight into the hard work, commitment and dedication that goes into making sure that the show must, truly, go on.

**Talking about the fourth wish, CEO/Artistic Director of Scottish Ballet, Christopher Hampson, said:** 'Scottish Ballet continues to be inspired by each of our Five Wishes, as we discover the personal stories behind each wish. For the fourth wish, Scottish Ballet welcomed Poppy Camden into the wardrobe department to get a behind-the-scenes insight into the company. Joining the Scottish Ballet family on tour to Eden Court, she used her skills from her Fashion Degree to help open *The Crucible* to audiences in Inverness.'

**Janice Forsyth, champion of the fourth wish, said:**

'The arts has the power to connect people as it brings them together to share creative experiences. I'm

delighted that Poppy was able to use her love of design and fashion, alongside the skills from her degree, to become part of the hardworking wardrobe team as they took *The Crucible* on tour.'

**Talking about the wish, Poppy Camden said:**

'My time with Scottish Ballet has been invaluable and has given me a real insight into what goes into producing and touring a show of their standard. As someone who is just starting out in their career, it was an inspiring experience to be involved with a company I've always admired, and I am so grateful to wardrobe for welcoming me into their team during my wish!'

Over 400 wishes were submitted to Scottish Ballet's Five Wishes campaign, with over 100,000 votes cast by the general public. The top 50 were presented to an esteemed judging panel which includes **Dame Darcey Bussell, Susan Calman, Fred MacAulay, Janice Forsyth, Christopher Hampson and Principal Dancer Christopher Harrison**, with full details of the five chosen wishes announced on Thursday 31 January.

The Five Wishes continue to take place in Scotland throughout 2019 as part of Scottish Ballet's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, with full details available here:

[www.scottishballet.co.uk/wish](http://www.scottishballet.co.uk/wish)

## **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

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Scottish Ballet 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Press Pack can be downloaded [here](#)

Information about the Five Wishes campaign can be downloaded [here](#)

Images available to download directly from [here](#)

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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 year
- Scottish Ballet runs an extensive engagement programme, tailored to the needs of diverse communities, 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](http://scottishballet.co.uk/50)
- Scottish Ballet is funded by the Scottish Government.

**ENDS**