

Scottish Ballet to take over televisions this Christmas with two special BBC commissions

Scottish Ballet is delighted to announce that the 50th anniversary year will culminate with two special BBC commissions, which will see the company take over televisions this festive period.

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*.

The glittering new production will provide the stage for a special performance capture that will be broadcast on BBC Scotland and BBC Four, and close the story on the Five Wishes campaign and a heartwarming documentary of the same name that will be broadcast on BBC One (Scotland) and BBC Scotland.

The Snow Queen

BBC Scotland audiences will be treated to a special performance of this new ballet as the glittering production takes over their homes, with a feature length screening.

Inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's much-loved tale, *The Snow Queen* is a story of love and friendship. From the bustle of a winter's market to the shivers of a fairytale forest, the production takes a journey to the Snow Queen's palace and finds her surrounded by the icy fragments of an enchanted mirror.

Guaranteed to transport the whole family to a place of wonder, *The Snow Queen* is choreographed by Christopher Hampson, in collaboration with multi-award winning designer Lez Brotherston. Set to the music of Rimsky-Korsakov, the score will be performed by the full Scottish Ballet Orchestra.

Filmed at Festival Theatre in Edinburgh, *The Snow Queen* capture will be broadcast on BBC Scotland on Tuesday 24 December at 7.30pm and will be repeated on BBC Four at a later date.

Five Wishes

A new BBC Scotland documentary *Five Wishes* will chart the inspiring stories behind Scottish Ballet's *Five Wishes* campaign, that was launched as part of the company's 50th anniversary year.

For 50 years, Scottish Ballet has been crafted by Scotland – by the people, the tradition, the sense of humour, the generosity and the spirit. As a way of saying thank you to the whole country for their continued support, Scottish Ballet launched Five Wishes and invited people to make a wish that they would help come true.

Over 400 were submitted, with over 100,000 votes cast by the general public. The top 50 were presented to an esteemed judging panel which included Dame Darcey Bussell, Susan Calman, Fred MacAulay, Janice Forsyth, Christopher Hampson and Principal Dancer Christopher Harrison, before the final five were selected.

Five Wishes will take audiences behind-the-scenes of Scottish Ballet as they make the five creative and inspiring wishes come to life. It will follow the heart-felt and heart-warming stories of each individual's stories, and their connection to the company and to dance.

Coinciding with the anniversary programme, the wishes range from a brave young dancer called Lily Douglas, currently battling a rare form of childhood cancer, who danced onstage with the company, to an inspirational dance teacher who wished for her students to meet and dance with Scottish Ballet performers in their Aberdeen studio.

From a simple wish of 'We Sing, You Dance' from Alzheimer Scotland's Every Voice Choir, who collaborated with the company to create a performance of song and dance for their summer celebrations, to an aspiring young designer called Poppy Camden who joined Scottish Ballet on tour to work with the wardrobe department.

The final wish sees musician Colin Bowen, who is currently living with Parkinson's, conduct the 70 strong Scottish Ballet Orchestra ahead of the world premiere of *The Snow Queen*, which ties together the wishes and the anniversary year.

Bringing the wishes to a close on Thursday 12 December, Alzheimer Scotland's Every Voice Community Choir from Dumbarton will be invited on stage at Festival Theatre, Edinburgh, to perform a Christmas song after *The Snow Queen* matinee.

Five Wishes 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.

CEO/Artistic Director of Scottish Ballet, Christopher Hampson, 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*. I'm delighted that audiences will get to experience this new production both on and off stage, and that the show will also close the story of the *Five Wishes*.

Each wish has inspired the company in a way that we didn't see possible. The individual stories behind them have not only moved us, but they have taught us more about ourselves and each other. We have had the opportunity to welcome each person into the Scottish Ballet family and thank them for their continued support. This journey has shown us the power of art and dance, not only in inspiring people, but in bringing them together.'

Gareth Hydes, Commissioning Editor at BBC Scotland, said:

'*The Snow Queen* promises to be an amazing spectacle of dance and music, against a fabulous backdrop, and feast for the eyes and ears. It is very fitting in this inaugural year of the BBC Scotland channel to be able to bring this amazing production to the television audience to help celebrate the 50th anniversary year of such a well-loved cultural institution as Scottish Ballet.

We are also delighted to be showcasing the work behind the Five Wishes project and providing our audience on BBC One Scotland with a very intimate and heart-warming insight into these inspirational stories.'

To find out more about Scottish Ballet, *The Snow Queen* and the Five Wishes visit:

<https://www.scottishballet.co.uk/>

NOTES TO EDITORS:

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BBC Scotland on Tuesday 24 December at 7.30pm

BBC Four will broadcast at a later date

***Five Wishes* will be broadcast on:**

BBC One (Scotland) on Monday 23 December at 7pm

BBC Scotland on Wednesday 25 December on BBC Scotland at 7pm

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

Information about *The Snow Queen* can be downloaded [here](#)

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

Scottish Ballet Press Contact:

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

Joy Parkinson: joy.parkinson@scottishballet.co.uk / 0141 333 1092 / 07780310614

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
- Scottish Ballet is funded by the Scottish Government.

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