

English National Ballet / Akram Khan's *Giselle* to be released on DVD and Blu-Ray



Hailed as '*a masterpiece of 21st century dance*' [The Mail on Sunday] **Akram Khan's *Giselle*** is released for sale on DVD for the first time **from 1 March 2019**, giving ballet fans worldwide the opportunity to enjoy this award-winning production.

Recognised as one of the greatest romantic ballets, *Giselle* has been re-imagined by celebrated choreographer **Akram Khan**. His first full length ballet, Khan's *Giselle* features set and costume designs from Academy Award-winning designer Tim Yip, known for his work on the hit film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, and an adaptation of the original Adolphe Adam score by composer Vincenzo Lamagna, orchestrated by Music Director, Gavin Sutherland and performed live by English National Ballet Philharmonic. *Giselle* also features dramaturgy from Ruth Little and lighting design from Mark Henderson.

Directed for the screen by **Ross MacGibbon**, the film was commissioned by The Space and recorded live at the Liverpool Empire in October 2017.

English National Ballet Artistic Director and Lead Principal Tamara Rojo dances the role of *Giselle*, one of a community of migrant workers cast out of their jobs in a condemned garment factory. First Soloist James Streeter performs in the role of Albrecht, Lead Principal Jeffrey Cirio performs as Hilarion, and First Artist of the Company, Stina Quagebeur performs in the role of Myrtha, Queen of the Wilis.

The critically acclaimed production has toured to eight cities in the UK and internationally, and has been the recipient of numerous awards including the South Bank Sky Arts Award for

Dance, Tanz Magazine Award for Production of the Year, Manchester Theatre Award for Dance, Critics Circle National Dance Award for Best Classical Choreography for Akram Khan. The ballet also helped English National Ballet earn an Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance.

Akram Khan's Giselle was co-produced by Manchester International Festival and Sadler's Wells, London, and supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. The film was commissioned by The Space, the digital agency which supports UK arts organisations to grow their audiences across digital, cinema and broadcast platforms.

The DVD is distributed by Opus Arte and will be available internationally on Amazon, and is available for [pre-order](#) in the UK now. Release dates and stockists for the DVD in the UK, US and Germany are listed below, and further release dates (including for France and Japan) will be added.

UK release – 1 March 2019

Available to purchase at:

[Amazon](#)

[Presto Music](#)

[Europadisc](#)

[HMV](#)

US release – 22 March 2019

Available to purchase at:

[Arkiv Music](#)

Germany – 29 March 2019

Available to purchase at:

[JPC](#)

For further information and images, please contact Laura Nixon, Senior Press Officer on laura.nixon@ballet.org.uk or call 020 7590 2933.

Notes to Editors

About English National Ballet

English National Ballet has a long and distinguished history. Founded in 1950 as London Festival Ballet by the great English Dancers Alicia Markova and Anton Dolin, it has played a major role in the growth and history of ballet in the UK. Today, English National Ballet is renowned for taking world-class ballet to the widest possible audience through its national and international tour programme, offsite performances at festivals including Glastonbury and Latitude, its distinguished orchestra English National Ballet Philharmonic, and being a UK leader in creative learning and engagement practice and delivery, building innovative partnerships to deliver flagship programmes such as English National Ballet's Dance for Parkinson's. Under the artistic directorship of Tamara Rojo, English National Ballet has gained new acclaim as it introduces innovative new works to the Company's repertoire while continuing to honour and reinvigorate traditional ballet.

About Akram Khan

Akram Khan is one of the most celebrated dance artists today, building his reputation on the success of imaginative, highly accessible and profoundly moving productions such as *XENOS*, *Until the Lions*, *Kaash*, *DESH*, *Vertical Road*, *Gnosis* and *zero degrees*. Khan's choreography is the embodiment of shared exploration across multiple disciplines and cultures. His collaborations include world class dance artists such as Sylvie Guillem, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Israel Galván, visual artists Tim Yip, Antony Gormley and Anish Kapoor, and music artists Nitin Sawhney, Kylie Minogue and Florence and the Machine. A highlight of his career was the creation of a section for the London 2012 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony that was received with unanimous acclaim. Khan's baptism into the ballet world was in 2014, as part of English National Ballet's triptych *Lest we Forget*. His award-winning piece *Dust* pathed the way to making the critically acclaimed reimaging of *Giselle*.

About The Space

The Space is a commissioning and development organisation, established by Arts Council England and the BBC to support greater digital access to the arts. The Space is committed to supporting and facilitating the UK arts sector to realise its digital ambitions. The organisation commissions arts projects, offers online audience and digital skills development, and provides a production and distribution pipeline to ensure that these projects reach a wide and diverse range of audiences. www.thespace.org

About Opus Arte

Opus Arte is an award-winning provider of classical music and theatrical content, releasing around twenty-five titles per year on DVD, Blu-ray, CD, TV and online. Opus Arte is proud to be associated with many of the world's finest arts organisations, including the Royal Opera House, Glyndebourne, Dutch National Opera & Ballet, Teatro Real, Shakespeare's Globe, and the Royal Shakespeare Company. Founded as an independent label in 1999, Opus Arte is now part of the Naxos group, the world's largest independent producer and distributor of Classical Music.

Please visit www.opusarte.com.

About Manchester International Festival

Manchester International Festival (MIF) is the world's first festival of original, new work and special events, staged every two years in Manchester, UK. The next one takes place 4 – 21 July 2019, including commissions and events from Yoko Ono, Idris Elba and Kwame Kwei-Armah, Skepta and Janelle Monáe.

Giselle was commissioned as a Trailblazer for The Factory, the landmark cultural space being developed in Manchester, led by MIF in partnership with Manchester City Council. It was the first in a series of pre-Factory events being presented ahead of the building's opening in 2021, which illustrate the variety, ambition and scale of work that will be created there.

For more information about MIF and The Factory visit the website: mif.co.uk

About Sadler's Wells

Sadler's Wells is a world-leading creative organisation dedicated to dance in all its forms. With over three centuries of theatrical heritage and a year-round programme of performances and learning activities, it is the place where artists come together to create dance, and where people of all backgrounds come to experience it – to take part, learn, experiment and be inspired.

Audiences of over half a million come to its London theatres each year, with many more enjoying its touring productions at venues across the UK and around the world, and accessing its content through digital channels.

Sadler's Wells commissions, produces and presents more new dance work than any other theatre in the world, embracing the popular and the unknown. Since 2005, it has helped to bring over 160 new dance works to the stage, many of them involving its 16 Associate Artists, three Resident Companies and four Associate Companies – the most exciting talents working in dance today.

For further information visit www.sadlerswells.com