

PRESS RELEASE: **Embargoed until Tuesday 26 September 2017**

RAMBERT TO CREATE ITS FIRST FULL-LENGTH NARRATIVE DANCE WORK IN OVER 30 YEARS

Life is a Dream

choreography **Kim Brandstrup** | music **Witold Lutosławski** | design **Quay Brothers**

premiere: **23 May 2018, Sadler's Wells, London**

- **Internationally-renowned choreographer Kim Brandstrup to create a new dance work for Rambert based on the play by Pedro Calderón de la Barca**
- **The first full-length narrative work created for Rambert since Glen Tetley's *The Tempest* in 1979**
- **The first time dance has been set to music by major 20th-century composer Witold Lutosławski**

Rambert will create a two-act, modern reimagining of the 17th-century play *Life is a Dream* by **Pedro Calderón de la Barca**, choreographed by two-time **Olivier Award**-winner **Kim Brandstrup** and premiering at Sadler's Wells in May 2018, touring the UK and internationally to 2019.

Rambert is well-known for touring mixed programmes of shorter works, yet this new production follows the company's commitment to taking world-class dance to the widest possible audience. This commission for Kim Brandstrup follows the success of his last piece for Rambert, *Transfigured Night*, which won the **2016 Critic's Circle National Dance Award** for Best Modern Choreography.

Life is a Dream is choreographed on Rambert's dancers with projections by legendary filmmakers and stop-motion pioneers the **Quay Brothers**, who will transform the space into a dreamlike world where illusion and reality collide. A symphony orchestra adds to the other-worldly atmosphere with the rich, harmonious music of **Witold Lutosławski** for this tale of revenge and reconciliation.

Life is a Dream tells the story of Prince Sigismundo, who has been unjustly incarcerated from childhood. He is given two chances at freedom: on the first he is overwhelmed by all the things he has missed during his years in prison and embarks on an angry rampage of excess and violence, is re-captured and upon awakening in his cell believes it was all a dream. With his second chance he approaches the world with renewed caution and wonder, as if it is a beautiful dream that could evaporate at any moment.

Rambert Artistic Director Mark Baldwin OBE says

'Kim is a gifted storyteller and his beautiful piece *Transfigured Night* is moving audiences as we continue to tour it around the country. When he suggested this idea for a full-length narrative

production I knew instinctively it was a perfect fit for Rambert with our unique, outstanding dancers. There is huge scope for powerful storytelling in contemporary dance, combining plot and character with great choreography, and it is something I'm eager for the company to take to a deeper level. Kim's language of contemporary dance combines great emotional breadth with dynamic physicality and I'm excited to see how this unfolds in *Life is a Dream*.'

Kim Brandstrup says

'Calderón's play has for a long time been a personal dream of mine. Though written nearly 400 years ago it is remarkably contemporary and resonates strongly in a world where the lines between reality and fantasy are increasingly blurred. Re-thinking the play to create a full-length narrative dance piece for contemporary dancers in a modern context will, I hope, make its profound insight resonate with a new audience. Rambert is the perfect company to take on the scope and ambition of this idea and I am both excited and honoured to be able to create this piece with them'

Rambert Chief Executive/Executive Producer Helen Shute says

'The ambition of this production is hugely exciting and I'm delighted that Rambert is working in partnership with Bergen International Festival to deliver this landmark collaboration, for audiences across the UK and around the world.'

Life is A Dream is commissioned by Bergen International Festival and is supported by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute / Polska Music, Cockayne Grants for the Arts – a donor-advised fund of The London Community Foundation, and Arts Council England.

**For further information please contact Camilla St Aubyn, Press and Media Manager,
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Notes to Editors

Booking details at www.rambert.org.uk/performances/life-is-a-dream

Life is a Dream

Choreography	Kim Brandstrup
Design	Quay Brothers
Music	Witold Lutosławski
Lighting design	Jean Kalman

Performances

Sadler's Wells, London

22 - 26 May 2018

Preview performance	Tuesday 22 May, 7.30pm
Press night	Wednesday 23 May, 7.30pm
Free pre-show talk	Thursday 24 May, 6.30pm
Sign language-interpreted show	Thursday 24 May, 7.30pm

Bergen International Festival, Norway

6 June 2018

***Life is a Dream* will tour through 2018 – 2019. Further dates TBA.**

Rambert

Rambert is the UK's leading contemporary dance company. From its home on London's South Bank, it tours new creations and seminal historic works throughout the UK and internationally, and is widely celebrated for the quality of its dancers and the ambition of its productions.

Recent repertoire includes new works by Kim Brandstrup, Ben Duke, Andonis Foniadakis, Aletta Collins, Lucy Guerin, Shobana Jeyasingh and artistic director Mark Baldwin, together with revivals of works by Christopher Bruce, Lucinda Childs, Merce Cunningham and Siobhan Davies.

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Kim Brandstrup

Kim Brandstrup is a two-time Olivier Award-winning choreographer. His most recent work for Rambert, *Transfigured Night* (2015), won the 2016 Critic's Circle National Dance Award for Best Modern Choreography. He has worked extensively with the Royal Ballet and the Royal Danish Ballet, and in 2015 created *Jeux*, his debut work for New York City Ballet.

<http://kimbrandstrup.org/>

Quay Brothers

US-born, London-based Simon and Timothy Quay are internationally celebrated filmmakers, stage designers, and illustrators. Their work was the subject of a major retrospective at MoMA in New York in 2012, and they have also been the subject of exhibitions in Amsterdam, Barcelona and Madrid, and the 2015 documentary film *Quay* directed by Christopher Nolan. Their extensive stage design credits include Complicite's production of *The Chairs*, which won the Drama Desk Award for Best Design and was nominated for a Tony Award.

Witold Lutosławski

Witold Lutosławski (1913 – 1994) was the pre-eminent Polish composer of his generation, and is acknowledged as one of the most important composers of the 20th century. Characterised by long-lined melodies and distinctive harmonies, his compositions bridge the neo-classical and the Avant Garde.