

**RAMBERT**

**National  
Theatre**

**PRESS RELEASE**

## **Rambert returns to take over National Theatre's River Stage**

**Southbank, London  
18 – 20 August**



**Britain's national dance company takes over the National Theatre's River Stage festival from 18 – 20 August for a free weekend of exciting choreography and moving dance and music performances.**

Rambert's takeover weekend is part of the River Stage festival, a free outdoor season in front of the **National Theatre**, with events hosted every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 28 July until 28 August. Other take-over weekends will include East London's **The Glory**, Manchester's **HOME**, acclaimed international arts festival **WOMAD**, and a weekend of music, dance, performance and outdoor cinema from the NT. An eclectic combination of vibrant dance, theatre, guest DJs, live music in the afternoon and late evening, family fun, and the very best live music acts – this is a free summer festival not to be missed.

**Rambert's Artistic Director Mark Baldwin says:**

*"Rambert at the River Stage provides the most amazing chance for anyone passing by to engage with and enjoy dance for free from some of the freshest talent and most exciting dance makers in the world today. We moved to our new building on the South Bank just three years ago so it's a brilliant opportunity to celebrate and showcase our presence here. Whether you want to join in with a workshop or sit back and enjoy stunning dance and music, our programme promises to be an energetic and uplifting weekend."*

# Programme of Events

## Friday 18 August

### **Introduction to evening from Rambert Senior Rehearsal Director Mikaela Polley**

7pm – 7.15pm

### **Music from *A Linha Curva***

7.15pm – 7.40pm

Devised in São Paulo to celebrate Brazilian culture, *A Linha Curva* sees four percussionists share over 50 instruments. Rambert musicians have been touring it around the UK to evoke samba, capoeira, and the sound of the beach at night.

### **Quicksilver**

8pm – 8.15pm

Quicksilver is Rambert's company for dancers aged 15 - 19. Led by Laura Harvey, the company is named after the Mercury Theatre (Rambert's original home in the 1920s) and the nickname of the company's founder, Marie Rambert.

### **New Creation - Patricia Okenwa**

8.30pm – 8.45pm

An extract of a work-in-progress from up-and-coming choreographer and former Rambert dancer Patricia Okenwa. The piece for two dancers is an exploration of motherhood, inspired by the *Stabat Mater*.

### ***Collapse* – New Movement Collective**

9pm – 9.15pm

Rambert associate company New Movement Collective present excerpts from *Collapse*, a period drama first seen in 2016 at the Southbank Centre and created in collaboration with 3D laser artists ScanLAB Projects, with music by composer and cellist Oliver Coates. This highly physical work celebrates the imperfect in today's technology, probing the complexities of time, group memory and the cyclical nature of societal evolution.

### ***Tempus* – Simone Damberg Wurtz**

9.45pm – 10pm

Rambert dancer Simone Damberg Würtz created *Tempus* as a duet for male dancers to the accompaniment of *Game On*, a score by former Rambert music fellow Cheryl Frances-Hoad for live piano and a Commodore 64 computer from the 1980s.

## Saturday 19 August

### **Yoga Class**

12pm – 12.45pm

Suitable for people wanting to increase strength, flexibility and stamina, this class is based in the Vinyasa flow style of Hatha yoga. Postures are sequenced together to create a fluid moving meditation.

### **Contemporary Dance Workshop**

1pm – 2pm

This class will introduce people to Rambert's distinctive contemporary dance technique and movement. No previous experience required - all you need is enthusiasm!

### **Family Workshop**

2.30pm – 3.15pm

Designed to let children's imaginations run wild through games, play and dance, this workshop introduces very young children to dance and movement with their parents or carers.

### **Children's Workshop**

3.15pm – 4pm

A fun, high-energy workshop offering a fantastic introduction to contemporary dance. Children of all ages and abilities can learn steps from Rambert dances and explore different ways of moving.

### **Ghost Dances Workshop**

4.15pm – 5.15pm

Learn the iconic moves from Rambert's most famous work, Christopher Bruce's *Ghost Dances*. Taught by people who have danced the work, it is a chance for people of all abilities to inhabit this timeless evocation of South American culture.

### **Ghost Dances Music**

7pm – 7.30pm

*Ghost Dances* is Rambert's celebrated work inspired by the plight of Chilean political prisoners in the 1970s. The atmospheric folk music, incredibly evocative of the Andes, is performed by Chilean singer Claudia Figueroa and musicians on pan-pipes, quena and guitars.

### **Doublespeak – Daniel Davidson**

8pm – 8.15pm

*Doublespeak* is a work created by Rambert dancer Daniel Davidson, inspired by the paintings of Odd Nerdrum and Mark Rothko, and the music of Nico Muhly. This abstract work evokes ideas of hunting, defending and evolution

### **New Creation – Carolyn Bolton / Anna Appleby / Mbulelo Ndabeni**

8.45pm – 9pm

A first performance of a work-in-progress collaboration between Rambert's music fellow, Manchester-based composer Anna Appleby, Rambert dancer Carolyn Bolton and Creator of N'da Dance Company Mbulelo Ndabeni. The piece is a solo work danced by Ndabeni which explores the seeds of chaos and tackles the madness created during conflict.

### **Alexander Whitley - Ulysses Awakes**

9.30 – 9.45pm

A solo for a male dancer created by Rambert associate Alexander Whitley to music by John Woolrich. Alexander is a former Rambert dancer who has created works for Rambert, Birmingham Royal Ballet and Ballet Boyz, and whose company makes its debut at Sadler's Wells in June 2017.

### **Music from Nia Lynn**

10pm – 10.30pm

Jazz singer Nia Lynn tours with Rambert this autumn, in a new piece choreographed by Ben Duke inspired by the music and spirit of Nina Simone. This set gives a sneak preview of the new work, performed with pianist Yshani Perinpanayagam and drummer Rob Millett.

## **Sunday 20 August**

### **Yoga Class**

12pm – 12.45pm

Suitable for people wanting to increase strength, flexibility and stamina, this class is based in the Vinyasa flow style of Hatha yoga. Postures are sequenced together to create a fluid moving meditation.

### **Over 60s Workshop**

12.45pm – 1.45pm

Whether you have tried dance before or this is your first time, this workshop is a fun way to engage with the work of Rambert. The workshop includes a gentle warm-up followed by a chance to learn moves from Rambert's repertoire.

### **R Quintessence and Mercury Movers**

2.45pm – 3.15pm

R Quintessence and the Mercury Movers are dance groups for older adults in London. They meet for regular classes and workshops, and create performance works. They're sharing at the River Stage works they have been inspired to create.

### **Rep Workshop**

3.15pm – 4.15pm

*Tomorrow* is one of Rambert's most striking recent works, a re-imagining in dance of *Macbeth*, created by Lucy Guerin. This workshop is your chance to learn some of the choreography and imagine yourself in the dark and dangerous world of Shakespeare's anti-hero. No dance experience is required.

### **Quicksilver**

4.30pm – 5pm

Quicksilver is Rambert's company for dancers aged 15 - 19. Led by Laura Harvey, the company is named after the Mercury Theatre (Rambert's original home in the 1920s) and the nickname of the company's founder, Marie Rambert.

– ENDS –

### **Notes to Editors**

For more information about the whole River Stage festival please click [here](#).

For images click [here](#), password: pressdownload

For interviews and further information, contact:

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**Rambert** produces new and historic dance works for audiences throughout the UK and around the world, performed by world-class dancers and accompanied by live music. Rambert has been making dance in London for 90 years. Its home on the South Bank, which opened in 2014, is a centre for creativity, talent development and community engagement. Rambert works in partnership with local authorities, schools, hospitals and health care providers, social enterprises, charities, businesses and arts organisations to extend its reach to people of all ages, backgrounds and circumstances, giving tens of thousands of people each year opportunities to watch, take part and learn through dance.

[www.rambert.org.uk](http://www.rambert.org.uk)

[Twitter: @RambertDance](https://twitter.com/RambertDance)

[Instagram: /rambertdance](https://www.instagram.com/rambertdance)

**The National Theatre** is dedicated to making the very best theatre and sharing it with as many people as possible. They produce productions on the South Bank in London each year, ranging from re-imagined classics to modern masterpieces and new work by contemporary writers and theatre-makers. The National's work is seen on tour throughout the UK, in London's West End, internationally (including on Broadway) and in collaborations and co-productions with theatres across the country.

Across 2015-2016, the NT staged 34 productions and gave 3,134 performances in the UK and internationally. The NT's award-winning programme had a UK audience of 2.5 million, 700,000 of which were NT Live audiences.

The Clore Learning Centre at the NT is committed to providing programmes for schools, young people, families, community groups and adult learners, including the nationwide youth theatre festival Connections and playwriting competition New Views. In 2015-2016, we engaged with over 181,000 participants through the NT Learning events programme. Further, over 2,200 secondary schools have signed up to the free streaming service, On Demand, in Schools since its launch in September 2015.

[nationaltheatre.org.uk](http://nationaltheatre.org.uk)

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