

PRESS RELEASE: **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **RAMBERT ANNOUNCES RAMBERT2 AND OPENS WORLDWIDE TALENT SEARCH**

**Applications open Friday 1 December**

**40-date tour opens in autumn 2018**

- **A pioneering new ensemble created by Rambert in partnership with Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, supported by The Linbury Trust**
- **Open auditions will be held for dancers, with successful applicants receiving full financial support to live and work in London**
- **Rambert2 will tour a programme of dance by Rafael Bonachela, Sharon Eyal and Benoit-Swan Pouffer, as well as Ohad Naharin's *Kamuyot* for schools**
- **Rambert2 dancers will be funded to complete an MA in Professional Dance Performance**

Britain's leading contemporary dance company is inviting the world's finest early-career dancers to join Rambert2, a new wing of the company designed to develop and showcase the next generation of highly skilled, thinking dancers.

Rambert2 will tour the UK in autumn 2018 with a triple bill of works by three of the most exciting choreographers working in dance today. Alongside revivals of **Rafael Bonachela's** and **Sharon Eyal's** breakthrough works *E2 7SD* and *Killer Pig*, Rambert2 will create a new piece by former Alvin Ailey dancer and Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet artistic director **Benoit-Swan Pouffer**.

Rambert2 will be the first junior ensemble attached to a UK repertory company – something practised with great success by companies in other countries, including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Nederlands Dans Theater. It is the first programme in the world to integrate professional experience at the highest level with postgraduate study. Each dancer will receive financial support equivalent to the London Living Wage and be based at Rambert's home on London's south bank.

Rambert2 dancers will complete a 12-month programme with four strands: training, performing, academic study, and outreach activity including schools' workshops and community events. For schools, Rambert2 will remount *Kamuyot*, a work created by world-famous choreographer **Ohad Naharin** for non-theatre spaces and teenage audiences. Rambert2 will perform on the Sadler's Wells stage in London in November 2018, and tour to 15 venues throughout the UK, expanding Rambert's presence nationally and introducing substantial audiences across the country to the work of cutting-edge, international dance-makers, whose work is rarely seen in the UK outside of London.

During their year, dancers will complete a new postgraduate qualification, MA in Professional Dance Performance, awarded by Rambert School, one of the country's leading dance conservatoires. Rambert2 will be funded through a combination of box office revenues, Rambert's core funding from Arts Council England and a major three-year grant from The Linbury Trust. Rambert2's debut season is also supported by Sadler's Wells.

Outstanding contemporary dancers at the very beginning of their careers are invited to apply from Friday 1 December to join the first Rambert2 cohort from July 2018. Open auditions will be held in London in February 2018. For full details, see [www.rambert.org.uk/rambert2](http://www.rambert.org.uk/rambert2).

**Rambert Chief Executive / Executive Producer Helen Shute**

'We're delighted to be launching Rambert2 to huge demand from an extensive range of respected venues and with the incredible support of The Linbury Trust. This feels exactly what Rambert should be doing to expand our already large UK footprint and showcase the world's best dance artists'

**Principal and Artistic Director of Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, Amanda Britton:**

'Rambert2 opens up a new pathway for graduate students entering the dance profession, providing a unique opportunity to create and perform work at the highest level and train alongside the extraordinary dancers of Rambert company. The Rambert2 dancers will simultaneously be encouraged to integrate embodied and theoretical research to complete their MA in Professional Dance Performance and will emerge as highly employable reflective practitioners'

**Rambert Artistic Director Mark Baldwin**

'Rambert2 is an opportunity to have our work seen by more people in more places, while helping us support the world-class dancers of the future. There's never been anything like it for dancers at the start of their careers and I'm hoping it will be a game changer.'

**Director of G Live, Guildford, Tim Brinkman:**

'There is a huge audience appetite for high quality, exciting dance, and I am thrilled for this opportunity to include Rambert in our programme. I look forward to welcoming Rambert2 to G Live next year and presenting our Guildford audience with the very best of contemporary dance from such a highly renowned company.'

**Choreographer Benoit-Swan Pouffer**

"I am thrilled and humbled to have been provided the opportunity to create a new work for Rambert2. Choreographing a work with dancers at the beginning of their career is a chance to give back and shape a new generation of extraordinary talent. To collaborate with such exciting, raw talent under the iconic Rambert name will be an incredibly special experience."

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## Notes for Editors

### UK Tour, October 2018 – April 2019

NEW WORK - Benoit-Swan Pouffer | *E2 7SD* - Rafael Bonachela | *Killer Pig* - Sharon Eyal

The MAC, Belfast; Cast, Doncaster; Exeter Northcott Theatre; G Live, Guildford; artsdepot, London; Sadler's Wells, London; Theatr Clwyd, Mold; Norwich Playhouse; The Lighthouse, Poole; Theatre Royal Winchester

Further venues TBA

### Programme Strands

#### *Professional Training*

Rambert2 will train as a company, undertaking a daily schedule modelled on Rambert's rehearsal and performance timetable. The company will regularly take ballet and contemporary technique classes with Rambert dancers and engage in creation and rehearsal sessions with world-renowned choreographers.

#### *Touring*

A touring programme that showcases both new pieces and the re-staging of internationally successful works not previously seen in the UK outside of London.

#### *MA in Professional Dance Performance*

Each dancer will work towards the completion of an MA in Professional Dance Performance, validated by the University of Kent, comprising five modules which situate dancers' professional performance practice within a wider contemporary and international context. As part of Rambert2's academic strand there will be a public seminar series, delivered by prominent practitioners in the field of contemporary arts.

#### *Professional Practice in Educational Contexts*

Dancers will learn to deliver participatory dance workshops for young people, under the guidance of Rambert's learning and participation experts. Rambert2 will offer schools performances of *Kamuyot*, a piece created for performance in schools by world-famous choreographer Ohad Naharin, along with complementary workshops.

### Rambert

Rambert is Britain's leading contemporary dance company. It presents new and historic dance works to audiences in all parts of the country, performed by world-class dancers. Rambert has the most extensive national touring programme of any UK contemporary dance company and, through partnerships with theatres in England, Scotland and Wales, develops new audiences for dance in all parts of the country.

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## **Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance**

Rambert School has an international reputation for delivering elite vocational dance training. The equal emphasis on ballet and contemporary dance is arguably unique within the UK and the curriculum is enriched by input from guest artists and choreographers. Throughout the School's history of almost one hundred years the creative energy and spirit of its founder, Marie Rambert, have endured. Graduates are characterised by their individuality, creativity, artistic expression and strong technique. They can be found in all areas of the profession as dancers, choreographers, teachers, academics, producers and directors.

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**Benoit-Swan Pouffer** was a principal dancer with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for seven years before becoming Artistic Director for the Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet company. During his 10 years at the helm of the company, he produced a range of shows driven by a philosophy of combining skilled technique with unexpected forms of dance and drawing upon his wide network in the international ballet community to introduce audiences to world-class choreography.

Benoit-Swan has since worked on a diverse range of projects, from motion picture *The Adjustment Bureau* to *Ellie Goulding AMEX Unstaged* directed by Scarlett Johansson and *So You Think You Can Dance*. Today Benoit-Swan's work is seen all over the world, from Broadway to the Lido in Paris to Macau, China.

**Ohad Naharin** is Artistic Director of Batsheva Dance Company. Naharin has choreographed over 30 works for Batsheva and its junior division, Batsheva Young Ensemble, and his works have been performed by prominent companies around the world.

Naharin is also the originator of an innovative movement vocabulary, Gaga, which has enriched his extraordinary movement invention, revolutionized the company's training, and emerged as a growing force in the larger field of movement practices for both dancers and non-dancers.

Naharin's work has been documented in several feature films. The rehearsal process with Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet during a restaging of "Decadance" was the subject of Tomer Heymann's documentary "Out of Focus" (2007), and Naharin was the subject of the Heymann Brothers' comprehensive documentary "Mr. Gaga" (2015).

**Rafael Bonachela** is a choreographer, curator and Artistic Director of Sydney Dance Company. Born in La Garriga near Barcelona, he danced with Rambert from 1992 to 2004 and was associate choreographer from 2003-2005. In 2006 he set up the Bonachela Dance Company and in 2008 was appointed Artistic Director of Sydney Dance Company.

Bonachela has collaborated with artists from across the fields of classical and pop music, fashion, poetry, visual art and film. In 2002 he choreographed Kylie Minogue's routine at the BRIT Awards which

led to them working together extensively. His collaborations with other pop artists and commercial clients include Tina Turner, The Kills, Primal Scream, Jaguar Automóviles, Siemens Mobile, Hugo Boss and Lexus.

Bonachela has created and collaborated with dance companies worldwide including Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company, Danza Contemporanea de Cuba, the BalletBoyz, IT Dansa, Candoco and Dance Works Rotterdam. His work has also been presented by major international galleries, including Whitechapel Art Gallery, Tate and The Art Gallery of NSW.

**Sharon Eyal** danced with the Batsheva Dance Company from 1990-2008 and was their House Choreographer from 2005-2012. Eyal has created works for dance companies around the world, including Nederlands Dance Theatre, Royal Swedish Ballet, Carte Blanche Dance in Norway, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and Tanzcompagnie Oldenburg in Germany.

In 2013 Eyal launched L-E-V with her long-time collaborator Gai Behar. In the past four years since L-E-V was founded, the company has performed in some of the most prominent venues around the world: Sadler's Wells, London, The Joyce Theatre, New York, Jacob's Pillow, Massachusetts, The Montpellier Danse Festival, France and Julidans, Amsterdam.