



RAMBERT

PRESS RELEASE: **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

RAMBERT PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF LIFE IS A DREAM

choreography **Kim Brandstrup**

design **Quay Brothers**

music **Witold Lutosławski**

23 – 26 May (preview 22 May), Sadler’s Wells, London

- **Internationally-renowned choreographer Kim Brandstrup creates 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 on this scale to music by major 20th-century composer Witold Lutosławski**



Britain’s leading contemporary dance company presents the world premiere of *Life is a Dream* at Sadler’s Wells in May 2018, before touring the UK and internationally to 2019. Choreographed by two-time **Olivier Award**-winner **Kim Brandstrup** in collaboration with legendary filmmakers the **Quay Brothers**, *Life is a Dream* is a two-act, modern reimagining of the 17th-century play by **Pedro Calderón de la Barca**.

The production is set in a run-down rehearsal room, where a director is drifting off to sleep. As images of the day’s rehearsals run through his mind, the play is revisited, recast and replayed, and fantastic images of worlds far beyond his room appear.

Life is a Dream features sets and projections by legendary filmmakers 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.

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’

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

Life is a Dream - www.rambert.org.uk/performances/life-is-a-dream

Choreography	Kim Brandstrup
Design	Quay Brothers
Music	Witold Lutosławski
Lighting design	Jean Kalman
Costumes	Holly Waddington
Dramaturg	Willem Bruls
Projection consultant	Jonathon Lyle
Sound design	Ian Dearden
Based on the play by	Pedro Calderón de la Barca

Music by Lutosławski featured in *Life is a Dream* includes the folk-inspired *Dance Preludes*, *Musique Funèbre* written in memory of Bartok, and *Chain II*, a thrilling violin concerto.

Act 2 is set to Lutosławski’s 4th Symphony, a piece often described as a summation of his life’s work. *Life is a Dream* also features a recording of *Nie oczekuję dziś nikogo* one of the 1950s pop songs by “Derwid”, Lutosławski’s pseudonym and post-war alter ego.

Performed by the **Rambert Orchestra**.

Performances

Sadler's Wells, London	22 - 26 May 2018
Preview performance	Tuesday 22 May, 7.30pm
Premiere	Wednesday 23 May, 7.30pm
Free pre-show talk	Thursday 24 May, 6.30pm
Sign language-interpreted show	Thursday 24 May, 7.30pm

Tickets £10 - £45

sadlerswells.com | 020 7863 8000

Bergen International Festival, Norway

Wed 6 Jun

fib.no/en | +47 55 21 06 30

UK Tour

Norwich Theatre Royal

Thu 27 – Fri 28 Sep

theatreroyalnorwich.co.uk | 01603 63 00 00

Venue Cymru, Llandudno

Mon 1 – Tue 2 Oct

venuecymru.co.uk | 01492 872 000

The Lowry, Salford

Wed 10 – Sat 13 Oct

thelowry.com | 0843 208 6000

Festival Theatre, Edinburgh

Thu 22 – Sat 24 Nov

edtheatres.com | 0131 529 6000

Theatre Royal Plymouth

Mon 26 – Sat 1 Nov

theatreroyal.com | 01752 267 222

Theatre Royal Glasgow

Thu 14 – Sat 16 Feb 2019

atgtickets.com | 0844 871 7647

Eden Court, Inverness

Thu 21 – Fri 22 Feb 2019

eden-court.co.uk | 01463 234 234

Curve Theatre, Leicester

Tue 26 – Thu 28 Feb 2019

curveonline.co.uk | 0116 242 3595

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 Stephen 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.

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 Ben Duke, Andonis Foniadakis, Aletta Collins, Lucy Guerin, Shobana Jeyasingh and Mark Baldwin, together with revivals of works by Christopher Bruce, Lucinda Childs, Merce Cunningham and Siobhan Davies.

www.rambert.org.uk

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