



## News Release

11 March 2020

### **V&A Performance Festival**

**25 April – 3 May 2020**

**#VAPerformanceFestival**

The V&A Performance Festival returns in 2020 exploring dance in all its forms – from traditional and classical styles to the contemporary and modern, celebrating both emerging talent and world-renowned practitioners.

Highlights of the annual festival include a holographic dance performance viewed through Magic Leap's cutting-edge spatial computing headsets; a voyage through the heritage of South Asian dance with a procession of dazzling Kathak dancers; a film exploring the iconic collaboration between Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova and renowned Indian dancer Uday Shankar; a 1920s themed social dance class led by Swing Patrol with live music from Mississippi Swing Three; a May Pole dance and May Day flower crown making workshop; an in conversation with Akram Khan and host of performances, calligraphy and movement workshops, talks and tours celebrating the V&A Collections through a dance lens.

Opening during the festival, the new display *On Point: Royal Academy of Dance at 100* will explore the 100-year history of the Royal Academy of Dance. Using costume, designs, film and a host of unique materials it will celebrate the joy of movement through the last century of dance and highlights the Royal Academy of Dance's contemporary programmes. The display features material from both the V&A and the Royal Academy of Dance's rich archives with highlights including a costume designed by Wilhelm for Adeline Genée in *La Danse* (1911), a harlequin sculpture by Alfred Gilbert (1942), illustrations by Fougasse of Ballet Exercise for Athletes (1950s) and shoes worn by Darcey Bussell at her farewell performance as a member of The Royal Ballet (2007).

The full programme can be found below.

### **About the V&A Performance Festival 2020**

Admission is FREE to most events, selected events are ticketed in advance. More information can be found here:

[vam.ac.uk/festival/2020/va-performance-festival-2020](http://vam.ac.uk/festival/2020/va-performance-festival-2020)

### **About the V&A's Theatre and Performance Collection**

The V&A is home to the UK's national collection of theatre and performing arts related materials, from theatre and ballet to opera, musicals and modern popular music. Founded in 1924 by Gabrielle Enthoven, the collection includes set models, designs, stage props, costumes, original posters, paintings and photographs, representing live performance in Britain over the last 350 years. The Museum has a permanent gallery for displays drawn from the collection and a space for temporary exhibitions. The V&A also houses the National Video Archive of

Performance (NVAP), which has recorded over 300 UK theatre performances since 1992, from classic plays and musicals to new-writing and physical theatre.

**For further PRESS information please contact the V&A press office on 0207 942 2502 or email [press.office@vam.ac.uk](mailto:press.office@vam.ac.uk) (not for publication).**

**High resolution press images can be downloaded from <http://pressimages.vam.ac.uk>**

## **THROUGHOUT**

### **On Point: Royal Academy of Dance at 100**

*10.00 – 17.45*

*Theatre and Performance, Room 103-104, Level 2*

**DISPLAY:** *On Point* explores the rich 100-year history of the Royal Academy of Dance. Using costume, designs, film and a host of unique materials the display celebrates the joy of movement through the last century of dance and highlights RAD's contemporary programmes. All visitors are encouraged to find their own dancing feet at the ballet barre too!

### **sonzai**

*10.00 – 17.45 (duration 10 minutes)*

*Tapestries, Gallery 94, Level 2*

**SPECIAL EVENT:** Experience the power of dance in mixed reality! Viewed through cutting-edge spatial computing headsets, a hologram appears and performs in the gallery. Be immersed in stunning interactive visuals and experience the very latest in immersive technology.

*Limited capacity, first come first served*

Director - Roland Lane

Performer and choreographer - Maéva Berthelot

Spatial Computing Headsets - Magic Leap

Volumetric Capture - Dimension

Interactive environmental VFX - Prodigious

### **Body Data**

*10.00 – 17.45 (duration 3.23 minutes)*

*Photography Centre, Level 2*

**SCREENING:** London-based dance artist Valerie Ebuwa creates a choreographed performance that confronts hypersexuality and explores a fresh perspective on the naked black female body.

### **Theatre and Performance Tour**

*14.00*

*Meeting Point, Grand Entrance*

**TOUR:** Take a guided tour of our exciting theatre and performance collections, including rock and pop posters, theatre and ballet costumes, puppets, stage sets and more.

## **SATURDAY 25 APRIL**

### **Pop-up Performance for Families: The Monkey and the Crab**

*11.00, 13.00, 15.00 (duration 30 minutes)*

*Level 0, Japan, Room 45*

**PERFORMANCE:** Experience this heart-warming tale, with a host of funny characters, performed with traditional Japanese (Kabuki) movement and storytelling.

Performed by You-Ri Yamanaka.

### **Akademi presents Pravaah**

*11.30 & 12.30 (duration 20 minutes)*

*Grand Entrance, Level 0*

**PERFORMANCE:** Join us for a voyage through the heritage of South Asian dance, as a procession of dazzling Kathak dancers flow through the museum. 'Pravaah', meaning flow, takes the audience on a journey through the intricate movements and impeccable rhythm of this classical Indian dance style.

*Generously supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund*

### **Drawing Performance**

12.00 – 15.00

*Design Studio, Sackler Centre for arts education, Level 0*

**WORKSHOP:** Draw and dance in this family-friendly, interactive workshop exploring the relationship between movement and mark-making.

### **Meeting of Cultures: Pop-Up Performances**

*13.30 & 14.30 (duration 20 minutes)*

*South Asia, Gallery 41, Level 0*

**PERFORMANCE:** A rare restaging of a piece originally choreographed and performed by renowned Indian dancer Uday Shankar in his 1948 film *Kalpana*, performed by former students of Trinity Laban.

*Generously supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund*

### **Meeting of Cultures: The Inspiring Story of Anna Pavlova and Uday Shankar**

15.00 – 16.30

*Hochhauser Auditorium, Sackler Centre for arts education, Level 1*

**SCREENING:** A film exploring the iconic collaboration between Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova and renowned Indian dancer Uday Shankar. Through a combination of rare film footage and original interviews, this film uncovers the cross-cultural influences between British and Indian contemporary dance. Followed by a panel discussion with contributors.

*Generously supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund*

## **SUNDAY 26 APRIL**

### **Move Beyond Words**

*10.00 – 17.45 (Performances at 11.30, 12.30, 13.30)*

*The Sackler Courtyard*

**PERFORMANCE:** This dance performance is an honest portrayal of an individual's journey with dyslexia. Moving beyond the confines of medical definitions, it unravels what truly lies inside a neurodiverse mind.

### **Drop-in Design for Families: Re-imagining Kimono**

*10.30 – 17.00*

*Lunchroom, Sackler Centre for arts education, Level 0*

**WORKSHOP:** Be inspired by the V&A Japanese collection and create your own personalised symbolic patch using upcycled textiles. Developed in collaboration with Kimono designer Milligan Beaumont.

### **Calligraphy and Dance**

*11.30 – 13.00*

*Design Studio, Sackler Centre for arts education, Level 0*

**WORKSHOP:** Led by master calligrapher Shoran Jiang and choreographer Si Rawlinson, discover the basics of the ancient art of calligraphy. Use giant calligraphy brushes to follow movement and explore the relationship between dance and calligraphy.

*Tickets £15/£12. Booking essential*

### **Discussing Dance and Dyslexia**

*14.30 – 15.30*

*Hochhauser Auditorium, Sackler Centre for arts education, Level 1*

**TALK:** Join choreographers and filmmakers Elizabeth Arifien, Charlotte Edmonds, as well as other sector leaders to explore the relationship between dance and dyslexia.

### **Red INK**

*15.30 – 16.15*

*Lydia and Manfred Gorvy Lecture Theatre, Level 3*

**PERFORMANCE:** Inspired in part from Chinese calligraphy, Red INK is an artful, pulse-quickenning, and at times darkly funny mix of hip hop, contemporary dance, and physical theatre.

## **MONDAY 27 APRIL**

### **Kunlun Cosmopolitanism: Foreign Dancers in China's Tang Dynasty (618-907)**

*Dance in the V&A Collections: A Series of Gallery Talks*

*15.00 – 15.20*

*Meeting point, Grand Entrance*

**TOUR:** Join Assistant Curator Ricarda Brosch for a talk exploring the international community of dancers, acrobats and entertainers in China's cosmopolitan Tang Dynasty (618-907).

## **TUESDAY 28 APRIL**

### **Objects in Focus: The Ballets Russes Collections**

*13.00 & 15.00 (duration one hour)*

*EXTERNAL EVENT: BLYTHE HOUSE*

**SPECIAL EVENT:** Join us for a close encounter with the V&A's Ballets Russes costumes and explore the world of the most exciting dance company of the 20th century and its influential artistic director Serge Diaghilev. The Ballets Russes' performances imaginatively combined dance, music and art to create 'total theatre' through collaborations with artists including Nijinsky, Stravinsky and Matisse. Led by Jane Pritchard, curator of *On Point: Royal Academy of Dance at 100*.

*Tickets £15/£12. Booking essential*

### **'Scarf Dance': Loïe Fuller and Ceramic Sculpture**

*Dance in the V&A Collections: A Series of Gallery Talks*

15.00 – 15.20

*Meeting point, Grand Entrance*

**TOUR:** Join Assistant Curator Rebecca Luffman for a talk exploring a table set of porcelain figurines inspired by the iconic Art Nouveau dancer, Loïe Fuller.

### **WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL**

#### **Lunchtime Lecture: A Pioneering *Pas de Quatre*: The Independent Work of Adeline Genée, Lydia Kyasht, Tamara Karsavina and Lydia Lopokova**

13.00 – 13.45

*Hochhauser Auditorium, Sackler Centre for arts education, Level 1*

**TALK:** Led by Dance Curator Jane Pritchard, this lecture focuses on four pioneering ballerinas, whose independent work is often overlooked.

#### **The Ancient Drama and the Modern Drama: How Classical Greek Art Inspired Nineteenth Century Theatre Design**

*Dance in the V&A Collections: A Series of Gallery Talks*

15.00 – 15.20

*Meeting point, Grand Entrance*

**TOUR:** Join Assistant Curator Sophie Johnson for a talk on how the arrival of the Parthenon Sculptures to London inspired John Flaxman's designs for the Covent Garden Theatre (now the Royal Opera House) in 1809.

### **THURSDAY 30 APRIL**

#### **Leaping into Modernism: Rodin's Portrayal of Vaslav Nijinsky**

*Dance in the V&A Collections: A Series of Gallery Talks*

15.00 – 15.20

*Meeting point, Grand Entrance*

**TOUR:** Join Assistant Curator Sabrina Villani for a talk exploring Rodin's fascination with the pioneering and scandalous dancer Vaslav Nijinsky.

### **FRIDAY 01 MAY**

#### **Friday Forum: Raising the Barre**

10.30 – 17.00

*Lydia and Manfred Gorvy Lecture Theatre, Level 3*

**TALK:** Raising the Barre is a day of talks that delves deeper into the changing world of dance teaching. Inspired by the Theatre & Performance display on the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) Centenary, the day will feature sessions on the teaching of the RAD, Enrico Cecchetti and Robert Cohan presented by key dance professionals and accompanied by live demonstrations. Please join us to discover the last 100 years of dance training and question what the future holds for the discipline.

*Tickets £22-£45. Booking essential*

*Includes a wine reception*

### **The Roaring Twenties: Headband Making Workshop**

18.00 – 21.00

*Arts Studio, Sackler Centre for arts education, Level 0*

**WORKSHOP:** Recreate the glamour of the Art Deco period with this stylish upcycled paper accessory making workshop. Join Christine Leech from the Sewyeah Social Club who will show you how to make decorative accessories in a classic 1920s colour palette. Create headpieces, earrings, brooches or bowties from old V&A posters!

### **Body Data: Artist Talk**

18.30 – 19.00

*Photography, Gallery 99*

**TALK:** Join artist Valerie Ebuwa as she discusses her work and brown bodies within institutions.

### **Akram Khan in Conversation**

18.30 – 20.15

*Lydia and Manfred Gorvy Lecture Theatre, Level 3*

**TALK:** Award-winning choreographer Akram Khan is known for his cross-cultural collaborations, often fusing the classical Indian style Kathak with contemporary, working with everyone from Antony Gormley and Kylie Minogue to the National Ballet of China. Join him for a discussion of his career, inspirations, and approach to creating new works, including his latest piece, *Creature*, his second full length ballet for English National Ballet opening in April.

*Tickets £15-£18. Booking essential*

*Includes a wine reception*

### **Wimbledon College of Arts – Living Costume**

19.00 – 21.00

*Throughout the Museum*

**PERFORMANCE:** Dancers from the Academy of Live and Recorded Arts (ALRA) pop up across the museum wearing costumes inspired by designs in the collection and designed by third year students at the Wimbledon College of Arts.

### **The Roaring Twenties: Celebrating the Royal Academy of Dance at 100**

19.30 – 21.30

*Gamble Room, V&A Café*

**SPECIAL EVENT:** Journey back to the 1920s and join a social dance class led by Swing Patrol with live music from Mississippi Swing Three. All, of course, while sipping on a prohibition cocktail!

*Limited capacity, first come first served*

## **SATURDAY 02 MAY**

### **Pop-up Performance for Families: The Grand Ball**

11.00, 13.00, 15.00 (duration 30 minutes)

*Level 0, John Madejski Garden in fine weather or Level 0, South Asia, Room 41 in wet weather*

**PERFORMANCE:** Come and celebrate at the Grand Ball. Follow the leader of the dance, find the ballerina and dance away at the party. Part of the celebrations for 100 years of Royal Academy of Dance.

**Demonstration: The Art of Pointe Shoes**

10.30 – 12.30

*Hochhauser Auditorium, Sackler Centre for arts education, Level 1*

**SPECIAL EVENT:** Join us for this special lecture and demonstration from Freed of London. Hear about the history of these iconic ballet shoes and witness the secrets of construction for yourself with a live making demonstration from one of Freed's experienced artisan shoemakers. If you would like to gain a deeper insight, why not sign up for our afternoon masterclass session?

*Tickets £20. Booking essential*

**Masterclass: The Art of Pointe Shoes**

14.00 – 16.30

*Arts Studio, Sackler Centre for arts education, Level 0*

**SPECIAL EVENT:** Get a deeper insight with this intimate masterclass from Freed of London. Following on from the morning demonstration, this masterclass will give you an up-close experience of the techniques involved in creating the perfect Pointe shoe. Artisan shoemakers from Freed of London will show you step by step how they construct a shoe from start to finish. Following the completion of the shoe, Helen Crawford, Ballet Mistress and former First Soloist of The Royal Ballet, will show you how she prepared her shoes to be 'performance ready'.

*Tickets £75. Booking essential*

**Maypole Dancing with the mAy Team**

11.30, 13.30, 15.30

*The John Madejski Garden, Level 0 (bottom of staircase G24 if rainy weather)*

**SPECIAL EVENT:** Celebrate the beginning of summer with the mAy Team! There will be demonstrations of traditional English dances, followed by the opportunity for young and old to join for a dance or two around the maypole.

**May Day Flower Crown Making Workshop**

12.00 – 16.00

*The John Madejski Garden, Level 0 (Design Studio, Sackler Centre for arts education, Level 0 if rainy weather)*

**WORKSHOP:** Get creative at this family-friendly workshop with Christine Leech from the Sewyeah Social Club. Make your own gorgeous paper flower crown from upcycled V&A posters and join the May Day festivities!

**Café Culture: Pianist in Residence from the Royal Academy of Dance**

14.00 – 17.00

*Gamble Room, V&A Café*

**PERFORMANCE:** Relax in the V&A's café with live musical accompaniment by a pianist from the Royal Academy of Dance.

**Guided Tour of *On Point: Royal Academy of Dance at 100***

16.00 – 17.00

*Meeting Point, Grand Entrance*

**TOUR:** Join for this curator-led tour which includes an introduction to Benesh notation and live ballet demonstration reflecting the heritage of the Royal Academy of Dance.

## **SUNDAY 03 MAY**

### **Drop-in Design: Design for the Future**

10.30 – 17.00

*The John Madejski Garden, Level 0 (Lunchroom, Sackler Centre for arts education, Level 0 if rain weather)*

**WORKSHOP:** Invent to save the planet! Follow the 'reduce, reuse, recycle' code and use screen printing to design a new Earth friendly packaging for what you eat.

### **Meet the Silver Swans**

12.00 & 14.00 (duration 15 minutes)

*Silver Galleries, Level 2*

**PERFORMANCE:** Watch and be inspired as a teacher delivers a class to the Silver Swans, ballet for over 55s. Silver Swans ballet classes by the Royal Academy of Dance are specially designed for older learners to help improve mobility, posture, co-ordination and energy levels.

### **Pop-up Performances: Celebrating the Royal Academy of Dance at 100**

12.00 & 14.00 (duration 15 minutes)

*Throughout the Museum*

**PERFORMANCE:** A series of pop-up performances throughout the museum showcasing different dance styles such as ballet, street dance and musical theatre.

### **Royal Academy of Dance Showcase: 100 years of Teaching the World to Dance**

13.00 & 15.00 (duration 50 minutes)

*Lydia and Manfred Gorvy Lecture Theatre, Level 3*

**PERFORMANCE:** Royal Academy of Dance students feature in this celebration of dance, including a presentation of the syllabus from past decades.

*Flooring supplied by Harlequin Floors*

### **Café Culture: Pianist in Residence from the Royal Academy of Dance**

14.00 – 17.00

*Gamble Room, V&A Café*

**PERFORMANCE:** Relax in the V&A's café with live musical accompaniment by a pianist from the Royal Academy of Dance.

### **Guided tour of On Point: Royal Academy of Dance at 100**

16.00 – 17.00

*Meeting Point, Grand Entrance*

**TOUR:** Join for this curator-led tour which includes an introduction to Benesh notation and live ballet demonstration reflecting the heritage of the Royal Academy of Dance.

Discover the full programme at [vam.ac.uk/festival/2020/va-performance-festival-2020](http://vam.ac.uk/festival/2020/va-performance-festival-2020)

KEEP IN TOUCH

Visit [vam.ac.uk/signup](http://vam.ac.uk/signup) and subscribe to our e-newsletter

#VAPerformanceFestival