

## Sadler's Wells announces 2016 UK Tour Dates for Carlos Acosta's *A Classical Farewell*

*"Charismatic Acosta is one of the very best dancers of his generation. He has only to stand still on stage and all eyes are drawn to him."* Evening Standard

Sadler's Wells presents world renowned dancer **Carlos Acosta's *A Classical Farewell***, at the Royal Concert Hall Nottingham (**Tuesday 3 & Wednesday 4 May**), Birmingham Hippodrome (**Friday 6 & Saturday 7 May**), part of the award-winning International Dance Festival Birmingham 2016, Mayflower Theatre, Southampton (**Tuesday 10 & Wednesday 11 May**) and The Lowry, Salford (**Friday 13 & Saturday 14 May**).

Following his performances at the London Coliseum from **Tuesday 8 – Saturday 13 December 2015** Carlos will take his popular format programme featuring a new selection of classical works across the UK in celebration of twenty-six years as a professional dancer on the international stage. This marks the last opportunity for regional audiences to see him dance classical ballet repertoire.

Sadler's Wells Artistic Director and Chief Executive Alistair Spalding said: *"Carlos Acosta's unique combination of warm stage presence and powerful technique have made him one of the most admired and loved dancers in the world. His Sadler's Wells debut in Tocaroro in 2003 was a sell-out success. Since then, we have presented many of his shows, both on our stage and at the London Coliseum. I am delighted to work with him again to tour A Classical Farewell, an evening of classical ballet and I hope the many performances scheduled around the UK will offer as many people as possible the opportunity to see him dance ballet repertoire one last time."*

Carlos Acosta has thrilled audiences throughout the world with his breathtaking performances. For *A Classical Farewell* Carlos has put together a programme with guest artists from Cuba, presenting some of his favourite pieces from the classical repertoire. The evening's programme is accompanied by the **Manchester Camerata** conducted by **Paul Murphy** at selected venues.

The performance includes a number of the most famous pas de deux from the classical and neo-classical canon. Extracts performed include **Kenneth MacMillan's *Winter Dreams***, **Michel Fokine's *Dying Swan***, **August Bournonville's *La Sylphide***, **Diana & Acteon** by **Agrippina Vaganova**.

Also part of the evening's programme are extracts from *Nisi Dominus* by **William Tuckett** and Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* featuring choreography by **Marius Petipa**.

Acosta trained at the National Ballet School of Cuba and won the Gold Medal at the Prix de Lausanne (1990). He was a principal with English National Ballet (1991–2), danced with National Ballet of Cuba under Alicia Alonso (1992–3) and was a principal with Houston Ballet under Ben Stevenson (1993–8). He joined The Royal Ballet in 1998 and became a Principal Guest Artist in 2003. Acosta has frequently appeared worldwide with companies including American Ballet Theatre, Paris Opera Ballet, Kirov, Bolshoi and Australian Ballet.

Acosta's past productions have played to sell-out audiences and have been lauded by critics and audiences alike. In 2007 he won an Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance for his performance in his 2006 programme, *Carlos Acosta with Guests from The Royal Ballet*.

He was awarded the CBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours List in 2014 for his services to ballet and is passionate about nurturing and inspiring the next generation of

dancers through the Carlos Acosta International Dance Foundation. The award marked the end of a remarkable year which had seen him stage a new production of *Don Quixote* at the Royal Opera House, release his debut novel *Pig's Foot*, which was subsequently named as one of the Waterstone's Eleven, an annual list of some of the most promising debut novels. This forthcoming season he also choreographs Chichester Festival Theatre's new production of *Guys and Dolls* which is due to transfer to the West End at the end of 2015. At the National Dance Awards 2015 Acosta was awarded the De Valois Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Full programme details to be announced.

**Co-produced by Sadler's Wells and Valid Productions**

**Presented in association with Como No**

**International Dance Festival Birmingham 2016 is co-produced by Birmingham Hippodrome**

**For further information or to arrange interviews please contact Jolene Dyke on 020 7863 8112 or [jolene.dyke@sadlerswells.com](mailto:jolene.dyke@sadlerswells.com)**

**Press images can be downloaded from <http://media.sadlerswells.com>, please contact the press office for login details.**

**Notes to editors**

**Listings information**

#### **2016 TOUR SCHEDULE**

**To book tickets and for further details please refer to the individual venue websites**

**Royal Concert Hall Nottingham**  
[www.trch.co.uk](http://www.trch.co.uk)

**Tuesday 3 & Wednesday 4 May**

**Birmingham Hippodrome**  
[www.birminghamhippodrome.com](http://www.birminghamhippodrome.com)

**Friday 6 & Saturday 7 May**

**Mayflower Theatre, Southampton**  
[www.mayflower.org.uk](http://www.mayflower.org.uk)

**Tuesday 10 & Wednesday 11 May**

**The Lowry, Salford**  
[www.thelowry.com](http://www.thelowry.com)

**Friday 13 & Saturday 14 May**

#### **ABOUT SADLER'S WELLS**

Sadler's Wells is a world-leading dance house, committed to producing, commissioning and presenting new works and to bringing the very best international and UK dance to London and worldwide audiences. Under the Artistic Directorship of Alistair Spalding, the theatre's acclaimed year-round programme spans dance of every kind, from contemporary to flamenco, Bollywood to ballet, salsa to street dance and tango to tap. Since 2005 it has helped to bring over 90 new dance works to the stage and its award-winning commissions and collaborative productions regularly tour internationally. Sadler's Wells supports 16 Associate Artists, three Resident Companies and an Associate Company and nurtures the next generation of talent through hosting the National Youth Dance Company, its Summer University programme, Wild Card initiative and its New Wave Associates.

Located in Islington, north London, the current theatre is the sixth to have stood on the site since it was first built by Richard Sadler in 1683. The venue has played an illustrious

role in the history of theatre ever since, with The Royal Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet and English National Opera all having started at Sadler's Wells.

Sadler's Wells is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation and currently receives approximately 10% of its revenue from Arts Council England.