10-30-2014

Great Britten

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Richard Alston Dance Company

Great Britten

Artistic Director Richard Alston
Executive Director Isabel Tanen
Rehearsal Director Martin Lawrence
Production Manager Paul Kimitas

Dancers: Ihsaan de Banya, Nicholas Boddy, Ely Braund, Jennifer Hayen, James Muller, Nancy Nerantzi, Liam Riddick, Oihana Vesga Bujan, Simon Donnellon, Phoebe Hart

Guest Artists
Heather J. Buchanan, Choral Director
Vincent Cari, Organ
Nicholas Phan, Tenor
Jason Ridgway, Piano
American Contemporary Music Ensemble
Montclair State University Vocal Accord

PROGRAM

American Premiere!

Rejoice in the Lamb

Unfinished Business Duet

Intermission

Agnès de Mille Fragments

Illuminations

Rejoice in the Lamb was commissioned by The Maltings Theatre, Cambridge, with production support from Peak Performances • Montclair State, New Jersey (USA).

Unfinished Business Duet was commissioned by Danceworks, New York.

Agnès de Mille Fragments was commissioned by the Barbican Centre, London, for the Barbican Britten celebrations.

Duration: 85 minutes, including one 15-minute intermission.

In consideration of both audience and performers, please turn off all electronic devices. The taking of photographs or videos and the use of recording equipment are not permitted. No food or drink is permitted in the theater.

The 2014/15 season is made possible in part by funds from:

The National Endowment for the Arts
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
The New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State,
Montclair State University Alumni Association
Montclair State University Office of Arts & Cultural Programming

Robert and Holly Gregory
Alison and James T. Cirenza
National Dance Project (NDP) of the New England Foundation for the Arts
Discover Jersey Arts
a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts

The 2014/15 season is made possible in part by funds from:

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State,
New York State Council on the Arts
Robert and Barbara Constable

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Montclair State University Alumni Association
George and Linda Hiltzik
Andrew Constable
National Endowment for the Arts
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Shering-Plough Research Institute
The Prudential Insurance Company of America

Audrey V. Leef
The Hillier Group
Bank of America

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Richard Alston (Artist Director) choreographed his first professional work in 1968, as one of the 12 students of the newly formed London Contemporary Dance School. In 1972, he formed the U.K.’s first independent dance group, Alastair. In 1976, Alston went to New York to do post graduate study at the Merce Cunningham Dance Studio. On his return two years later, he founded the Alston Dance Company in Europe and as an independent choreographer and teacher.

In 1980, Alston became resident choreographer with Ballet Rambert and later was appointed artistic director, a position he held from 1982 to 1984. In 1981, Alston formed the Alston Dance Company (ADC), which he created. Alston poured much of his energy into creating a new, bold and distinct company that would make a dance in her memory. This is it.

Richard Alston Dance Company started in the autumn of that year, and over the past 20 years Alston has made almost 40 dances for the company. Commissions from other companies have included (Shoreham for Ballet Theatre Munich (2006), Walk Through a Storm for Ballet Black (2008), and a version of Carmen for Scottish Ballet (2010)). In 2011, he made a full evening programme, Les Illuminations for New York Theatre Ballet and, in 2012, Zwei Song for the Holland Dance Festival. Alston recently made All Angels for Phoenix Dance Theatre, which made its premiere in February 2015 and has toured throughout the UK, light flashing through powdered snow. The company has also made a commission for Purbeck Hill, a commission for the Royal Ballet (1982) and the Royal Ballet School, and a commission for Scottish Ballet (2009).

In 2010, Alston was awarded an OBE, and in 2013 was made a Companion of the Order of the British Empire (CBE). The work of Alston Dance Company has been performed in 35 countries around the world. Alston Dance Company has been touring throughout the UK, and in 2015, they made their first tour to the US with a programme of Alston’s work, including Illuminations, Les Illuminations, and The Flying Dutchman. The company has also made a commission for the Royal Ballet (1982) and the Royal Ballet School, and a commission for Scottish Ballet (2009).

Alston’s work has been performed in many countries around the world, including the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. The company has also made a commission for Scottish Ballet (2009), and a commission for the Royal Ballet School, and a commission for Scottish Ballet (2009). The work of Alston Dance Company has been performed in 35 countries around the world. Alston Dance Company has been touring throughout the UK, and in 2015, they made their first tour to the US with a programme of Alston’s work, including Illuminations, Les Illuminations, and The Flying Dutchman. The company has also made a commission for the Royal Ballet (1982) and the Royal Ballet School, and a commission for Scottish Ballet (2009).