

Saffron Hall presents major dance events in 2019



Saffron Hall presents a series of major dance events for its 2019 spring season, continuing to grow a pioneering and outstanding programme at the heart of the community

Saffron Hall, the award-winning £10 million venue, showcases major dance events to include several striking new commissions and family events this year. The Hall, currently celebrating its **fifth birthday** this season, is establishing a strong home for dance in the region, attracting world-class performers and revolutionary productions. The calibre of dancers and productions coming to Saffron continue to uphold the Hall's incredibly high standards and work closely with Saffron Walden County High School and the local community to build lasting relationships between the residents and artists. These four exciting new productions follow successful performances of Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's 'Milonga' (who also choreographed Beyoncé's 2017 Grammy performance) and Alexander Whitley's '8 Minutes', as well as a variety of family dance events.

Barbican Associate and hip-hop company **Boy Blue** – whose performances have been described by the New York Times as “the force of an uprising” - presents its brand new **'Project R.E.B.E.L'** on **Friday 8 March 2019**, an energy-fuelled work with themes of revolution and liberty. The timely piece explores social tensions and cultural identity in 21st century Britain – a brave and stark reflection of our society that's sure to leave audiences moved. This piece also features a special appearance from Saffron Walden County High School students, continuing the Hall's key aim to be a trailblazing model of state school and community arts provision, and developing strong relationships between artists and the local community.

Scotland's national contemporary dance company **Scottish Dance Theatre** – known for its daring commissions and internationally-renowned choreographers - performs **RITUALIA** on **Saturday 1**

June, a reimagining of Igor Stravinsky's ballet *Les Noces*. Colette Sadler introduces themes of androgyny to this feminist cultural landmark, creating a thought-provoking visual feast. This piece is paired with a brand-new commission by world-renowned choreographer **Emanuel Gat**, which has been specially created for the dance company based off his intense work with individual dancers within the troupe. The piece will be making its world-premiere tour across the UK throughout 2019, and Saffron Hall will be one of the first venues to preview the work.

The following day on **2 June, Scottish Dance Theatre** – a founding member of RepNet (a European network of dance companies who promote innovation) - presents an enchanting family performance for ages 3+. **Innocence** creates a magical theatrical journey, designed to engage young children with the medium of dance through movement, live music and animal noises. This event resonates particularly with Saffron Hall's message of inclusivity within their community, bringing arts and culture to audiences of all ages.

The **National Youth Dance Company** – the UK's hugely inclusive flagship youth dance company - presents **MADHEAD** on **13 July 2019**, a piece specially-commissioned for the troupe that fuses contemporary dance, physical theatre and hip-hop. Created by its acclaimed Guest Artistic Director, Botis Seva, the work combines his unique choreographic style with the natural energy of these talented young dancers.

Angela Dixon, Chief Executive of Saffron Hall, said:

"Establishing a home for dance at Saffron Hall is incredibly important to us, as it's a hugely integral part of UK culture, which is something we constantly aim to offer our community to the highest standard, and I'm incredibly proud of the calibre of performers that the Hall attracts. The inclusion of dance in our varied programme ensures that Saffron Hall continues to act as the artistic hub of East England, creating an exceptional space to enrich the community and inspire the next generation of artists."

Booking for all these events is currently available on the [Saffron Hall website](#).

Friday 8 March 2019, 7:30pm

[Boy Blue: Project R.E.B.E.L](#)

Tickets £5-£20

Saturday 1 June 2019, 7:30pm

[Scottish Dance Theatre: RITUALIA & new Emanuel Gat commission](#)

Tickets £10-£25

Sunday 2 June, 11am & 2:30pm

[Scottish Dance theatre: Innocence](#)

Tickets £7

Saturday 13 July, 7:30pm

[National Youth Dance Company: MADHEAD](#)

Tickets £5-£20

-Ends-

**For further press information or images please contact Tessa Deterding at Premier:
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Notes to Editors

About Saffron Hall

Saffron Hall is an award-winning 740-seat performance space built in the grounds of Saffron Walden County High School, just minutes away from Saffron Walden's historic town centre.

The hall's critically acclaimed acoustic and state-of-the-art facilities surpass many of the world's more established venues and since the hall opened in November 2013, artists including the London Symphony Orchestra, Czech National Philharmonic Orchestra, Sir Antonio Pappano, Hugh Masekela, Marin Alsop, Nicola Benedetti, Sir András Schiff, Madeleine Peyroux and The Sixteen have performed on its stage.

Saffron Hall is a vibrant cultural centre for the region, offering outstanding artistic encounters in an expanding programme that weaves international artists together with local performance groups and learning & participation activities. The Hall's location within the County High allows it to be deeply involved in the life of the school, and to work closely both with its students and children from the surrounding schools.

Major visiting artists more than ever offer not just world-class performances but crucial opportunities for the people of the region to get involved in their work.

**To support the Hall: <https://saffronhall.com/support/>
Full listings and booking information: <https://saffronhall.com>**

Twitter: @SaffronHallSW