

Esplanade Presents

da:ns focus – Ballet by the Bay

24 – 28 Jun 2026

www.esplanade.com/dans



Photo Credit: Alex Chua

Dear friends from the media,

For the third edition of **da:ns focus – Ballet by the Bay** taking place from 24 – 28 Jun 2026, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay is delighted to welcome back one of the world’s most beloved and distinguished ballet companies, **The Royal Ballet**, to Singapore after 21 years. The company was last invited by the Singapore Arts Festival in 2005.

In 2021, as part of the *da:ns series*, we presented *The Royal Ballet on Film*, allowing audiences to stay connected to the global ballet stage during the pandemic. Since then, we have worked closely with the company to realise a live presentation. After several years of discussions and planning, we are thrilled to announce **The Royal Ballet Gala**.

The Royal Ballet Gala will mark the company’s first official gala performance in Singapore and will be specially curated for Singapore audiences by the company’s Director, **Kevin O’Hare**. The programme will feature more than 30 dancers, including many of the company’s principal artists such as **Marianela Nunez, Matthew Ball, Steven McRae, Melissa Hamilton, Fumi Kaneko, Vadim Muntagirov** and **Ryoichi Hirano**. Through *Ballet by the Bay*, Esplanade remains committed to presenting the world’s finest ballet companies and artists, allowing audiences to experience their artistry live, especially in a time when many of us encounter ballet primarily through short online videos.

The gala programme will feature excerpts from beloved classics such as *Swan Lake*, alongside neo-classical works by the company's past and present associated choreographers, including **Frederick Ashton**, **Kenneth MacMillan**, and **Wayne McGregor**. This specially curated selection will offer audiences an accessible introduction to the company's rich artistic heritage and technical brilliance.

Alongside the gala, we will also present **The Royal Ballet in Rehearsal**, a well-loved audience engagement programme at the company's home venue, the **Royal Opera House** in London. It provides a rare window into the creative process—from daily training to the intricate rehearsal work that shapes each performance. It embodies one of our key aspirations for the *Ballet by the Bay* weekend: to make the art form more accessible to a wider audience by revealing the artistry and process behind what unfolds on stage.

In addition, Esplanade is proud to continue collaborating with local ballet artists as part of our free programmes. This year, we are commissioning a new work by choreographer **Jeffrey Tan** and the **National Contemporary Ballet** for the second time. Known for his distinctive focus on contemporary ballet within the local community, Jeffrey's new piece will be performed at the DBS Foundation Outdoor Theatre at Esplanade, offering audiences the chance to experience a professional ballet performance in a space that is open to all.

At the Esplanade Concourse, we are delighted to bring back **Ballet 101**, our popular audience development programme that invites the public to discover the art of ballet through engaging presentations and excerpt performances of high artistry. This year's edition will be more interactive, featuring game elements that illustrate how choreography is created. The programme will once again be created and performed by **Etienne Ferrère**, former Principal Dancer of Singapore Ballet, together with collaborators **Rosa Park**, **Chihiro Uchida**, and **Kenya Nakamura**.

We warmly invite you to join us this June for *da:ns focus – Ballet by the Bay*. Whether you are a lifelong ballet lover or experiencing it live for the first time, we hope this weekend will inspire you not only through the beauty and artistry of this timeless form, but also through the rich diversity of perspectives our artists bring to the stage.

Izumi Asakawa

Producer

The Esplanade Co Ltd

Annexe

Esplanade Presents

da:ns focus – Ballet by the Bay

24 – 28 Jun 2026

www.esplanade.com/dans

The Royal Ballet Gala (UK)

Featuring Matthew Ball, Melissa Hamilton, Ryoichi Hirano, Fumi Kaneko, Steven McRae, Vadim Muntagirov, Marianela Nunez and many more

26 Jun 2026, Fri, 8pm

27 Jun 2026, Sat, 3pm & 8pm

28 Jun 2026, Sun, 3pm

Esplanade Theatre



Photo Credit: Bill Cooper

The wait is over! After 21 years since their last visit to Singapore, one of the world's greatest ballet companies, The Royal Ballet, returns in June 2026 with *The Royal Ballet Gala*.

This is not an ordinary ballet gala—specially produced and performed by The Royal Ballet itself, this gala's dazzling programme of classical and contemporary works showcases the full creative range of the Company's repertory, brought to life by the extraordinary virtuosity and artistry of its celebrated dancers.

Led by Director Kevin O'Hare, The Royal Ballet's illustrious reputation centres on its theatrical brilliance and versatility, embracing both tradition and innovation, which will be reflected in the gala's mix of 19th century classical ballet excerpts such as *Swan Lake* and works by the Company's associated choreographers past and present, including Frederick Ashton, Kenneth MacMillan, Wayne McGregor and Christopher Wheeldon.

This Gala will be especially curated for Singapore audiences and will include over 30 dancers from The Royal Ballet, including the following principals:

- Matthew Ball
- Melissa Hamilton
- Ryoichi Hirano
- Fumi Kaneko
- Steven McRae
- Vadim Muntagirov
- Marianela Nunez

Stay tuned for the programme and cast list, which will be announced in March 2026. Don't miss this opportunity to see The Royal Ballet live in Singapore!

The Royal Ballet Gala is presented as part of *da:ns focus – Ballet by the Bay*, a ballet lovers' weekend of classics and neo-classical works.

Note: All dancers are scheduled to perform in all four shows. Each show's programme is the same, however, dancers may be cast in different roles. Please note that programmes and casting are subject to change without prior notice due to illness or injury.

The Royal Ballet

The Royal Ballet is one of the great ballet companies of the world. Under the leadership of Director Kevin O'Hare, grand balletic tradition and an illustrious heritage are united with innovation, daring and exceptional standards of artistry, creativity and stagecraft to produce supreme theatre. It is a beacon in the cultural life of Britain and a driving force behind the development of ballet as an artform. From the Company's base at the Royal Opera House in London's Covent Garden, today's most dynamic and versatile dancers come together with a world-class orchestra and leading choreographers, composers, conductors, designers and creative teams to share an awe-inspiring theatrical experience with diverse audiences worldwide.

The Company's commitment to enriching people's lives through ballet is reflected in the deep relationships it forges through digital and learning platforms and international touring. The extensive repertory of The Royal Ballet follows a unique trajectory from 19th century classics to the singular legacy of works by Founder Choreographer Frederick Ashton and Principal Choreographer Kenneth MacMillan, and the compelling new canon of work by Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor and Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon. Along with innovative commissions and choreographic initiatives across the main stage and Linbury Theatre, and strong links with The Royal Ballet School, the Company continues to refresh and surprise.

Approximately 2hrs 15mins, including 20mins intermission
Admission age: 6 and above

\$80*, \$100*, \$140^, \$170^, \$200^

*Limited concessions for seniors, NSFs, students and PWDs: \$68, \$85

^Esplanade&Me Specials Early Bird (29 Jan – 10 Mar 2026)

Black: 20% savings

White: 15% savings

Discover: 15% savings (Min. of 2 tickets)

^Esplanade&Me Specials (From 11 Mar 2026)

Black: 15% savings

White: 10% savings

Discover: 10% savings (Min. of 2 tickets)

Applicable to Standard Cat 1, 2 & 3 tickets only.

da:ns focus Specials

Enjoy 15% savings when you purchase min. 4 tickets across the dance productions listed below.

- Fase, Four Movements to the Music of Steve Reich (Cat 1 only)
- The Royal Ballet Gala (Cat 1 & 2)

The Royal Ballet in Rehearsal

24 Jun 2026, Wed, 7.30pm
Esplanade Recital Studio



Photo Credit: Andrej Uspenski

The Royal Ballet in Rehearsal is a well-loved audience engagement programme at the company's home venue, the Royal Opera House in London.

As part of its tour to Singapore, this signature event is brought to local audiences, offering a rare insight into the artistic processes behind one of the world's leading ballet companies. This one-hour event features two dancers, Company Director Kevin O'Hare and a member of The Royal Ballet's artistic staff, rehearsing some of the works that will be presented in *The Royal Ballet Gala*, demonstrating how performances are shaped through daily training, detailed coaching and close artistic collaboration. The session also includes an in-conversation segment, moderated by a local ballet expert, with opportunities for audience members to ask questions.

Join the dancers and artistic team for this exclusive behind-the-scenes encounter and discover the dedication, discipline and artistry that bring The Royal Ballet's performances to life.

Be sure to catch *The Royal Ballet Gala*, which marks the company's return to Singapore after 21 years, as part of *da:ns focus – Ballet by the Bay*, a ballet lovers' weekend of classics and neo-classical works.

1hr, no intermission
Admission age: 6 and above

\$40

The Royal Ballet in Rehearsal Specials

Ticketholders to *The Royal Ballet Gala* can enjoy 25% savings to *The Royal Ballet in Rehearsal*. Limited capacity; discount available only as an add-on option when you purchase tickets to *The Royal Ballet Gala*.

Masterclass with Ryoichi Hirano from The Royal Ballet

28 Jun 2026, Sun, 10am
Esplanade Rehearsal Studio



Photo Credit: Bill Cooper

Experience the style and dynamism of The Royal Ballet through a special ballet masterclass with Principal dancer Ryoichi Hirano.

This class is recommended for male and female dancers aged 14 and above, with at least seven years of ballet training, or equivalent proficiency at RAD Advanced One level or higher. Pointe shoes are welcome, but not necessary.

Places are limited. Pre-registration is required to be considered for the class. Successful applicants will be contacted within 10 working days to purchase tickets. Please dress comfortably for the masterclass.

Be sure to catch *The Royal Ballet Gala*, which marks the company's return to Singapore after 21 years, as part of *da:ns focus – Ballet by the Bay*, a ballet lovers' weekend of classics and neo-classical works.

Ryoichi Hirano

Born in Osaka, Ryoichi Hirano trained at Setsuko Hirano Ballet School. He joined The Royal Ballet in 2002, having won the Prix de Lausanne Gold Medal in 2001, and was promoted to Principal in 2016. His repertory includes Albrecht, Florimund, Siegfried, King Leontes, Espada, Romeo, Prince Gremin, Jean de Brienne (*Raymonda Act III*), Crown

Prince Rudolf, Prince (*Prince of the Pagodas, The Nutcracker*), Solor, and roles in *Symphony in C, Corybantic Games, After the Rain, Elite Syncopations, Woolf Works, Song of the Earth, Two Pigeons, Gloria, Concerto, Chroma, Viscera, 'Emeralds' and 'Diamonds' (Jewels), Serenade, DGV: Danse à grande vitesse, Scènes de ballet, Cinderella, Aeternum, Within the Golden Hour, Multiverse and Medusa*. He created roles in *Infra, Obsidian Tear, Asphodel Meadows, The Dante Project* and *Boundless*.

1hr 30mins, no intermission
Admission age: 14 and above

\$60

Advisory:

- Pre-registration is required.
- Please dress comfortably for the masterclass.
- Latecomers will not be admitted once the masterclass has begun.