

NORTHERN BALLET ANNOUNCE CASTING FOR THE GREAT GATSBY AT
LONDON'S SADLER'S WELLS



- Principal cast and guest artists announced for *The Great Gatsby* at Sadler's Wells
 - Ryoichi Hirano, Principal of The Royal Ballet, will perform as Jay Gatsby for selected performances
- Former Northern Ballet Principal Soloist and current English National Ballet Dancer Minju Kang returns to perform as Daisy Buchanan for selected performances

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Northern Ballet has announced principal casting for their performances of David Nixon CBE's *The Great Gatsby* at London's Sadler's Wells from the 16-20 May.

Joining the Company in the role of Jay Gatsby for selected performances is Principal of The Royal Ballet, **Ryoichi Hirano**. Hirano joined The Royal Ballet as a Prix de Lausanne apprentice in 2001, developing through the ranks of the company to Principal in 2016. He has also performed as Guest Principal for Norwegian National Ballet and Scottish Ballet.

Hirano will be partnered with fellow guest artist, former Northern Ballet Principal Soloist **Minju Kang** in the role of Daisy Buchanan. Kang joined Northern Ballet in 2016 and played numerous lead roles during her time with the Company, becoming a favourite with audiences and critics alike before leaving to join English National Ballet earlier this year.

Hirano and Kang will dance together in the following performances:

Friday 19 May, 7.30pm

Saturday 20 May, 7.30pm

Also partnered as Gatsby and Daisy are Principal Soloist Joseph Taylor & First Soloist Dominique Larose and First Soloist Jonathan Hanks & Leading Soloist Sarah Chun.

Federico Bonelli, Northern Ballet's Artistic Director said:

'This May marks 10 years since David Nixon CBE's The Great Gatsby was first performed at Sadler's Wells and what better way to celebrate than welcoming these two incredible artists to the stage alongside our talented Company of dancers.

Ryoichi and Minju bring their own unique take on Jay and Daisy and I look forward to seeing them light up the theatre in these roles once again.'

Ryoichi Hirano said:

'I've hugely enjoyed working with the Company on this wonderful ballet and look forward to playing Jay Gatsby again in London this May.'

Minju Kang said:

'I was delighted to be asked to revisit The Great Gatsby alongside fellow Principal Guest Artist Ryoichi Hirano of the Royal Ballet. I am looking forward to sharing this experience with audiences at Sadler's Wells.'

Principal casting is available on northernballet.com where you can also find more information about Northern Ballet's dancers. Casting is subject to change.

In addition to touring The Great Gatsby, Beauty & the Beast and The Nutcracker to theatres across the UK this year, Northern Ballet have recently announced new Artistic Director Federico Bonelli's first curated season with the Company for 2023/24. This includes one world and one UK première as part of Generations: Three Short Ballets and the revival of one of its most acclaimed productions Romeo & Juliet. Read the full announcement [here](#).

-ENDS-

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Notes to editors

Production credits

Choreography, Direction, Scenario & Costume Design David Nixon CBE

Co-Direction & Scenario Patricia Doyle

Music Sir Richard Rodney Bennett CBE

Set Design Jérôme Kaplan

Lighting Design Tim Mitchell

Orchestrations John Longstaff & Gavin Sutherland

Music Advisor Anthony Meredith

Costume Design Assistant Julie Anderson

Northern Ballet

Northern Ballet is one of the UK's leading and widest touring ballet companies. Bold and innovative in its approach, Northern Ballet is prolific at creating new full-length work with a unique blend of strong classical technique and impressive storytelling. Northern Ballet's repertoire embraces popular culture and takes inspiration from literature, legend, opera and the classics, pushing the boundaries of what stories can be told through dance.

A champion for the cultural exports of the North, Leeds-based Northern Ballet is dedicated to bringing ballet to as many people and places as possible, under the leadership of Artistic Director Federico Bonelli. Northern Ballet's Company of dancers performs a combination of its full-length ballets and specially created ballets for children at more than 30 venues annually.

Audiences can also enjoy Northern Ballet's work on screen through their digital dance platform. Visit digitaldance.org to discover more.

Pictured: Ryoichi Hirano, photo Johan Persson and Minju Kang.

