

Friday 18 February 2022

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For Immediate Release

FIRST LOOK: Trailer released for Rambert's

Peaky Blinders: The Redemption of Thomas Shelby

Rambert today release the first look trailer for *Peaky Blinders: The Redemption of Thomas Shelby*, a dance theatre show written and adapted for the stage by Peaky Blinders' creator Steven Knight and directed and choreographed by Rambert's Artistic Director Benoit Swan Pouffer. The 60 second trailer gives audiences a taster of what's to come from Rambert's *Peaky Blinders: The Redemption of Thomas Shelby*.

The trailer can be downloaded here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/rtl0wt78s9267jy/AABky3ZaUCVX0WGvDePX5VUSa?dl=0>

Peaky Blinders: The Redemption of Thomas Shelby will have its World Premiere at co-producing partner venue Birmingham Hippodrome on 27 September, running until 2 October, followed by a London Premiere at Troubadour Wembley Park Theatre between 12 October - 6 November before embarking on a UK tour in 2023.

The 2023 UK tour will visit Norwich Theatre Royal (17-21 January), Alhambra Theatre, Bradford (25-28 January), Hull New Theatre (31 January-4 February), Mayflower Theatre, Southampton (7-11 February), Royal and Derngate, Northampton (21-25 February), Festival Theatre Edinburgh (28 February-4 March), The Lowry, Salford (14-18 March), Wales Millenium Centre, Cardiff (21-25 March) and Theatre Royal Plymouth (28 March-1 April).

Peaky Blinders: The Redemption of Thomas Shelby will feature the 20 permanent Rambert dance company on stage, and a live band playing specially commissioned music and is Rambert's first collaboration of this kind.

Through dance theatre *Peaky Blinders: The Redemption of Thomas Shelby* picks up the story of the Peaky Blinders at the end of World War One, following Tommy Shelby and Grace Burgess through their passionate love affair. While Tommy is building his



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empire, Grace is operating as an undercover agent for Special Branch on a mission to get close to the heart of Tommy's gang. As the story unfolds, many hearts are broken.

... You young men of the Tunnelling brigade, you are all dead. Not counted among the dead because your bodies were not buried with the dead. But dead inside...

Dazzling, athletic dance and stunning dramatisation with an iconic eclectic Peaky soundtrack from a live on-stage band.

Tommy and the Peaky Blinders fought together at Flanders and the show opens in the trenches. Bound by this experience, a very personal story unfolds as the Shelby family navigate the decisions that determine their fate and Tommy is intoxicated by the mysterious Grace.

"...an independent dance company, dedicated to bringing dance to the people."

Tommy Shelby, S4 Ep5

Peaky Blinders: The Redemption of Thomas Shelby, is a Rambert production in association with Birmingham Hippodrome, co-produced with The Lowry, inspired by the television series *Peaky Blinders* created by Steven Knight, in association with Caryn Mandabach Productions. *Peaky Blinders* TM © Caryn Mandabach Productions 2022. licensed by Caryn Mandabach Productions.

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For further information please contact the Media and Communications team on public.relations@theatroyal.com / 01752 230439

www.peakyblindersdance.com

BIOGRAPHIES

STEVEN KNIGHT CBE

Steven Knight CBE is the creator, writer and Executive Producer of the multi-award-winning BBC drama *Peaky Blinders* starring Cillian Murphy, Helen McCrory, and Paul Anderson. He has written extensively for TV, where his other credits include *Taboo*, *A Christmas Carol* and the upcoming *SAS Rogue Heroes* and *Great Expectations* for the BBC. He also created and wrote Season 1 of *SEE* for Apple TV+. and *Great*



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Expectations, which he is currently adapting, also for BBC. On film Knight's screenplays include *Spencer* (2021), *Locked Down* (2021), co-wrote *The Girl in The Spiders Web* (2018), *The November Criminals* (2017), *Allied* (2016), *Burnt* (2015), *Seventh Son* (2015), *Pawn Sacrifice* (2014), *The Hundred-Foot Journey* (2014), *Eastern Promises* (2007) *Amazing Grace* (2007), and his first screenplay *Dirty Pretty Things* (2002) for which he won the Edgar Award for Best Motion Picture Screenplay, the London Film Critics Circle award for British Screenwriter of the Year, and received an Oscar nomination for Best Original Screenplay. Knight has also directed and written three films, *Hummingbird* (2013), *Locke* (2013) and most recently *Serenity* (2019), in addition he has had four novels published; *The Movie House*, *Alphabet City*, *Out of the Blue*, and his first children's novel *The Last Words of Will Wolfkin*, and for stage he wrote *The President of the Empty Room*, which opened at the National Theatre in 2005, directed by Howard Davies.

BENOIT SWAN POUFFER

Benoit Swan Pouffer is the Artistic Director of Rambert and an internationally renowned dance artist and company leader. Born and trained in Paris, he moved to New York where he spent seven years as a principal dancer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. He went on to become the Artistic Director of Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, a post he held for 10 years. His tenure at the helm of the company was described by the New York Times as "a New York success story", gaining wide acclaim for introducing a new generation of international choreographers to US audiences, being the first there to commission work from artists including Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Alexander Ekman, Crystal Pite and Hofesh Shechter. As a choreographer Benoit has made dance for companies around the world including Ailey2 and Rambert's early career ensemble Rambert2, feature films, music videos, and Broadway shows. Recently, he directed *Note To Self* for Rambert, the last of a 2021 series of innovative livestreamed dance works performed, filmed and broadcast in real time on Rambert Home Studio to fans around the world. Alongside directing and choreographing *Peaky Blinders: The Redemption of Thomas Shelby* for Rambert in 2022, Benoit will also be the movement director for Max Webster's *Henry V* at the Donmar Warehouse. His ability to blend artistically stimulating content with commercially popular work has led to critical acclaim.

ABOUT RAMBERT

What if...

there was a dance company where brilliant and daring people could show up and be supported to push themselves to move the world forward.

Welcome to Rambert.

We believe that to give brilliant and daring people the chance to inspire others is to give them the power to change the world for the better. As one of the world's most diverse companies of dancers we transform everyday spaces by making dance that is awe-inspiring, adventurous, dynamic, and relevant, and taking it to our neighbourhood, the nation and the world. We want to hear the most exciting and radical ideas wherever they may come from and connect with brilliant and daring audiences and participants from all backgrounds. Through performances; dance and wellness classes and courses for people of all ages and abilities we want to ensure we are inspiring, engaging and relevant to everyone. Rambert's Chief Executive is Helen Shute and Benoit Swan Pouffer is Artistic Director. Rambert is a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England.

To learn more and find out how you can support Rambert visit: rambert.org.uk

For lots of online dance content, behind the scenes, online classes and podcasts visit our online home join for free Rambert Home Studio

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ABOUT BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME

As a proud, independent charity, Birmingham Hippodrome is on a mission to enrich the



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cultural life of the region. Our vision is clear; we are creating a world-class cultural scene for our region with Birmingham Hippodrome firmly centre stage.

Our wide-ranging and dynamic programme of theatre, musicals, dance, opera, festivals, education and community activities is funded through ticket sales from our 1,800-seat auditorium, 200-seat Patrick Studio, donations and generous support from local and national trusts and foundations.

We are the largest dance campus outside London, home to Birmingham Royal Ballet (led by Carlos Acosta), DanceXchange, Dance Consortium, OneDanceUK and The Space; recently developing a new partnership with Chaillot: Theatre National de la Danse (Paris) and being hailed as “a new capital for dance”.

Off stage, we further enhanced our reputation as the leading provider for Festivals, engaging over 150,000 people through performances and participation on our city’s streets through B-Side Hip Hop Festival, co-producing the city’s Chinese New Year celebrations, and a monthly cultural programme in Bullring Grand Central, Birmingham’s flagship retail centre. Our Hippodrome Education Network delivers creative activities in 28 partner schools every week - 19 of which are in the UK’s top 10% most deprived communities - with over 20,000 young people taking part over 100,000 times each year.

In August 2021, we reopened for live performance after 534 days of closure. As we look to the future, we are proud to place inclusion at the heart of all we do and were delighted to receive the West Midlands Tourism Award for Most Accessible and Inclusive Venue in 2020.

To learn more and find out how you can support Birmingham Hippodrome visit:
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About Caryn Mandabach Productions

Caryn Mandabach Productions is an independent television production company which produces and owns the BAFTA winning drama *Peaky Blinders*, on BBC and Netflix. In addition to the critically acclaimed series, the company's oversight includes all brand-related development and licensing of the eponymous *Peaky Blinders* brand. Founded by Emmy-winning US producer, Caryn Mandabach, whose prolific career includes the creation of iconic titles such as *Roseanne*, *Third Rock from the Sun*, *That 70s Show* and *Nurse Jackie*, the company continues to distinguish itself through development and production of ground-breaking, culturally relevant content that is consistently part of pop culture vernacular

Theatre Royal Plymouth (TRP) is a registered charity providing art, education and community engagement in Plymouth and across the region. It engages and inspires with the aim of touching lives. Theatre Royal Plymouth presents a year-round programme of world class productions on all scales as the South West's principal centre for performing arts.

Theatre Royal Plymouth works with partners to understand the challenges people face accessing the arts, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged people. It creates pathways that are genuinely accessible to those who might otherwise never get to engage with the arts. They collaborate to co-create and co-author work that represents the community, creating the space needed for people to tell their story in their own way.

Theatre Royal Plymouth is the UK's largest regional producing theatre. With a focus on embracing the vitality of new talent and supporting emerging and established artists. It collaborates with a range of partners to provide dynamic cultural leadership for the city of Plymouth.