

This is Richard Alston Dance Company's very first visit to Switzerland, at the same time celebrating its twenty fifth year. Alston is a mature artist still described as '*at the top of his game*' and his game has always been movement and music in close harmony. He presents his very latest dance ***Voices and Light Footsteps*** inspired by the master of the Baroque Claudio Monteverdi and two specially revived works ***Red Run*** (1998) to a dramatically atmospheric score by Heiner Goebbels and ***Isthmus Remix*** (2006) to the intricate and delicate sounds of Japanese Jo Kondo. Associate Choreographer Martin Lawrance brings his exhilarating company piece ***Detour***, to rapid-paced works by Michael Gordon and Akira Miyoshi. Edgy yet lyrical this mix shows the outstanding dancers of this company at their very best.

Repertoire

Voices and Light Footsteps – Richard Alston

Isthmus – Richard Alston

Red Run – Richard Alston

Detour – Martin Lawrance

Richard Alston Dance Company

Artistic Director – Sir Richard Alston CBE

Executive Director – Isabel Tamen

Associate Choreographer/Rehearsal Director – Martin Lawrance

Touring Administrator – Rebecca Staple

Production Manager – Kieran Enticknap

Lighting Designer – Zeynep Kepekli

Marketing & Media Manager- Georgette Purdey

Learning Manager - Katie Vernon- Smith

Program Credits:

Voices and Light Footsteps

Choreography- Richard Alston

Music – Claudio Monteverdi

Lighting – Martin Lawrance

Costumes – Peter Todd

Voices and Light Footsteps was first performed on 21 of March 2019 at Chrysler Hall, Norfolk Virginia and was commissioned by Virginia Arts Festival.

Isthmus

Choreography- Richard Alston

Music – Jo Kondo

Lighting – Zeynep Kepekli

Costumes – Peter Todd

Isthmus was first performed on 13 April 2012 at The Place, Robin Howard Dance Theatre for Bob's Bash, a birthday celebration for Bob Lockyer.

Interval

Red Run

Choreography- Richard Alston

Music – Heiner Goebbels

Lighting –Charles Balfour

Costumes – Jeffrey Rogador

Red Run was first performed on 28 January 1998 at Nottingham Playhouse. Red Run was commissioned for the 1998 Holland Dance Festival with support from the Hattori Foundation.

Detour

Choreography - Martin Lawrance

Music – Akira Miyoshi Ripple for Solo Marimba performed by Emiko Uchiyama

Michael Gordon from the album Timber Remixed performed by Mantra Percussion remixed by Jóhann Jóhannsson

Lighting – Zeynep Kepekli

Costumes – Jeffrey Rogador

Detour was first performed on 20 September 2018 at Festival Theatre Edinburgh. This production was supported by Festival Theatre Edinburgh.

Richard Alston Dance Company is supported by Arts Council England and The Place.

Biographies

Company History

Since its founding in 1994, Richard Alston Dance Company has become one of the United Kingdom's most avidly followed contemporary dance companies, performing the work of its artistic director Richard Alston and associate choreographer Martin Lawrance.

Music plays a vital part in the company's identity and since its inception Alston has used the work of a diverse range of composers including Brahms, Britten, Hoagy Carmichael, Chopin Heiner Goebbels, Scott Joplin, Astor Piazzolla, Jean-Philippe Rameau, Steve Reich, Terry Riley, Scarlatti, Shostakovich, Shukar Collective, Stravinsky and most recently Schumann.

In 2006 the company performed the closing piece of Sadler's Wells gala marking the retirement of Dance Umbrella's founding director artistic director, Val Bourne. In January 2007, the company was nominated for two South Bank Show awards. In October 2008, at Sadler's Wells, the company's 60/40 season celebrated Alston's 60th birthday and the 40th anniversary of his first piece of choreography. In 2011 Richard Alston Dance Company was nominated as Outstanding Company in the National Dance Awards, presented by the Critic's Circle. Following its critically acclaimed performances for the Barbican Britten celebrations in autumn 2013, Richard Alston's Phaedra was nominated for an Olivier Award for Best New Dance Production.

Barbican Britten: Phaedra received a 2014 Critics' Circle National Dance Award nomination for best modern choreography. In 2017 Alston's An Italian in Madrid was nominated for The South Bank Sky Arts Award for Dance.

Richard Alston Dance Company's high reputation on the British dance scene is now increasingly being matched overseas. In May 2004 the company made its US debut with a week-long season at New York's leading theatre for dance, the Joyce Theater. The company returned to the US in 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010 and 2011, giving its third, critically acclaimed and sold-out New York season in January 2010. The company

continues to perform regularly in the US, at the New York City Center (as part of Fall For Dance Festival) in 2011, 2013 and 2016, Peak Performances at Montclair State University, New Jersey in 2012 and 2014 and the Virginia Arts Festival in 2014 and 2016. The company returned to Peak Performances and the Virginia Arts Festival in the spring of 2017. Most recently the Company returned to Virginia Arts Festival in Spring 2019 and is looking forward to returning to Peak Performances in Montclair in Spring 2021.

Other overseas tours have included China, South East Asia, Holland, Greece and Russia where the company represented Britain at Moscow's first International Festival of Contemporary Dance. The company performed as part of the Schrittmacher Festival in Aachen, Germany in 2012, 2014 and 2016 and at Stadthalle Neuss in March 2017. In 2018 we toured to Open Stage Festival in Poland and DAP Festival in Italy.

Richard Alston (Artistic Director)

Richard Alston choreographed his first work in 1968, as one of the twelve students of the newly formed London Contemporary Dance School. On leaving in 1972, he formed the UK's first independent dance group Strider. In 1975 Alston went to New York to study at the Merce Cunningham Dance Studio. On his return two years later, he worked throughout the UK and Europe 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 1986 to 1992. In his time there he created 25 dances for the company and was also commissioned to create work for the Royal Danish Ballet (Kingdom of Pagodas 1982) and the Royal Ballet (Midsummer 1983).

In 1992 Alston was invited to create a full evening of his own work, including Boulez's *Le Marteau Sans Maître*, for the Ballet Atlantique in France. He made another full evening for London Contemporary Dance Theatre at the 1994 Aldeburgh Festival going on to form his own company when he became Artistic Director of The Place in 1994.

Richard Alston Dance Company started in the autumn of that year, and over the past 24 years Alston has made over 45 dances for the Company. Commissions from other companies have included *Sheer Bravado* for Ballet Theatre Munich (2006), *Walk Through a Storm* for Ballet Black

(2008), Carmen for Scottish Ballet (2009), A Rugged Flourish for New York Theatre Ballet (2011), Even Song for the Holland Dance Festival

(2012), All Aight for Phoenix Dance Theatre (2013), Light Flooding Into Darkened Rooms remounted on New York Theatre Ballet (2013), Such Longing remounted on New York Theatre Ballet (2015), Brisk Singing remounted on the students of the University of Michigan (2015) and Carmen on Miami City

Ballet (2015). Sheer Bravado was remounted on the students of The Juilliard School in March 2017.

He was made an Honorary Doctor of the Arts by the University of Kent (2015), an Honorary Doctor of the Arts by Kingston University (2016) and an Honorary Fellow of Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance (2017). Alston was made Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in France (1995) and received the CBE in the New Year Honours list (2001). Alston received the De Valois Award for Outstanding Achievement from the Critics' Circle National Dance Awards (2008). He was presented with the Award for Excellence in International Dance by the International Theatre Institute (2012).

Alston was Chair of Youth Dance England, a position he held from 2009 until March 2016 when he became U.Dance Champion. He is a Trustee of the Dance Professionals Fund. Alston was knighted in the 2019 New Year Honours list.

Martin Lawrance (Associate Choreographer/Rehearsal Director)

Martin was born in Leicester and began dancing with Leicester Youth Dance Theatre under the direction of Sue Rosenbloom. He trained at Coventry Centre for the Performing Arts and then at London Contemporary Dance School. He first worked with Richard Alston whilst performing with the postgraduate performance group 4D. He danced with Richard Alston Dance Company from 1995–2007 having over 25 works created on him, becoming Rehearsal Director in 2007.

In 2000, Martin was invited by Meltdown Festival director and composer Scott Walker to make Thimble Rigging to an original score. He has created five works for London Contemporary Dance School, and two works, Grey Allegro and Silken Steel, for the State School of Dance in Athens. In June 2003, Martin presented a full evening of his work at The Place, and in 2004 Charge was commissioned for The Place Prize. Grey

Allegro and Charge were subsequently taken into the Richard Alston Dance Company repertoire.

Creations for RADC: About Face, Brink, Stealing Poison, Body & Soul, To Dance and Skylark, Lie of the Land, Other Than I, Madcap, Burning, Stronghold, Tangent, Cut and Run and Detour. For Ballet Black: Pendulum, Captured and Limbo. For Scottish Ballet: Run For It (for Dance GB) and Dark Full Ride (for Edinburgh International Festival 2013). For Ballet Manila: Misfit or Maverick, Rebel, Amid Shadows and Aria. His new ballet The Winding Road is to be premiered March 2019.