



Press Release

Thursday 28 August 2025

The Royal Ballet open the 2025/26 Season with Christopher Wheeldon's *Like Water for Chocolate*

1 – 24 October 2025

- Laura Esquivel's captivating novel reimagined for The Royal Ballet
- Christopher Wheeldon's critically acclaimed ballet receives its first revival
- Featuring debuts from Royal Ballet Principals Anna Rose O'Sullivan, Mayara Magri and Joseph Sissens
- Tickets from £9, available at rbo.org.uk

The Royal Ballet open their 2025/26 Season with Christopher Wheeldon's *Like Water for Chocolate*. Passion, mystery and magic set the themes for this captivating family saga inspired by Laura Esquivel's modern Mexican classic. Returning for its first revival since premiering in 2022, this delectable ballet follows the central characters of Tita and Pedro and their unrequited love for one another. Emotion and desire run deep, spilling out through Tita's cooking to influence everyone around her in startling and dramatic ways.

Wheeldon's evocative choreography combines with Joby Talbot's score and Bob Crowley's designs to propel us into the passion and chaos of Tita's family ranch in Mexico. The ballet is the third in a series of collaborations between Wheeldon, Talbot, Crowley and lighting designer Natasha Katz – fruitful collaborations that also yielded Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and The Winter's Tale.

As part of the ballet's creation process, Wheeldon worked closely with author **Laura Esquivel** to reshape her richly layered story as an engrossing new ballet. Mexican conductor **Alondra de la Parra** also acted as musical consultant for Talbot's original score.

This Season sees Royal Ballet Principal dancers **Francesca Hayward** and **Marcelino Sambe** reprising the roles of Tita and Pedro. During the run, there will be debuts from Principal dancers **Anna Rose O'Sullivan** and **Mayara Magri** and First Artist **Ella Newton Severgnini** as Tita. Principal **Joseph Sissens** and Soloist **Francisco Serrano** make their debut as Pedro. **Calvin Richardson** makes his debut as Dr John Brown.

Christopher Wheeldon, Royal Ballet Artistic Associate is celebrated for his expressive choreography and theatricality. He has worked with the world's leading dance companies as well as directing the critically acclaimed stage version of the musical ***An American in Paris*** as well as directing and choreographing the Olivier Award winning ***MJ the Musical***.

Like Water for Chocolate is a co-production between The Royal Ballet and American Ballet Theatre.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Production images can be downloaded [HERE](#).

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The Royal Ballet

LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE

The Royal Opera House, London WC2E 9DD

1 – 24 October 2025

Tickets: £9 - £170

For more information, and to book, visit: [Like Water for Chocolate \(rbo.org.uk\)](https://rbo.org.uk)

Choreography **Christopher Wheeldon**

Scenario **Christopher Wheeldon** and **Joby Talbot**

Inspired by the book by **Laura Esquivel**

Music **Joby Talbot**

Orchestrations **Ben Fosskett**

Designer **Bob Crowley**

Lighting Designer **Natasha Katz**

Video Designer **Luke Halls**

Associate Costume Designer **Lynette Mauro**

Associate Set Designer **Jaimie Todd**

Conductor **Jonathan Lo**

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

Co-production between The Royal Ballet and American Ballet Theatre.

About The Royal Ballet

Under the directorship of Kevin O'Hare, The Royal Ballet unites tradition and innovation in world-class performances and is a driving force in the development of ballet as an art form. Based at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, it brings together today's most dynamic and versatile dancers with a world-class orchestra and leading choreographers, composers, conductors, directors and creative teams to share awe-inspiring theatrical experiences with diverse audiences worldwide. The Company's extensive repertory embraces 19th-century classics, the singular legacy of works by Founder Choreographer Frederick Ashton and Principal Choreographer Kenneth MacMillan, a compelling new canon of work by choreographers today including Resident Choreographer Wayne McGregor and Artistic Associate Christopher Wheeldon, and the bold and

complementary programming in the Linbury Theatre. Guest choreographers Kyle Abraham, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Cathy Marston, Arthur Pita, Crystal Pite, Hofesh Shechter, Pam Tanowitz, Mthuthuzeli November, Jessica Lang, Gemma Bond and Twyla Tharp have also created work for the Company.

About the Royal Ballet and Opera

The Royal Ballet and Opera is the home of world-class opera and ballet. We are a cultural powerhouse, bringing together two world-class performing companies in one of the UK's leading arts institutions, supported by a cast of more than 3,000 employees including technical staff, creatives, and freelancers. Based primarily at the Royal Opera House in the heart of London's Covent Garden, with production and logistics sites in Thurrock and Aberdare, our work is enjoyed by audiences in our two theatres and globally through our streaming platform, cinema Season and company tours. Our work in schools and communities up and down the country is driven by our curriculum linked programmes, specially designed to inspire creativity, widen access to the arts and diversify the future of opera and ballet. These sit alongside industry-leading talent development projects, regional partnerships, our Young RBO scheme, and a raft of daytime events, family activities, tours, exhibitions, and concerts in our Covent Garden home. We are committed to reducing our impact on the environment and aim to achieve net zero emissions by 2035.

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