



Press Release

Thursday 1 February 2024

Jette Parker Artists present a thrilling double bill - *Larmes de Couteau / Full Moon in March*

Friday 26 April – Saturday 4 May

Tickets from £8

In April, **Jette Parker Artists** and **The Royal Opera** present a double bill of **Bohuslav Martinů's** surreal ***Larmes de couteau***, written in 1928, along with **John Harbison's** rarely performed 1977 adaptation of **W.B. Yeats's** motif-laden play, ***Full Moon in March***. These short, punchy works make for a thrilling pairing for the **Linbury Theatre**, opening on **Friday 26 April**.

Exploring rituals of marriage and the occult, female isolation and madness, and the violent commodification and infantilization of women - *Larmes de couteau* is directed by **Eleanor Burke**, and *New Moon in March* directed by **Harriet Taylor**. The double bill is designed by **Anna Reid**, with lighting designs by **Bethany Gupwell**. Movement direction is by **Sarita Piotrowski**. The intimate cast for *Larmes* includes **Valentina Puskás** as Eleanora, alongside **Veena Akama-Makia** as the formidable La mère, and **Kamohelo Tsotetsi** as Satan. *Full Moon in March* sees the same cast take on the roles of First Attendant, The Queen, and Swineherd respectively, with **Jonah Halton** joining as Second Attendant. **Edward Reeve** conducts the **Britten Sinfonia**.

These works tell two independent stories, with mirroring messages – in Eleanor Burke's interpretation of *Larmes de couteau*, a wedding planner prepares her reluctant daughter for the

marriage market. *Full Moon in March* follows a swineherd's ultimately unsuccessful attempts to seduce a virgin queen.

Eleanor Burke, director of *Larmes de couteau*, said:

"I am delighted to be directing Martinů's *Larmes de couteau*, the UK premiere was directed by our Director of Opera, Oliver Mears in 2007. This black comedy draws heavily on the influence of Dada, Vaudeville and the Theatre of the Absurd and will take our audiences on a surreal, funny, and ultimately poignant journey that explores the marital expectations still imposed on women today."

Harriet Taylor, director of *Full Moon in March*, said:

"I love that the opera *Full Moon in March* is as well travelled and haunted as the Swineherd himself- it comes from the eccentric and esoteric world of WB Yeats and found new life through the modern and melodic mind of John Harbison, but now that the piece is in the hands of our fierce female-led creative team, I couldn't be more excited to give the Queen her chance to shine."

The Royal Opera aims to make its performances accessible to persons with disabilities. Selected performances of *Larmes de Couteau / Full Moon in March* will include British Sign Language interpretatio (2 May), and an Audio Described Performance with a relaxed environment (28 April).

Larmes de couteau / Full Moon in March runs from Friday 26 April – Saturday 4 May in the Linbury Theatre. Tickets are available on the Royal Opera House website from 25 January.

The Jette Parker Artists Programme is made possible thanks to the exceptional generosity of Oak Foundation.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Images can be downloaded [here](#).

PRESS CONTACT

Olivia Fahy: olivia.fahy@roh.org.uk | Press Assistant

The Royal Opera and Jette Parker Artists
LARMES DE COUTEAU / FULL MOON IN MARCH
Linbury Theatre
26 April – 4 May 2024

Guidance: Suitable for ages 12+. This performance contains themes of sexual violence and stylized depictions of suicide.

Tickets: £8 - £80

For more information, and to book, visit [Larmes de couteau / Full Moon in March \(roh.org.uk\)](https://roh.org.uk)

About The Royal Opera

The Royal Opera, under the artistic direction of Antonio Pappano, Music Director, and Oliver Mears, Director of Opera, is one of the world's leading opera companies. Based in the iconic Covent Garden theatre, it is renowned both for its outstanding performances of traditional opera and for commissioning new works by today's leading opera composers, such as George Benjamin, Kaija Saariaho, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Thomas Adès.

About the Jette Parker Artists Programme

The Jette Parker Artists Programme supports the artistic development of young singers, conductors, directors and répétiteurs. The Artists are an international group of outstanding professionals at the start of their careers. They are salaried employees of the Royal Opera House, and most are on full-time, two-year contracts. The Artists work on productions for The Royal Opera and Royal Ballet, singing small roles and covering larger roles, or joining the music or directing staff for productions. They are taught and mentored by Royal Opera and Royal Ballet music staff, a wide range of freelance music and language coaches, and visiting singers, directors and conductors. Every facility of the Company is made available to them so that their talents are nurtured through total immersion in the life of the Royal Opera House. The Jette Parker Artists Programme is made possible thanks to the exceptional generosity of Oak Foundation, who have supported the Programme since 2005. In 2017, they extended their support for their Programme and enabled new initiatives to diversify the range of artists supported by the Programme. This included the development of women's conducting courses and the JPAP Link Artist Programme,

which extended coaching opportunities to individuals with exceptional potential from backgrounds underrepresented in the Royal Opera House talent pool.

About the Royal Opera House

Home to The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, the Royal Opera House brings together world-class performers and trailblazing creative teams to share unforgettable performances with audiences near and far. Our theatres are in London's Covent Garden, but our work is accessed and experienced across the UK and globally through our streams, tours, cinema programme, radio broadcasts and TV output. Over the course of the pandemic, we curated the #OurHouseToYourHouse programme - nine live-streamed concerts and 38 productions from our archives. Content was viewed over 15 million times in 183 countries, and broadcast in partnership with the BBC, Sky Arts, Marquee TV and Netflix. During the pandemic we lost £3 in every £5 of our income and we continue to feel the financial impact as we slowly recover. In September 2021, we returned for our first full Season since 2019, presenting a packed programme of world premieres, landmark new productions and returning favourites. Since then, we have expanded our audience through a flagship Young ROH scheme, returned to live cinema, launched Royal Opera House Stream, and extended our national impact through an ambitious curriculum-linked programme for schools, specially designed to ignite creativity, broaden participation and diversify the future of opera and ballet. We are committed to reducing our impact on the environment, and aim to achieve net zero emissions by 2035.