

Society for the Performing Arts
Presents
Richard Alston Dance Company

Friday, October 16 at 8 p.m.
Wortham Center's Cullen Theater

The Program

Blow Over

Choreography	Richard Alston
Music	Philip Glass "Changing Opinion," "Lightning" and "Open The Kingdom from <i>Songs from Liquid Days</i>
Lighting	Charles Balfour
Costumes	Peter Todd

Philip Glass's *Songs from Liquid Days* celebrates the immediacy of the pop singing voice and the elusive lyrics by songwriters Suzanne Vega, Paul Simon and David Byrne. The *Songs* have an almost ritual, theatrical power; the instrumental layers building relentlessly – it is overwhelming music with a mesmerizing power, grandiose brass, fluttering woodwind, and, under it all, a percussive beat worthy of Studio 54!

Movements From Petrushka

Choreography	Richard Alston
Music	Igor Stravinsky, <i>Trois Mouvements de Petrouchka</i>
Lighting	Charles Balfour
Costumes	Liz Reed (after Alexandre Benois)

The choreography for *Movements From Petrushka* takes as its central idea that the suffering of the puppet Petrushka is extraordinarily prescient of the tragic mental collapse which overwhelmed the brilliant dancer Vaslav Nijinsky. Nijinsky created the role of Petrushka in the original ballet.

To Dance and Skylark

Choreography	Martin Lawrance
Music	Johann Sebastian Bach, <i>Brandenburg Concertos Nos. 2 & 3</i>
Lighting	Charles Balfour
Costumes	Rebecca Hayes

When Bach arrived at the court of Gothen he found, for the first time, a sizeable group of outstanding musicians he could write for, and the sheer enjoyment of this is nowhere more evident than in his six Brandenburg concertos, which is why they are still so universally popular. Each was written for a different group of instruments; No. 3 for violas, and No. 2 for its glorious trumpet. The fast movements of these concertos race onward and in *Skylark* the steps chase after, rapidly catching up with the complexities of rhythm. – M.L.

Dancers

Anneli Binder
Andres De Blust-Mommaerts
Charlotte Eatock
Darren Ellis

Nathan Goodman
 Hannah Kidd
 Wayne Parsons
 Sonja Peedo
 Pierre Tappon
 Genevieve Watson
 Lewis Wilkins

RICHARD ALSTON, Artistic Director

Richard Alston choreographed his first work in 1968 as one of the original students at the London School of Contemporary Dance. He went on to choreograph for London Contemporary Dance Theatre before forming the country's first independent dance company, Strider, in 1972. In 1975 he left for New York to study at the Merce Cunningham Dance Studio, and upon his return two years later he worked throughout the UK and Europe as an independent choreographer and teacher.

In 1980, he was appointed Resident Choreographer with Ballet Rambert, becoming the company's Artistic Director from 1986-92. While there, he created 25 works for Rambert and was commissioned to create works for the Royal Danish Ballet and the Royal Ballet.

In 1992, Alston was invited to create a full evening of his own work for the Ballet Atlantique based in La Rochelle, France. He choreographed another full evening for London Contemporary Dance Theatre at the 1994 Aldeburgh Festival, and then decided it was time to form his own company. He took up the post of Artistic Director of The Place, and the Richard Alston Dance Company was launched in November of that year. Over the past decade, Alston has made more than 30 pieces for his company.

Alston was made an honorary Doctor of Philosophy (in Dance) at Surrey University in 1992, and in 2003 he received an honorary M.A. from University College Chichester. In 1995 he was named Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in recognition of his work in France, and in 2001 he was made a Commander of the British Empire in the New Year Honours list. In 2009 he was appointed Chair of Youth Dance England.

MARTIN LAWRENCE, Rehearsal Director & Choreographer

Martin Lawrence 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 from 1989-91 and at London Contemporary Dance School from 1991-1994. He performed with the postgraduate performance group 4D where he first worked with Richard Alston. Martin has restaged 10 of Richard Alston's choreographies, in Britain and overseas. In 2000, Martin was invited by the Meltdown Festival on the South Bank to create *Thimble Rigging* to an original score by Scott Walker. He has created three works for London Contemporary Dance School, and two works for the State School of Dance in Athens, where he created *Grey Allegro* and *Silken Steel*. 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 (RADC) repertoire. More recently, for RADC, he created *About Face*, *Brink*, *Body & Soul*, and *To Dance and Skylark*. In November 2007, Martin retired from dancing and is now RADC's Rehearsal Director.

Dancers

ANNELI BINDER started dancing in Germany where she was born. She trained at the Rambert School of Ballet and London Contemporary Dance School. Anneli worked with Mark Baldwin, then a guest choreographer at Rambert, for his piece *Time*. After she graduated in 2004 she danced for Tanztheater Freiburg-Heidelberg, in Artistic Director Irina Pauls' *Carmina Burana*. Anneli joined Richard Alston Dance Company in August 2005. In 2006 Anneli worked for the Yorke Dance Project.

ANDRES DE BLUST MOMMAERTS was born in Bogota, Colombia. At the age of 12 he entered the Royal Ballet School of Antwerp, Belgium where he trained in a wide range of dance techniques. During this period he worked with invited choreographers such as Tamara Rosso, Ann Van den Broek, and Toru Shimazaki, whose *Patchwork* he performed in Japan. After finishing his education, he was selected for the Ecole-Atelier Rudra Bejart in Lausanne, Switzerland. It gave him the opportunity to work with various international artists and to dance with the Bejart Ballet Lausanne during part of its European tour. He joined Richard Alston Dance Company in August 2008.

CHARLOTTE EATOCK graduated from London Studio Centre with a B.A. Honours. She worked with Henri Oguike Dance Company from 2003-06, and in 2007 was part of *Peter and the Wolf* choreographed by Didi Veldman. Charlotte choreographed and performed in the Beta Bands music video "Human Being." She has choreographed for National Youth Dance Wales, Newbury Youth, and London Studio Centre, along with smaller projects of her own. In 2006 she was commissioned to create a piece for The National Youth Festival in association with the National Gallery. She created *Secret Event* for Resolution 2008, and *Slaughter* for Resolution 2004. Charlotte was also short listed for the prestigious Place Prize 2008.

DARREN ELLIS trained at Rambert Dance School (1987-90), at the Laban Centre and Transitions Dance Company (1990-91). He has danced with David Massingham Dance, Janet Smith and Dancers, PAGE Dance Theatre (Freiberg, Germany), Mark Bruce Dance Company, Small Bones Dance Company, Jeremy Hames Dance Company, Matthew Bourne (*Swan Lake* original cast, *Cinderella*, *Nutcracker*, and *Play Without Words*), Random Dance Company, and Snag Project (Jo Fong & Sarah Warsop). Darren has been teaching at Rambert Dance School since 2003 and joined Richard Alston Dance Company in August 2005. In 2007, he became a dancer with the company. Darren began choreographing in 2007 and has made two pieces for his own company, *Romeo Error* and *Good To Go*, and two pieces for RADC, *Tempt My Better Angel* and *No More Ghosts*.

NATHAN GOODMAN was born in London and trained at the BRIT School for Performing Arts & Technology in Croydon from July of 2002 through 2006, completing his BTEC National Diploma in Dance as well as Dance A Level. He continued his training at London Contemporary Dance School (LCDS). During his time at LCDS he worked with Raymond Chai, Jeannie Steel, Laurent Cavanna, and Sasha Roubieck. Nathan has studied works by Richard Alston, Jan de Schynkel, Merce Cunningham, and Siobhan Davies, including numerous performances at the Robin Howard Dance Theatre. In May 2008 Nathan performed in *Breaking Convention* at Sadler's Wells with *Plague* (UK).

HANNAH KIDD was born in Oxfordshire, England, and began her training at Elmhurst School for Dance in association with Birmingham Royal Ballet. From Elmhurst she went on to continue her training at London Contemporary Dance School (LCDS) where she completed a B.A. Honours degree. While at LCDS, she worked with Hofesh Shechter and Jeannie Steele (formerly of Merce Cunningham Dance Company). In her final year at LCDS, she performed in the third year touring company, LC3, which included in its repertoire works by Richard Alston, Tom Dal, and Jan De Schynkel. She joined Richard Alston Dance Company as an apprentice in 2007, becoming a full company member in 2008.

WAYNE PARSONS was born in St Albans, Hertfordshire, and received his training at London Contemporary Dance School. Wayne has danced with Diversions Dance Company, Small Petiklein, and National Youth Dance Company. During his career he has performed works by choreographers including Stephen Petronio, Itzik Galili, Stephen Shropshire, Stijn Celin, Mark Baldwin, Henri Oguike, and Jonathan Lunn, and has taught for companies such as Diversions, DV8 Physical Theatre, and Independent Ballet Wales. He has choreographed for Diversions's Alternative Routes season. Wayne has been awarded Scholarships from the Lisa Ullmann Travelling Scholarship Fund and the Arts Council of Wales. Wayne was an apprentice dancer with Richard Alston Dance Company in 2002 and joined as a full-time company member in August 2008.

SONJA PEEDO was born in Australia. From 1984 – 87 she worked with Queensland Ballet Company before re-training in contemporary style at Queensland University of Technology. On graduation she worked in Queensland with Expressions for five years. Sonja came to England in 1994 and worked in independent projects with Bunty Matthias, Catherine Seymour, Vanessa Grey, Emily Burns, Colin Poole, Mark Baldwin, and Ricochet. In 1995 she joined Jeremy James and Company where she worked until James's death in 2001. She also worked with Paul Douglas in Small Bones Dance Company and was a founder member of the Snag Project with choreographers Sarah Warsop and Joanne Fong. Her commercial projects include work with the Pet Shop Boys and Kylie Minogue. Sonja joined Richard Alston Dance Company in autumn 2002. She has three children: Amy, Torrin, and Grace.

PIERRE TAPPON was born in Angouleme, France. He began his dance training at the Patricia Vaysse School of Dance, moving in 2002 to Bordeaux to join the Junior Ballet D'Agitaine under the direction of Daniel Agesilas. In 2005-06 Pierre completed his training at the London Contemporary Dance School (LCDS), working with Jan de Schynkel and Richard Alston in recreations of *Strong Language* and *Gypsy Mixture*. He has also choreographed a Franco-Italian duet *Under the Sign* for the LCDS graduation performances. Pierre served a one-year apprenticeship with the RADC, before joining as a full-time dancer in summer 2007

GENEVIEVE WATSON was born in Buckinghamshire, England, and trained at The Royal Academy of Dance, Battersea, followed by The Arts Educational School, Tring Park. She then went onto complete a B.A. Honours Degree at London Contemporary Dance School. In 2008, Genevieve worked with Fish In A Bowl Dance Company as part of ArTELIER and worked with Frauke Requardt for the Back to Front Gala at Sadler's Wells Gala in 2007.