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Wednesday 23 June 2021

## **Royal Opera House and Covent Garden partner for festival of creativity: *ROH Unlocked***

Today the Royal Opera House and Covent Garden unveil *ROH Unlocked*, a month-long cultural programme with a packed schedule of free pop-up performances, live music and workshops, as well as a chance to see some truly magnificent costume and pointe shoe displays across Covent Garden, as the estate transforms into a festival of dancing, singing and creativity.

*ROH Unlocked* will run for a month from **10 July** and will be free to everyone to give families and visitors the chance to immerse themselves in the worlds of opera and ballet, showcasing the best the Royal Opera House has to offer and cementing Covent Garden as London's cultural hotspot for the summer.

The festival will kick off on **Saturday 10th** and **Sunday 11th July**, with free open-air performances staged at the ROH Summer Stage on the Piazza, nestled between the North and East side of Covent Garden's historic Market Building. Visitors will be able to enjoy live performances from The **Royal Opera Chorus**, world-renowned soprano **Anush Hovhannisyan**, singing workshops led by multi-talented musician **Agas Serugo-Lugo**, as well as participatory dance workshops based on The Royal Ballet's much-loved *Romeo and Juliet*. Families and visitors will be invited to participate in ballet barre classes.

On Sunday 11, **ZooNation Youth Company** will give a high-energy performance and co-lead a workshop based on The Royal Ballet's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* giving audiences the chance to immerse themselves in both ballet and hip hop dance styles.

Visitors will also be invited to visit The ROH Story Shop, in partnership with **Little Bulb** theatre company, which will provide families with a twenty-minute immersive theatrical experience where you can enter

the world of folklore and fairytales with Little Bulb as your guides. Visitors can listen to terrifically tall tales and swashbuckling short stories set to original music and prepare for mischief and magic along the way.

As part of the programme the Royal Opera House and Covent Garden will also launch *The Theatrical Trail of Covent Garden*, a self-guided adventure through Covent Garden's Market Building and its historical streets to discover a series of windows which have been taken over by the Royal Opera House's creative team. Bringing the iconic institution out onto the historical Covent Garden cobbles, everyone will be able to discover the history of one of London's most famous neighbourhoods and the world's best-known theatres, with highlights from Royal Opera and Royal Ballet.

The highlight of the trail sees a spectacular Pointe Shoe Window installation located at & Royal Opera House Arcade, showcasing the talents of some of the world's finest designers. The installation will display pointe shoes re-imagined by ROKSANDA, ERDEM, Simone Rocha, Rejina Pyo, Halpern, and Liberty, in partnership with the Royal Opera House. Those visiting this spectacular installation will also have the chance to enter the pointe shoe ballot, with a chance to win one of the designer shoes, plus two tickets to an ROH performance, dinner for two at the Piazza Restaurant and a private tour of the Royal Opera House, by scanning the display's QR code on their smartphones. The display will remain in place until 10 August, and ballot competition will remain in place until 31 August, with all proceeds benefiting the Royal Opera House Recovery Campaign.

ROH Unlocked is just one part of the Royal Opera House's dedicated Learning and Participation programme, which has impact across the entire country: from curriculum-linked national school programmes Create and Sing, Create and Dance and Design and Make; a suite of activities for families and individuals in the beautiful spaces of our Covent Garden home, as well as a number of special events and performances to thank the NHS after the incredible work it has done over the course of the pandemic.

All ROH Unlocked activities have been carefully planned in line with government guidance.

**Jillian Barker, Director of Learning and Participation at the Royal Opera House, said:**

"As the Royal Opera House resumes performances, we are delighted to unveil this unique and joyful celebration of ballet and opera, as well as of our historic and iconic location at the heart of the Covent Garden Piazza. With so many of us confined to our homes during the lockdown, it is fantastic to invite

visitors to experience the best of ballet and opera, and to experience the beautiful and iconic Covent Garden location, in a COVID-secure way.”

**Catherine Riccomini, Director of Marketing and Communications, Capco Covent Garden said:**

“Covent Garden and the Royal Opera House have a rich history of collaboration and are proud to partner for ROH Unlocked. Covent Garden, central London's home of culture, will become the stage of this new production, where the iconic institution will spill out across the estate to showcase the best of ballet and opera. This is part of Covent Garden's summer programme offering visitors the chance to experience world-class culture for free, in the heart of the West End, alongside innovative dining and shopping experiences.”

Generously supported by the Mohn Westlake Foundation

- Capco Covent Garden – Presenting Partner

**ENDS**

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## **IMAGES**

Please find images [here](#).

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## **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, the 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.

### **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, Harrison Birtwistle, Mark- Anthony Turnage and Thomas Adès.

### **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 the world's most extraordinary artists in live, streamed and broadcast events and performances that thrill, move and excite; that transport people to other worlds. Our theatres are in London's Covent Garden but our work is accessed and experienced across the UK and globally through touring partnerships, cinema programmes, free outdoor screenings, radio, TV and live-streaming.

Since closing our doors due to the global pandemic in March 2020, the Royal Opera House continued to bring together the world's most extraordinary artists and curated the #OurHouseToYourHouse programme, made up of nine live concerts (six for opera, two for ballet and two galas), 38 streamed productions and a suite of online content that has been viewed over 15 million times in 183 countries, together with a suite of cultural highlights in partnership with the BBC, Sky Arts and Netflix and a host of online home learning opportunities wherever you are in the country.

We are hugely excited to welcome people back to our theatres as soon as possible, showcasing the very best of our art forms and bringing the joy of live performance back to our audiences. We would like to thank everyone who continues to support our creative community as we get closer to re-opening our doors once again.

### **Royal Opera House Recovery Campaign**

Live performance is a shared experience, and our audiences are at the heart of what we do on our stages, backstage, online, in cinemas and in our communities. The global pandemic has affected all arts organisations across the world. We have lost £3 in every £5 of our income, and our loan from Government takes us only part of the way. We need your help with our Recovery Campaign to bring our artists back to our stages. [roh.org.uk/donate](http://roh.org.uk/donate)

### **About Capco Covent Garden:**

Covent Garden is a leading retail and dining destination and is one of the most vibrant estates in the heart of central London. The area is now home to a wide variety of British, global and independent brands including Chanel, Tom Ford, Ganni, Vashi, Balthazar and SUSHISAMBA, with upcoming openings from Arc'tyrex, Strathberry and The Big Mamma Group. [www.coventgarden.london](http://www.coventgarden.london)

## **About Capital & Counties Properties PLC (“Capco”)**

Capital & Counties Properties PLC is one of the largest listed property investment companies in central London and is a constituent of the FTSE-250 Index. Capco's landmark estate at Covent Garden was valued at £1.8 billion (as at 31 December 2020) where its ownership comprises over 1.1 million square feet of lettable space. As at the date hereof, Capco owns a 25.2 per cent shareholding in Shaftesbury PLC. Capco shares are listed on the London Stock Exchange and the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

[www.capitalandcounties.com](http://www.capitalandcounties.com)