

## **Aarhus 2017 presents spectacular ballet in 2017**

***In collaboration with Manchester International Festival, Aarhus 2017 can present a contemporary ballet inspired by the book 'Tree of Codes' by American author Jonathan Safran Foer. Soloists and dancers from The Paris Opera Ballet alongside Company Wayne McGregor will form the company, who will perform in an environment created by renowned visual artist Olafur Eliasson to a score composed by Jamie xx. The contemporary ballet will be performed in the Concert Hall in Aarhus during the Capital of Culture year in 2017.***

What happens when the oldest national ballet company in the world meets one of the leading modern dance companies of today to create a work of art inspired by a book by a best-selling author, in a scenic environment created by a gifted visual artist to the tones of an award-winning composer?

The answer is the contemporary ballet 'Tree of Codes', which will have its world premiere at this year's Manchester International festival on July 2. The ballet is inspired by and shares its title with a novel by Jonathan Safran Foer. A novel that is literally carved from the text of Bruno Schulz' 'Street of Crocodiles'; words and phrases are cut from the pages to produce an entirely different story.

The creative team has worked together over the last two years to make a contemporary ballet that responds to and rethinks this remarkable and beautiful artwork. In 2017, the ballet will visit Aarhus during the Capital of Culture year, with six performances in the Concert Hall.

CEO of Aarhus 2017 Rebecca Matthews is enthusiastic about the partnership with Manchester International Festival:

*"I am absolutely thrilled that this collaboration with Manchester International Festival enables us to present such an exciting and ambitious project to those visiting our European Capital of Culture in 2017. Manchester International Festival has an impressive reputation of delivering fantastic new works that rethink how performing arts, visual arts and popular culture can be combined. So this partnership provides a spectacular contribution to our programme,"* says CEO of Aarhus 2017 Rebecca Matthews.

Programme Director of Aarhus 2017 Juliana Engberg shares this excitement:

*"This project is a powerhouse of strong cultural capacities joining forces and creating something unique across the spectrum of different art forms. The combination of The Paris Opera Ballet and Company Wayne McGregor will be beautifully accompanied by Olafur Eliasson's incredible visual artistry and Jamie xx' score. Jonathan Safran Foer's novel is a piece of art that rethinks another novel; now, it will be rethought by an immensely talented group of people, which makes 'Tree of Codes' a perfect addition to our programme in 2017,"* says Programme Director Juliana Engberg.

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**Olafur Eliasson:**

Olafur Eliasson grew up in Iceland and Denmark and studied, from 1989 to 1995, at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts.

Eliasson's art is driven by his interests in perception, movement, embodied experience and feelings of self. His diverse works – in sculpture, painting, photography, film, and installations – have been exhibited widely throughout the world. In Aarhus, he has collaborated with ARoS Aarhus Art Museum on several occasions, most notably on *Your rainbow panorama*.

Read more about Olafur Eliasson: <http://www.olafureliasson.net/>

**Wayne McGregor:**

Wayne McGregor is a multi-award-winning British choreographer and director, internationally renowned for his physically testing choreography and ground-breaking collaborations across dance, film, music, visual art, technology and science. He is Artistic Director of Wayne McGregor | Random Dance.

McGregor's work has earned him three Critics' Circle Awards, two Time Out Awards, two South Bank Show Awards, two Olivier Awards, two prix Benois de la Danse and a Critics' Prize at the Golden Mask Awards. In January 2011, McGregor was awarded a CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) for Services to Dance.

Read more about Wayne McGregor: [http://www.randomdance.org/wayne\\_mcgregor](http://www.randomdance.org/wayne_mcgregor)

**Jamie xx:**

Jamie Smith, better known as Jamie xx, is an English music producer and DJ who released his debut album *In Colour* in 2015. Previously, he has released two hit indie albums with his band The xx, whilst producing music for Alicia Keys and Drake, and remixing Adele and Florence & The Machine tracks.

Read more about Jamie xx: <http://www.jamiexx.com/>

**The Paris Opera Ballet:**

The Paris Opera Ballet (French: Ballet de l'Opéra de Paris) is the oldest national ballet company in the world, and many European and international ballet companies can trace their origins to it. It has always been an integral part of the Paris Opera, which was founded in 1669 as the Académie d'Opéra (Academy of Opera). Since October 2014, Benjamin Millepied, famous for choreographing Oscar-winning movie 'Black Swan', is the Director of Dance at the Paris Opera Ballet.

Read more about the Paris Opera Ballet: <http://www.operadeparis.fr/en/>

**Manchester International Festival:**

Manchester International Festival is the world's first festival of original, new work and special events and takes place biennially, in Manchester, UK. The Festival launched in 2007 as an artist-led, commissioning Festival presenting new works from across the spectrum of performing arts, visual arts and popular culture.

Read more about Manchester International Festival here: <http://www.mif.co.uk/>

**Jonathan Safran Foer:**

Jonathan Safran Foer is an American writer. He is known for his novels 'Everything Is Illuminated' (2002),



'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close' (2005) and 'Tree of Codes' (2010). He teaches creative writing at New York University.

Learn more about 'Tree of Codes' here: <http://www.visual-editions.com/our-books/tree-of-codes>