



ROYAL
BALLET

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**WAYNE MCGREGOR RECOGNISED FOR SERVICES TO
DANCE IN NEW YEAR HONOURS**

Wayne McGregor, Resident Choreographer of The Royal Ballet, has been awarded a CBE in the New Years Honours list.

Born in Stockport and educated at the University of Leeds, McGregor is one of the most highly regarded British choreographers. As founding director of Wayne McGregor|Random Dance (1992-present) he has set a new bar for international contemporary dance, pairing a drastically fast and articulate choreographic style with new technology, commissioned music, and innovative set design. In 2006, the critical and commercial success of **Chroma** for The Royal Ballet led to **Dame Monica Mason** inviting him to become Resident Choreographer of the Company, the first modern dance creator to be given that post in The Royal Ballet's history.

Known for consistently challenging dancers with his unique style and for his collaborations with the brightest talents from the worlds of contemporary arts and sciences (from artists **Julian Opie** and **John Pawson** to composers **Joby Talbot** and **Kaija Saariaho**), McGregor has consistently redrawn the boundaries of dance, encouraging audiences to see the body in a startling new way.

Today, his work is in the repertory of the most prestigious ballet companies in the world, including the Bolshoi Ballet, New York City Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, Stuttgart Ballet, amongst many others.

A passionate advocate and champion for dance in all its forms, McGregor's work with young people – whether emerging choreographers or children who have no

dance experience – is pioneering; this year McGregor will create mass projects for young people living in Margate and South Tyneside, and in 2012 he will lead thousands of young people in dance in London’s Trafalgar Square to celebrate the Olympics ‘Big Dance’.

Speaking about receiving the award, **Wayne McGregor** said:

"I am surprised and delighted to receive a CBE in the New Year Honours. It is very fulfilling to know that I have been given the honour for Services to Dance, an art form I have an unfailing passion for, belief in and commitment to. It is fantastic that the honours system continues to recognise the contribution dance and the arts makes to society in general, as well as the immeasurable value artists of all disciplines make to our lives and well being. "

Dame Monica Mason, Director of The Royal Ballet said of the announcement:

"I am so thrilled for Wayne and feel that this honour is richly deserved. He is a tremendous creative force and has shown unlimited generosity of spirit to countless aspiring young choreographers. Since his appointment in 2006 as The Royal Ballet's Resident Choreographer, his work has attracted a new audience to the Royal Opera House and has inspired a whole generation of dancers both here in the UK and abroad."

Alistair Spalding, Chief Executive and Artistic Director of Sadler’s Wells added:

"I am delighted that Wayne has been honoured in this way. Wayne’s company was the first Resident Company I appointed at Sadler’s Wells, and it has been a pleasure to support him in his creation of groundbreaking dance since he found a home with us in 2001. Wayne’s radical approach to the creation of dance is absolutely essential to the future of the art form, so I am very glad that he has achieved such wide recognition."

McGregor will premiere a new piece for The Royal Ballet in May 2011. Other projects in 2011 include a new work for the Paris Opera Ballet and an opera/dance collaboration to music by Mark Anthony Turnage for Wayne McGregor | Random Dance, commissioned by Sadler’s Wells.

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