

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



Wednesday 6th May, 2015

Sydney Opera House and Etihad Airways Present

Sylvie Guillem's Final Australian Performances

19th – 25th August

Drama Theatre, Sydney Opera House

One of the world's greatest ballerinas, **Sylvie Guillem**, will perform her final Australian shows ever at Sydney Opera House this August as a part of her world tour *Life in Progress*. This will be the last chance for Australian audiences to see Guillem perform before her retirement from an unparalleled 35-year ballet and contemporary dance career.

Guillem will perform six shows only of *Life in Progress*, a new production created especially for her farewell tour, which includes two new works – *techne*, a solo from choreographer Akram Khan accompanied by live music, and a duet with Italian dancer Emanuela Montanari from La Scala, entitled *Here & After* by choreographer Russell Maliphant. The evening will also showcase William Forsythe's *Duo* featuring guest dancers Brigel Gjoka and Riley Watts, and Mats Ek's audience favourite *Bye*.

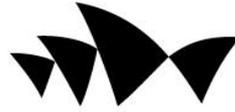
Sydney Opera House Presents Director of Programming, **Jonathan Bielski**, said that it is fitting for the greatest ballerina of this era to give her final Australian performances at the Sydney Opera House.

"Ms Guillem is one of the most remarkable dancers the world has ever seen and her final bows will be mourned by dance lovers around the world. There is nothing more apt than a dancer of such extraordinary talent giving her final Australian performances atop the iconic Sydney Opera House stage. Ms Guillem's fourth and final Sydney season will be the last opportunity Australian audiences have to witness the most significant ballerina of our time before the curtain comes down on her glittering career," he said.

On her retirement Ms Guillem says "I have loved every moment of the last 39 years, and today, I am still loving it in the same way. So why stop? Very simply, because I want to end while I am still happy doing what I do with pride and passion."

Sylvie Guillem began her career with the Paris Opera Ballet in 1981 as a member of the company's corps de ballet, before becoming the youngest ever dancer promoted to the rank of Étoile, the company's highest rank, by Rudolf Nureyev at the age of 19. In 1989 Sylvie left Paris for London to become a Principal Guest Artist at The Royal Ballet, a defection which was debated in the National Assembly and declared a "national catastrophe" by the arts minister. During this time Guillem became a ballet superstar and controversially appeared nude and without make-up in a photo-shoot for French Vogue. Since 2006 Sylvie Guillem has had an equally successful career as an independent contemporary dancer as an Associate Artist of the Sadler's Wells Theatre in London.

Guillem has performed all the leading roles of classical ballet with the world's foremost companies including The Royal Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, the Mariinsky, American Ballet Theatre and La Scala. Her contemporary performances have included the multi-award winning Sadler's Wells production *PUSH*, and collaborations with leading choreographers as well as fashion designer Alexander McQueen – all of which have toured internationally to full houses and critical acclaim.



PRINCIPAL PARTNER



Her awards include an Olivier award, a Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement by the Venice Biennale, the Officier de la Légion d'Honneur, Commandeur dans l'Ordre National du Mérite, Officier des Arts et Lettres, and, in Britain, an honorary CBE.

Life in Progress is a Sadler's Wells Production co-produced with Les Nuits de Fourvière and Sylvie Guillem.

Praise for Sylvie Guillem:

"Sylvie Guillem is the most exciting dancer in the world" The Independent, UK

"She is, quite simply, unlike any other dancer there has ever been" Daily Telegraph, UK

"Arguably the greatest ballerina of her generation" The Guardian, UK

Praise for Sylvie Guillem & Akram Khan:

"Sylvie Guillem and Akram Khan are giant talents and their intense chemistry produces a beautiful, sensuous communion that you wish wouldn't end" The Guardian

Praise for Sylvie Guillem & Russell Maliphant:

"Together, Sylvie Guillem and Russell Maliphant are a partnership so compelling that it's hard to imagine the world of dance without them" Daily Telegraph, UK

Praise for Mats Ek's *Bye*:

**** *"There is an organic unpredictability to the piece and the way she performs it: you never know what's coming next, but – thanks to her still-astonishing physical prowess and planetsized musicality and personality – it always feels entirely right, and wonderful"* Daily Telegraph

**** *"Ek's choreography speaks to Guillem as an icon, her celebrated past and mesmerising present as a brave explorer of the dance"* The Times

For media information contact:

Kasey Glazebrook

kasey@bridgespr.com / 03 9534 0585 / 0437 306 381

SEASON DETAILS

WHAT: Sylvie Guillem – *Life in Progress*

WHEN: 19th – 25th August

WHERE: Drama Theatre, Sydney Opera House

TICKETS: From \$79 + bf at www.sydneyoperahouse.com or 02 9250 7777

This season is presented by Sydney Opera House and Etihad Airways

Presenting Partner:

