

For immediate release

## Northern Ballet to screen *Merlin* in cinemas



Kevin Poeung in *Merlin*. Photo Caroline Holden.

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### Coming to cinemas across the UK on Sunday 24 April

Following the success of its national tour, Northern Ballet's *Merlin* is to be shown in cinemas across the UK and Ireland on Sunday 24 April.

*Merlin* is Northern Ballet's sixth full length ballet to be captured for screen under the leadership of Artistic Director David Nixon OBE, who will step down from his role in April after more than 20 years. Previous screen successes include *1984*, *Casanova*, *Dracula*, *Victoria* and *Dangerous Liaisons*.

*Merlin* is the first full length ballet created by Olivier Award winning choreographer Drew McOnie (Broadway's *King Kong* and Baz Luhrmann's *Jesus Christ Superstar*). Inspired by the legendary wizard Merlin, the ballet is a magical spectacle for all of the family telling the story of how the world's most famous sorcerer mastered his magic to unite a warring kingdom.

The ballet was filmed at Leeds Grand Theatre in November 2021 in front of a live audience, with original music by Grant Olding (One Man Two Guvnors, National Theatre), played live by Northern Ballet Sinfonia. The film capture was directed by Ross MacGibbon.

Northern Ballet are once again partnering with CinemaLive, leading producers and distributors of event cinema, to give audiences the opportunity to see this thrilling production up close on the big screen. The film is set to be shown in more than 200 cinemas throughout the UK, as well as screenings across Europe and North America.

Full cinema listings will be made available at [cinematlive.com](https://www.cinematlive.com). The cinema trailer is available to be watched at [northernballet.com](https://www.northernballet.com)

Tickets for *Merlin* in cinemas are on sale now. To find your closest participating cinemas and to book tickets visit <https://www.cinematlive.com/event/Merlin>

## **-ENDS-**

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## **Notes to Editors**

### **Film credits**

Choreography & Direction - Drew McOnie

Music - Grant Olding

Set & Costume Design - Colin Richmond

Lighting Design - Anna Watson

Illusions - Chris Fisher

Design & Direction of Puppetry - Rachael Canning

Costume Design Assistant - Julie Anderson

Film Direction – Ross MacGibbon

## **Dancers**

Kevin Poeung – Merlin

Antoinette Brooks-Daw - Morgan

Lorenzo Trosello – Uther

Rachael Gillespie - Ygraine

Javier Torres – Vortigern

Minju Kang - Blacksmith

Joseph Taylor – Helios the Sun God

Abigail Prudames - The Lady of the Lake

Ashley Dixon - Dragon

## **Northern Ballet**

Northern Ballet is one of the UK's leading ballet companies and the widest touring ballet company in the UK. Bold and innovative in its approach, Northern Ballet is prolific at creating new full-length work with a unique blend of strong classical technique and impressive storytelling.

Northern Ballet's repertoire embraces popular culture and takes inspiration from literature, legend, opera and the classics, pushing the boundaries of what stories can be told through dance.

A champion for the cultural exports of the North, Leeds-based Northern Ballet is dedicated to bringing ballet to as many people and places as possible, under the leadership of Artistic Director David Nixon OBE. In May 2022 Former Royal Ballet Principal Federico Bonelli will become the Company's new Artistic Director.

Northern Ballet's Company of dancers performs a combination of its full-length ballets and specially created ballets for children at more than 40 venues annually.

For more details of Northern Ballet's tour, on sale dates and booking information, please visit [northernballet.com/whats-on](http://northernballet.com/whats-on)

## **About CinemaLive**

CinemaLive is one of the world's leading producers and distributors of premium events for cinemas and big screen venues worldwide.

With offices in the UK and Australia, the CinemaLive subsidiary has quickly become one of the fastest growing theatrical distributors since establishing in 2008. It delivers the very best music, cultural and family entertainment via satellite and DCP around the world.