



**Dance Consortium presents  
Acosta Danza's *Evolution*  
Produced by Sadler's Wells and Valid Productions**

**UK tour spring 2020 from 3 March to 11 April**

**Works by Pontus Lidberg, Maria Rovira, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and  
Christopher Bruce**

As ballet superstar Carlos Acosta takes up the reins at Birmingham Royal Ballet, his critically-acclaimed company of Cuban dancers embarks on a ten-venue nationwide tour of its latest programme, *Evolution*, opening at the Mayflower Theatre, Southampton on 3 and 4 March.

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*Evolution* is presented by Dance Consortium, a 20-strong group of member theatres with a commitment to bring the best international contemporary dance to audiences across the UK, which celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Acosta founded Acosta Danza in 2015 to, in his words, “create a company which didn’t look like any other company out there”, one which showcased Cuban performers and the vibrancy of Cuban culture. Acosta Danza is now widely acclaimed for an exciting repertoire of works by international and home-grown choreographers performed by a truly distinctive company of dancers with both personality and technique.

The *Evolution* programme includes two works created especially for Acosta Danza and two contemporary dance classics: *Paysage, Soudain, la nuit* by visionary Swedish choreographer Pontus Lidberg; *Impronta* by Barcelona-based Maria Rovira who choreographed the 2019 film *Yuli* which chronicled Acosta’s life and career; Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui’s *Faun*, inspired by the Ballet Russes’ *L’après-midi d’un faune*; and *Rooster*, Christopher Bruce’s celebration of the ‘60s and ‘70s set to music by the Rolling Stones, in which Acosta makes a guest appearance.

In *Paysage, Soudain, la nuit*, Lidberg approaches Cuban culture through rumba, a genre of traditional Cuban music with African roots. It takes as its starting point a score by acclaimed Cuban composer Leo Brouwer with additional music by Swedish composer Stefan Levin. Set in an evocative landscape installation *Vientos* by Cuban artist Elizabet Cerviño, it conjures up a celebratory vision of youth in the magic hours between twilight and dawn.

Former choreographer for the National Ballet of Cuba, Maria Rovira created the solo *Impronta* specially for company dancer Zeleidy Crespo whose training is rooted in the folkloric dance styles of Cuba. Rovira has a strong connection with Acosta Danza with her choreography being woven throughout *Yuli*, the film based on Acosta’s autobiography, *No Way Home: A Cuban Dancer’s Story*. The film was nominated for five Spanish Goya awards including best new actor for Acosta, best cinematography and best adapted screenplay.

Since its creation in 2009 to celebrate the centenary of Diaghilev’s Ballets Russes, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui’s *Faun* has become a modern classic. Inspired by Nijinsky’s *L’après midi d’un faune*, the duet is suffused with an intense pliant eroticism. Set to Debussy’s original score, there are additional musical interventions by composer and producer Nitin Sawhney. Costumes are by fashion designer Hussein Chalayan.

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Christopher Bruce is one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's leading choreographers. His humorous and energetic *Rooster* is set to iconic songs recorded by The Rolling Stones: *Little Red Rooster*; *Lady Jane*; *Not Fade Away*; *Paint it Black*; *Ruby Tuesday*; *Play With Fire*; and *Sympathy for the Devil*. Originally created in 1991, it has been a highlight of the repertoires of both London Contemporary Dance Theatre and Rambert Dance. Here it features a guest appearance from Acosta himself.

The spring 2020 *Evolution* tour includes seven audio-described performances for blind and visually-impaired patrons. Dance Consortium is working with Sightlines Audio Description Services to deliver the audio-described performances in Southampton, Bradford, Brighton, Canterbury, Salford, Plymouth and Newcastle.

Production photos can be downloaded here:

<https://www.danceconsortium.com/touring/acosta-danza-evolution/resources/>

See a trailer here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/ncje5hivksemfiw/Acosta-MainTrailer%286%29.mov?dl=0>

## **ends**

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## **Listings information**

Acosta Danza in *Evolution* - UK Tour Spring 2020

Tuesday 3 & Wednesday 4 March at 7.30pm  
Mayflower Theatre, Southampton

Tickets: 023 8071 1811 / [www.mayflower.org.uk](http://www.mayflower.org.uk)

Friday 6 & Saturday 7 March at 8pm

Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff

Tickets: 029 2063 6464 / [www.wmc.org.uk](http://www.wmc.org.uk)

Tuesday 10 & Wednesday 11 March at 7.30pm

Eden Court, Inverness

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Tickets: 01463 234234 / [www.eden-court.co.uk](http://www.eden-court.co.uk)

Friday 13 & Saturday 14 March at 7.30pm

Alhambra Theatre, Bradford

Tickets: 01274 432000 / [www.bradford-theatres.co.uk](http://www.bradford-theatres.co.uk)

Tuesday 17 & Wednesday 18 March at 7.30pm

Brighton Dome

Tickets: 01273 709709 / [www.brightondome.org](http://www.brightondome.org)

Friday 20 & Saturday 21 March at 7.30pm

The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

Tickets: 01227 787787 / [www.marlowetheatre.com](http://www.marlowetheatre.com)

Tuesday 24 & Saturday 25 March at 7.30pm

The Lowry, Salford Quays

Tickets: 0343 208 6000 / [www.thelowry.com](http://www.thelowry.com)

Friday 27 & Saturday 28 March at 7.30pm

Plymouth Theatre Royal

Tickets: 01752 267222 / [www.theatreroyal.com](http://www.theatreroyal.com)

Tuesday 7 & Wednesday 8 April at 7.30pm

Theatre Royal, Newcastle

Tickets: 08448 11 21 21 / [www.theatreroyal.co.uk](http://www.theatreroyal.co.uk)

Friday 10 & Saturday 11 April at 8pm

Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham

Tickets: 0115 989 5555 / [www.trch.co.uk](http://www.trch.co.uk)

### **Running order**

*Paysage, Soudain, la nuit* (17 mins) / *Impronta* (7 mins) / *Faun* (15 mins)

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Interval (20 mins)

*Rooster* (27 Minutes)

Running time: 90 minutes

### Notes to editors

1. Presented by Dance Consortium, **Acosta Danza's *Evolution*** UK Tour Spring 2020 is produced by Sadler's Wells and Valid Productions. Co-produced with Birmingham Hippodrome, The Lowry, Salford and Norwich Theatre Royal
  2. **Acosta Danza** was created by Carlos Acosta in 2015 to harness and develop the young creative dance talent emerging from Cuba. The ethos of the company is to produce dancers that can combine both classical and contemporary genres effortlessly, imbued with Cuba's rich musical and dance influences, to create repertoire that is exciting and stimulating and that pushes conventional boundaries. A Sadler's Wells International Associate Company, Acosta Danza has already been fortunate enough to work with some of the world's leading choreographers. It also encourages the emergence and development of new choreography from among its own members, to great success. The company performed for the first time at the Gran Teatro de la Habana Alicia Alonso in Cuba in April 2016 and has since performed across Europe and internationally to great critical acclaim. Autumn 2017 saw the company make its debut in the UK at Sadler's Wells, before embarking on a UK-wide tour produced by Valid Productions and Sadler's Wells, with co-production support from The Movement and Festpielhaus St Pölten. [www.acostadanza.com](http://www.acostadanza.com)
  3. **Carlos Acosta** Born in Havana in 1973, Carlos Acosta trained at The National Ballet School of Havana in Cuba. After winning a succession of awards, including 1990's Prix De Lausanne, Carlos went on to dance professionally with the world's most prestigious companies, with London's Royal Ballet becoming his home. In 2016, after a career spanning 28 years, Carlos retired from Classical ballet having performed
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almost every classical role from Spartacus to Romeo. Carlos created many award-winning shows throughout his ballet career including *Tocororo*, and *Carlos Acosta and Friends of the Royal Ballet*. He also choreographed the Royal Ballet Productions of *Don Quixote* and *Carmen*, plus the latest *Guys and Dolls* production for the West End. He has also written two books, including a work of fiction *Pigs Foot* and the other being his very honest and heartfelt autobiography *No Way Home*. 'Yuli', a film inspired by his life has premiered at the San Sebastian, Havana and Berlin Film Festivals to great critical acclaim with the London Premier in April 2019. Carlos has been nominated for a Best New Actor award from The 33rd Goya Awards Ceremony to be held in Seville in February 2019. Carlos's extraordinary contribution to dance continues to this day and was recognised in the Queen's New Year's Honours List in 2014 when he was awarded a CBE. In 2018 Carlos received the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award from The Royal Academy of Dance in recognition of his standing as one of the most influential figures in Dance today. His athleticism, the sheer joy of dancing as well as his tremendous ability to convey emotion, inspired a generation of dancers across the globe. His very touching story and the obstacles he has overcome speak for themselves. The culture and history of Carlos' homeland have been important influences throughout his career and will continue to be so as he has established his own dance company – Acosta Danza in 2016. The company tours the world with its vibrant combination of classical and contemporary, fused with Cuban elements of dance. In 2017 Carlos opened the Carlos Acosta International Dance Foundation. The Foundation gives young dancers the same opportunities that he himself benefited from, by providing a three-year dance training programme, free at the point of delivery in an inspirational setting. Carlos has been appointed as Director of Birmingham Royal Ballet and starts this role in January 2020.

4. **Dance Consortium** is a group of 20 large-scale UK venues with a shared passion for engaging people with the best contemporary dance
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from across the world. Since its formation in 2000 Dance Consortium has presented over 45 tours by 24 different companies from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, France, The Netherlands, Taiwan, Israel and the USA. Their performances and education activities have been experienced by hundreds of thousands of people across all parts of the UK. Dance Consortium receives investment as a national portfolio organisation of Arts Council England.

5. **Dance Consortium members:** Grand Opera House Belfast; Birmingham Hippodrome; Alhambra Theatre Bradford; Brighton Dome; Marlowe Theatre Canterbury; Wales Millennium Centre Cardiff; Bord Gáis Energy Theatre, Dublin; Festival Theatre Edinburgh; Eden Court Inverness, The Peacock, London; Sadler's Wells London; Milton Keynes Theatre; Theatre Royal Newcastle; Theatre Royal and Royal Concert Hall Nottingham with Dance 4; Theatre Royal Plymouth; The Lowry Salford; The Mayflower, Southampton; Hull, New Theatre; Norwich Theatre Royal.

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

#### **Photo credits (left to right)**

*Paysage, Soudain, la nuit* – photography Johan Persson

*Impronta* - photography Manuel Vason

*Faun* – photography Johan Persson

*Rooster* – photography Johan Persson

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16 January 2020