



Semperoper
Dresden

»A Collection of Short Stories« in front of a live audience and streamed online

PRESS RELEASE



©Semperoper Dresden/ Ian Whalen

Kanako Fujimoto, Julian Amir Lacey in »Swan Lake« (Choreography: Aaron S. Watkin)

The Saxon State Opera welcomes back its audiences to the world-famous Semper Opera House in mid-June with a multi-part ballet evening. Featuring excerpts from next season's premieres, the production »A Collection of Short Stories« scheduled for 12 and 13 June 2021 will give a foretaste of upcoming highlights. From the end of June, a video recording of the ballet evening will be available for streaming via the Semperoper's website.

Dresden, 26 May 2021. When the curtain rises in the Semperoper on Saturday, 12 June 2021, in front of a live audience, this will mark the end of the most recent pandemic-related closure. Over the second weekend of June, the company of Semperoper Ballett intends to welcome back its many fans with a selection of excerpts from well-known and new choreographies in a work entitled »A Collection of Short Stories«.

In presenting this multi-part ballet evening, the Semperoper is not only spotlighting the premieres of the upcoming 2021/22 season: for Aaron S. Watkin, this celebration of dance is both a retrospective and a preview of the choreographic diversity that has characterised his 15 years as ballet director in Dresden. Alongside his company's brilliant achievements in the classical and modern repertoire, this diversity has cemented the Semperoper Ballett's outstanding reputation in the world of dance. The selection of pieces in »A Collection of Short Stories« reflects this choreographic spectrum while also giving as many of the company's dancers as possible the chance to display their artistry live on stage after this lengthy absence from the public view.

In addition to excerpts from Watkin's own works such as »Swan Lake« or »Le Corsaire«, the evening will feature scenes by choreographers closely associated with the Semperoper, such as William Forsythe's »The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude« or »Faun(e)« by Semperoper Ballett's associate choreographer, David Dawson. But the ballet evening will also offer new discoveries for local audiences such as Jorma Elo's »Still of a King« or Nicholas Palmquist's »A Collection of Short Stories« (which gives the ballet evening its title), thereby ensuring a thrilling reopening of the Semperoper in June.

A video recording of »A Collection of Short Stories« by Leipzig-based Armida Film GmbH is expected to be available for streaming on the SEMPER DIGITAL service at semperoper.de from the end of June 2021. Ballet lovers can look forward to the *divertissement* »Black Swan« from Watkin's choreography »Swan Lake« as an encore on this streamed version.

With this multi-part ballet evening, the Semperoper is welcoming back live audiences. The replacement schedule for the remainder of the 2020/21 season will be supplemented by performances of the current production of »The Magic Flute«, a Semper Soiree by members of the Young Ensemble programme and concerts by the Staatskapelle Dresden. In July we are also planning to premiere Manfred Weiß's staging of the cabaret revue »Wie werde ich reich und glücklich« by Mischa Spoliansky as an open-air event at the Weißer Hirsch concert venue.

All information and the latest updates can be found on our website semperoper.de. The programmes for June/July will be announced shortly.

»A Collection of Short Stories«

A multi-part ballet evening featuring choreographies by David Dawson, Jorma Elo, William Forsythe, Nicholas Palmquist and Aaron S. Watkin.

Performed by the company of the Semperoper Ballett to taped music.

At 7 pm on 12 June 2021 and at 4 pm on 13 June 2021 in the Semperoper Dresden.

Available for streaming from the end of June 2021 at semperoper.de. (start date may be subject to revision).

The launch of ticket sales (online purchases only) will be announced in due course. All audience members must comply with the currently valid *Sächsische Corona-Schutz-Verordnung* (Saxon Coronavirus Protection Regulations).

The Semperoper requests that all visitors read the current information on ticket sales and hygiene regulations published at semperoper.de.

Semperoper Dresden

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