

SOLOS 2024

*Solo and duet work
with performances by
Russell Maliphant & Daniel Proietto*

***“art of almost heart-stopping beauty...
dazzling physical poetry”*** Mark Monahan, The Telegraph

Russell Maliphant creates visually rich dance that is characterised by a unique approach to flow and energy and an ongoing exploration of the relationship between movement, light and music. Russell has won two Olivier awards, three South Bank Show awards, four Critics' Circle National Dance awards for Best Modern Choreography and Best Independent Company. He is Associate Artist at Sadlers Wells.

Maliphant established his own company of dancers in 1996, touring most recently with *Vortex* (a BBC4 TV broadcast currently available to view on iPlayer). As a performer, he helped define an era of great British dancers in the '90s and '00s, and remains a scalp-tingling artist to watch on stage to this day.

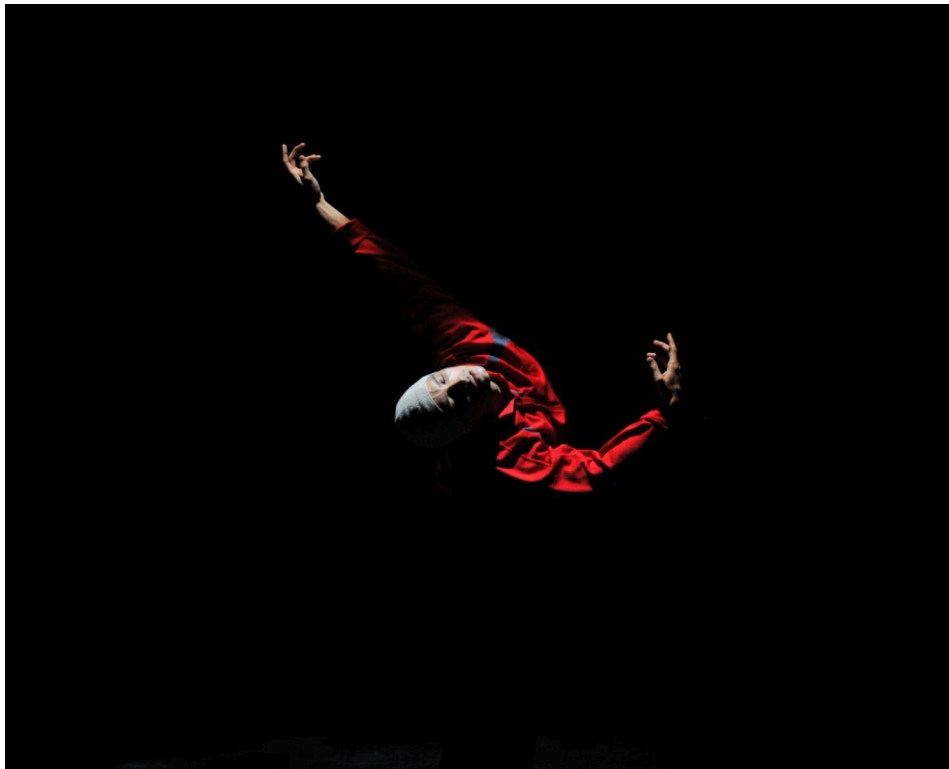
Now in his sixth decade **Russell Maliphant** is creating an evening of solo and duet work for touring in spring 2025 in which he will also perform. With lighting by Panagiotis Tomaras and Michael Hulls and costumes by Stevie Stewart (Bodymap), the programme will feature Maliphant's 15 minute solo ***AfterLight***, nominated for the 2010 Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Dance Production and awarded the Critics' Circle National Dance Award for Best Modern Choreography. The rest of the programme will be in development this year, with at least one other solo and a duet anticipated.

“AfterLight is a sustained solo for the fine dancer Daniel Proietto, who moves with a wonderful fluidity. He revolves on a spot in a pool of light, his arms making all those arcs and circles; he turns like a spiral; the arms reach up, or spread; hand trails behind head. Everything is a continuous flow. Then, on his knees, he is circling round the stage, scooping the air, whirling ever faster. He seems to carve his own shape out of the darkness. Untypically, Maliphant has used a classical score, Satie's limpid, otherworldly Gnossiennes, and all the elements fit together in a superb piece.”

David Dougill, The Sunday Times



“Memorable for all the right reasons is AfterLight by Russell Maliphant, who has reworked the free-flowing illustrations of Diaghilev's first muse, Nijinsky, into a spiralling solo in which his ballet-meets-capoeira steps, Daniel Proietto's dancing, Michael Hulls's lighting and Eric Satie's Gnossiennes melt into a spellbinding whole. The piece poignantly captures the remote, faun-like aura of Nijinsky, evoking a mesmerising individual not quite of this world. A miniature Masterpiece.”
Mark Monahan, The Telegraph



AfterLight Photos by Hugo Glendinning; Dancer Daniel Proietto



Film 2 (MaliphantWorks 3) photo: Julian Broad; Dancer: Russell Maliphant

“it is beautiful. Stunning, kinetic sculpture—one can never escape that word when describing Maliphant’s seeming obsession with spatial awareness and the body’s trajectory in space.” Vera Liber, British Theatre Guide about Film 2 (MaliphantWorks 3, 2020)

“Dancing bodies rarely look more beautiful than in the work of Russell Maliphant... a string of perfect moments... an enthralling synthesis of physical sensation and emotional revelation.... Spell-binding” Judith Mackrell, The Guardian, 2009

“Liquid, lithe choreography that can draw the spectator into a spellbinding world of heightened sensation and scintillating body sculpture.” Debra Craine, Times, 2003

Russell Maliphant



Russell Maliphant trained at The Royal Ballet School and graduated into Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet where he worked for 7 years before leaving to pursue a career in independent dance.

He performed with DV8 Physical Theatre, Michael Clark Company, Rosemary Butcher and Laurie Booth, with whom he was awarded a *Time Out Live* award for 'raising improvisational dance to new heights' in 1991. Between 1991–1994 Maliphant also studied anatomy, physiology and biomechanics, and qualified as a practitioner of the Rolf Method of Structural Integration (or Rolfing). These studies have informed both his teaching and choreographic work, alongside further studies in a diverse range of body practices and approaches, whilst exploring context and currency of movement in creations.

Since 1994 he collaborated closely with lighting designer Michael Hulls, evolving a language where movement and light are intimately connected and the meeting point becomes a language in itself.

He formed **Russell Maliphant Company** in 1996 and has also worked with renowned companies and artists including Sylvie Guillem, Robert Lepage, Isaac Julien, BalletBoyz, English National Ballet, Bayerisches Staatsballett and Lyon Opera Ballet. He has collaborated with designers Alexander MacQueen and Stevie Stewart and composers Vangelis, Armand Amar, Andy Cowton, Shirley Thompson & Mukul.

In 2002 he received the *Time Out Live* award for outstanding collaboration for his work ***Sheer*** and in 2003 received a *South Bank Show* dance award for the piece titled ***Choice***. At the end of that year he created ***Broken Fall*** for Sylvie Guillem and BalletBoyz which premiered at the Royal Opera House and received an *Olivier Award* for best new dance production.

Broken Fall was restaged in 2004 as part of a programme titled **Rise and Fall**, consisting of three Maliphant works, and received the *Critics' Circle National Dance Award* for Best Modern Choreography. **Rise and Fall** toured for two years and in 2005 Sylvie Guillem invited Maliphant to create an evening of work for them both, culminating in the duet **Push**. This premiered at Sadler's Wells and received a *South Bank Show* award and an *Olivier Award* in 2006. **Push** toured throughout the world until 2014. Its creation was followed by two artistically diverse collaborations: **Cast No Shadow** with visual artist Isaac Julien, and **Eonnagata** which was created and performed alongside theatre director Robert Lepage and Sylvie Guillem, with costumes designed by Alexander McQueen.

In 2009 **Maliphant** created part one of **Afterlight** for *In the Spirit of Diaghilev*, Sadler's Wells' celebration of Les Ballets Russes. This received the *Critics' Circle National Dance Award* for Best Modern Choreography in 2010 and was also nominated for an *Olivier Award*. Parts two and three of **Afterlight** followed and toured as a full evening together with part one. **The Rodin Project** opened at Théâtre National de Chaillot in Paris at the end of January 2012 and was also adapted for film, in a collaboration with the directors Warren Du Preez and Nick Thornton Jones, and re-titled **Erebus**.

Maliphant created **Fallen** for the BalletBoyz, winning the *Critics' Circle National Dance Award* for Best Modern Choreography in 2013. **Second Breath** was created for English National Ballet in 2014, as part of ENB's *Lest We Forget* program. In the same year Maliphant created **Spiral Pass** for Bayerisches Staatsballett.

His Company evenings continued 2013- 2017 with the program **Still Current** (2013-2015) and **Conceal/Reveal** (2015-2017).

Maliphant also choreographed, curated and performed in the programme **maliphantworks1** at The Coronet in 2017 and **maliphantworks2** at The Coronet in 2018. The same year that he completed a creation combining contemporary and Greek traditional dance, with music by Vangelis, lighting by Michael Hulls and costumes by Mary Katrantzou. **Russell Maliphant Dance Company** was awarded the *Critics Circle National Dance Award* for Best Independent Dance Company in 2018.

In 2019 he created **Silent Lines** for **RMDC** which toured up until the beginning of the pandemic.

Maliphant also created a new programme for The Coronet in the shape of **maliphantworks3**, which included a new duet titled **The Space Between**, danced by long term collaborator/ composer and creative partner Dana Fouras and Maliphant, alongside 2 short films made in collaboration with the photographer Julian Broad.

Maliphant was the guest artistic director of National Youth Dance Company in 2019, creating work on 40 young dancers, presented at Sadler's Wells in 2020.

In 2021 he created **Echoes** for English National Ballet and in 2022 **Vortex** for **RMDC** which toured until June 2023. **Vortex** was filmed live at Sadlers Wells for BBC4 by Martin Collins.

Maliphant gained his PhD in 2020, to stand alongside the honorary doctorate he received from Plymouth University in 2011 and received an OBE in the Kings first honours list 2023.

Russell Maliphant has been an Associate Artist of Sadler's Wells since 2005.

Daniel Proietto

Daniel Proietto was born in Argentina, where he studied classical ballet at the school of the Colón Theatre in Buenos Aires.

He began his professional career at the age of 16 with the Ballet of Santiago, Chile and, later, as a member of the Ballet of the Argentine Theatre and the Contemporary Ballet of the San Martín Theatre.

In 2003 he joined Carte Blanche, the Norwegian national company of contemporary dance, where he became one of its most outstanding dancers. And in 2013 the Norwegian National Ballet created the position of "Guest Artist" for Proietto, one of the first occasions in which a contemporary dancer is granted such status with a ballet company.

Proietto worked internationally as an independent artist and choreographer since 2005, touring the world at important venues such as the New York City Center, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the National Theater of Chaillot in Paris, Bunkamura and Bunka Kaikan in Tokyo, the National Theater and the Mercat de les Flors in Barcelona, Esplanade in Singapore, Forum in Monaco, the Coliseum and Sadler's Wells in London, to name a few.

He received the 1st Prize in the *21st International Choreographers Competition* in Hannover, Germany for his choreographic debut and since then has created works for the Vienna State Ballet, the Norwegian National Ballet, the National Ballet of Cuba, Riksteater, star dancer Osiel Gouneo and Ballet Flanders, where he created **RASA**, a 3 act dance, theatre and musical piece for the company's 50th anniversary season.

RASA was chosen as one of the *Best Productions of the Year* by Dance Europe and nominated to the *Fedora Van Cleef & Arpels Prize for Ballet*.

His work **Cygne** received the *Mention of Honor* in the Book of the Teatro Garcia Lorca in La Habana and the piece, alongside Proietto's interpretation of **Petrushka** by Alan Lucien Øyen, were featured in the 3D film **Cathedrals of Culture** produced by Wim Wenders about Oslo's Opera House. A special section of the film featuring **Cygne** by Proietto is permanently showcased at NOWNESS.

Proietto is a founding member of Norwegian dance and theatre company Winter Guests; its director Alan Lucien Øyen creates many works for him, such as the solo **Screened Out**, Øyen's first ever work for another performer, **Avenida Corrientes**, a duet with Proietto performing with Andrew Wale that would become Øyens first film: **Avenida Corrientes The Movie**; and most famously, **Simulacrum** - a duet **Proietto** performed with Japanese Flamenco legend Shoji Kojima.

He also collaborated closely with Øyen as his co-choreographer in productions at the Gothenburg Opera, Paris Opera Ballet, Norwegian National Ballet and more recently at the celebrated Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch.

Proietto has collaborated in a famous way with Russell Maliphant in several creations, especially with his solo **AfterLight** (2009), a piece that received great international acclaim for both Proietto and Maliphant.

With the solo, **Proietto** has won a series of awards including the *CriticsCircle National Dance Award for Best Male Contemporary Dancer*; *Best Dancer of the Year* by Dance Europe, occupying the first place among 170 international stars.

AfterLight was received an Olivier Award nomination, was named by many newspapers as the solo of the year and, alongside a retrospective of Maliphan's works, won the *South Bank Sky Arts Award* in the category of dance.

As an interpreter he also created and performed the works of some of the greatest choreographers and directors of our time, including Jiri Kylian, Ohad Naharin, Alexander Ekman, Omar Saravia, Robyn Orlin and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui - staging the work of the latter at Carlos Acosta's company Acosta Danza and also dancing the US premiere of Cherkaoui's duet **Faun**, a performance that won **Proietto** the *ApuliArte Award* in Italy.

He has participated in major international galas and festivals like Festival Internacional de Ballet de La Habana and the World Ballet Festival in Japan, where he danced **And... Carolyn** by Øyen alongside director and Paris Opera Ballet star Aurelie Dupont. This signature duet in **Proietto's** repertoire has won Øyen two 1st prizes at choreography competitions in Copenhagen, Denmark and Burgos, Spain.

Since 2011 Proietto has studied Nihon Buyo - the Japanese traditional dances from the Kabuki theater - with the prestigious Soke Fujima-ryu. He had the honour to perform, in Houston, Paris, Oslo, Tbilisi and Shizuoka, a work created especially for him by Kanjuro Fujima VIII, one of the most important kabuki choreographers and directors today.

For his achievements in dance **Proietto** received the *Rolf Gammlen Award*, given to important figures of the Norwegian performing arts scene.

Proietto has been filmed and photographed for several projects by legendary director and fashion photographer Nick Knight, showcased at SHOWStudio and projected at Nicola Formichetti 's first collection show for Diesel in Venice.

Most recently, Proietto has written and directed **REALNESS**, his first film produced by Nagelhus Schia Productions and M12 Kultur.

He has been an active teacher and educator internationally since 2003.

Proietto is now delving into his first entrepreneurial project as founder and CEO of the digital platform KNOW - an online venue and academic resource centre for the arts that will permanently host the works and insight to the creative processes of some of the greatest artists of our time.

BOOKING DETAILS

Available for touring	Spring 2025
No. of performers:	3 Performers
Total no. on the road:	4
Performance space:	10 metres wide by 8 metres deep, ideally 12m x 10m covered in black dance floor with black backdrop and Italian masking. A minimum rigging height of 8.5m is required.
Get in:	Day before get in required ideally
Outline Technical requirements:	A tech. Spec. from 2012 is available for AfterLight
Technical staff required:	2 technicians from venue; company tours its own production manager
Running time:	60 minutes
UK Performance fee:	£2000 plus VAT
Overseas performance fee:	on request
Full length performance:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1D1tnuJbF3g (After Light)
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