



► The cast of Rambert rehearse ahead of a previous performance at Newcastle Theatre Royal

## Rambert poised for Royal return

**TOM SIMMONDS**

Reporter  
jnl.newsdesk@ncjmedia.co.uk

**WORLD-RENOWNED** dance company Rambert are returning to Newcastle this month with a trio of evolutionary works.

Their new programme features French rising star Marion Motin's first work for a contemporary dance company, alongside the first major revivals of two works by Wayne McGregor and Hofesh Shechter.

Shechter's *In Your Rooms* is provocative, political and deeply personal, presenting a society that is both alienating and shockingly familiar. A collective of dancers reveal shifting motives, lack of control and vulnerabilities through intricate, touching

encounters. An original, live score accompanies the piece, created by Hofesh in collaboration with Nell Catchpole. This run will be the first time Rambert performs Shechter's work.

McGregor's *PreSentient* was commissioned by Rambert in 2002 and went on to win the Time Out Award for Best Choreography. It is now being revived for the first time since its premiere.

It's performed to Steve Reich's *Triple Quartet*, played live, with lighting by Lucy Carter and costumes designed by Ursula Bombshell.

Rambert also presents a new creation by Motin, whose hip-hop style is best known from her work with *Christine* and the *Queens* as well as the VMA-nominated video for Dua Lipa's *IDGAF*.

The new work is danced to an original score by Micka Luna with costumes designed by Yann Seabra and lighting by Judith Leray.

The *Rouge* premiere will mark the first time Motin's work will be on a UK stage.

The combination of world-class dancers, inventive choreography and a live orchestra makes for an exhilarating theatrical experience.

Rambert will be at Newcastle Theatre Royal between Tuesday, March 24 and Thursday, March 26, playing evenings at 7.30pm with a matinee on Thursday at 2pm.

Tickets are priced from £14 and can be purchased from the Box Office on 08448 11 21 21 or online at [www.theatreroyal.co.uk](http://www.theatreroyal.co.uk).

## Things are going to get worse before they get better, but get better they will

Paul  
**Benneworth**



THE effects of leaving the EU now become visible. The Transition Arrangements mean that we are protected from the worst of the damage until next year.

But we are now a Third Country, regarded by the EU as such. So we are now omitted from European Union communications.

Although profoundly depressing for me as a Brit in Europe, it sometimes saves me from embarrassment by being reminded how bad things are at home.

I saw on Thursday a map of the European regional economic situation across Europe. In the past, these maps made my toes curl, seeing the North East continually overtaken and outgrown by regions from across Europe.

That hid our regional economy's parlous state, with our regional wealth being just three-quarters of the national average. Scotland is the only region outside the greater South East in recent years that has improved its performance against the average.

Scotland's experience is instructive: two decades of devolution allowed them to take decisions to benefit Scotland, and not London.

Because put simply, many of the problems we face today in the North East are a result of political decisions taken to benefit London.

I'm not one of those that traces the North East's decline to a regional bank collapse in the 1840s. Bought out by greedy London financiers, they preferred gambling our regional deposits on risky overseas ventures than backing our then world-leading industry.

But Britain's longer-term domination by London's capital markets did bring endemic short-termism underpinning our industrial collapse.

Nationalising our key industries was one sensible London-led attempt to modernise ageing companies, but was quickly undone when later governments failed to invest in new technologies for these industries.

So I can give a weary shrug when Nick Forbes says he hopes for a once-in-a-generation shift by the Tory government, levelling up England and benefiting the North East. He's partly right

when he says it needs more than infrastructure.

But he misses the bigger point. What we need is a long-term perspective.

The Quayside shows in miniature how to rebuild a region. Over thirty years, public investors – the Development Corporation, the courts, the local authorities, charities and central government – invested in making it beautiful.

This brought people and spending back to the Quayside, building a successful cornerstone of Newcastle's burgeoning tourism industry.

But almost all those factors were slashed by the Tories since 2010. Looking forward the HS2 high speed project will pour one hundred billion pounds down the drain, whilst the Metro rusts into irrelevance.

Northern Universities may or may not get a cash boost, just as big manufacturing investors up sticks back inside the European single market, throwing hundreds of thousands on the dole.

A decade of under-investment left us falling apart at the seams.

We need to repair potholes, renovate the NHS and reopen Surestart centres, youth centres and care homes.

Positive results lie far in the future. Things are going to get worse before they get better. But get better they will.

Those of us advocating strong regional policy have held our counsel the last decade.

Those of us interested in regional devolution have said very little since Cummings honed his dark arts on our regional assembly referendum.

But these times have come for our knowledge. If levelling up is to be anything more than hot air, then we need serious regional devolution.

If we are going to survive the coming Brexit collapse, we need an active regional policy.

Now is the time for the North East's regional experts to stake their claim for genuine regional influence.

That's the only way of putting ourselves back on the map of success where we've been missing for 50 years.