



Birmingham Royal Ballet Principals: Chi Cao (图)

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Born in China, Chi Cao trained at the Beijing Dance Academy and the Royal Ballet School. He joined Birmingham Royal Ballet in 1995 and was promoted to Principal in 2002. Chi is a virtuoso classical dancer and often leads the Company in the classic repertory. His superb technique won him the gold medal in 1998 at Varna, the 'Granddaddy' of all ballet competitions. Chi's talents however are not just restricted to his considerable technical abilities. He is also an exciting interpretive artist with a number of created roles to his credit. With his frequent partner, Nao Sakuma, Chi has also represented the Company at a number of prestigious occasions, dancing at the NATO gala in Birmingham (2000) and Birmingham's gala to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's golden jubilee (2002). In 2008 took a six-month leave of absence from the Company to star as Li Cunxin in Bruce Beresford's film Mao's Last Dancer.

REPERTORY INCLUDES

Frederick Ashton: La Fille mal gardée (Colas), The Two Pigeons (Young Man), The Dream (Puck), Enigma Variations (Tryote Griffiths), Les Patineurs (Blue Boy), Symphonic Variations and Voices of Spring

George Balanchine: Agon (pas de trois), The Four Temperaments (Melancholic Variation), Mozartiana (Solo boy) and Tarantella

David Bintley: Arthur (Lancelot), Beauty and the Beast (Beast, Raven), Edward II (Gaveston, Warwick, Lancaster), Hobson's Choice (Fred Beenstock, Salvation Army), Allegri diversi (lead role), The Orpheus Suite (Orpheus), The Seasons ('Spring'), The Shakespeare Suite (Hamlet), The Sons of Horus (Qebhsnuf), 'Still Life' at the Penguin Café (Southern Cape Zebra), Choros, Dance House and David Bintley and Galina Samsova's production of Giselle (Albrecht, Peasant pas de deux)

Oliver Hindle: The Four Seasons ('Spring', 'Summer') and Bright Young Things

Kenneth MacMillan: Romeo and Juliet (Romeo, Benvolio, Mercutio, Mandolin Dance lead) and Elite Syncopations ('Friday Night')

Twyla Tharp: In the Upper Room

Peter Wright's productions of Coppélia (Franz), The Nutcracker (Prince), The Sleeping Beauty (Prince Florimund, Bluebird) and Peter Wright and Galina Samsova's production of Swan Lake (Siegfried, pas de trois)

Pas de deux from Don Quixote and Le Corsaire

CREATED ROLES

David Bintley: Concert Fantasy (lead role) and The Seasons ('Spring')

Oliver Hindle: Bright Young Things

AWARDS

Gold medal, Varna International Ballet Competition, 1998.

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