

RCDL

SIR ROBERT COHAN DANCE LEGACY CIC

presents:

On the And

**Honouring the Legacy of
Sir Robert Cohan CBE**

**The Place Theatre
24 and 25 March 2023**



Cohan circa 1986

Photo: Anthony Crickmay

Sir Robert Cohan CBE (1925-2021) was one of the true pioneers of modern and contemporary dance. Born in New York, Cohan joined the Martha Graham Dance Company in 1947 and moved to London in 1968 to assume the role of founding Artistic Director of The Place and London Contemporary Dance Theatre. His impact on the dance world in the UK and Europe was immediate and profound. Throughout his seven decades-long career Cohan helped to shape and reshape the artform in the UK and abroad. Tonight's programme represents a small sample of his works integrated with archival footage providing a window into Cohan's creative process, philosophy, life and humour.

The **Sir Robert Cohan Dance Legacy CIC** is a newly formed organisation registered with Companies House as a not-for-profit Community Interest Company (#14526759). The RCDL mission is to support production of Cohan's choreographic works and research into his works, teaching, and professional life. The RCDL is committed to sponsoring and supporting educational seminars and projects related to Cohan's legacy, as well as the development of new artists and researchers seeking to expand upon that legacy. Proceeds from both evenings' performances, donations and sales of archival materials will go directly to RCDL to support future projects.

Please download the full QR code programme for more detailed information.

On the And

Choreography: Robert Cohan

Design: Robert Cohan (unless otherwise noted)

STABAT MATER (1975)

The Mother, sorrowing stood weeping near the Cross
While her Son was hanging
O Mother, fountain of love, so strongly do I feel
Your grief that I mourn with you -*Jacopone da Todi*

The motivation for choreographing Stabat Mater came from the first line. I was deeply moved by the concept of actively standing still and sorrowing. For me all the women represent parts of Mary's experience rather than being attendants to her. - Robert Cohan

Music: Antonio Vivaldi (Academy of Ancient Music/Christopher Hogwood. Soloist: James Bowman)

Lighting: John B. Read

Staging: Andrea Helander Kramesova

Special coaching: Anne Donnelly

Performed by: Royal Swedish Ballet School (Upper School)

Eileen Jönsson (Mary)

Nelli Arposuo

Naomi Bethke (25th)

Bonnie Björklund Ahlström

Susanna Carreño

Ella de Geer

Malvina Kolb (24th)

Wilma Overgaard

Laura Persson

Ida Säfvestad

Covers:

Dalina Bagheri

Nora Torsson Brandt

Special thanks: Cecilia Selander Moss, Artistic Director/Vice Principal

Lisa Drake, Head of Contemporary Dance Department

The Royal Swedish Ballet School participation in tonight's programme:



Funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Film excerpts from *FOREST* (1977)

Music: Brian Hodgson
Original Lighting: Charter
Design: Norberto Chiesa
Staging: Darshan Singh Bhuller (for MGDC)

Performed by: Martha Graham Dance Company

Lloyd Knight
Charlotte Landreau

Performed by: London Contemporary Dance Theatre

Namron
Linda Gibbs

Sallie Estep
Anca Frankenhaeuser
Anita Griffin
Kate Harrison

Special thanks: Janet Eilber, Artistic Director, Martha Graham Dance Company

***SIGH* (2015)**

Music: Edward Elgar (*Sospiri op 70*. Bournemouth Sinfonietta/George Hurst.)
Original Lighting: Robert Cohan
Revival Lighting: John B. Read
Staging: Richard Alston

Performed by: Liam Riddick

INTERVAL - 15 Minutes

Please take this opportunity to view LCDT archival materials donated by the Cohan Estate and Contemporary Dance Trust Ltd. including rare posters and a collection of original Anthony Crickmay photographs. These works are available for purchase in the lobby. All proceeds will be used to support RCDL's mission.

LINGUA FRANCA (2014)

Music: J.S. Bach. (*Chaconne in D Minor*. arr. F. Busoni. Pianist Eleanor Alberga.)
Original Lighting: Adrian Plaut
Revival Lighting: John B. Read
Staging: Yolande Yorke-Edgell

Performed by: Yorke Dance Project

Abigail Attard Montalato
Jonathan Goddard
Edd Mitton
Amy Louise Thake

Solo from COMMUNION (2019)

Music: Nils Frahm (*Some*)
Lighting: John B. Read
Staging: Yolande Yorke-Edgell

Performed by: Dane Hurst

Excerpt from CLASS (1975)

Music: John Keliehor (Original composition for *Class*)
Lighting: John B. Read
Staging: Paul Liburd
Special Coaching: Darshan Singh Bhuller; Peter Dunleavy; Linda Gibbs; Anita Griffin.

Performed by: Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance (2nd and 3rd year)

Tanisha Addicott
Louis Baxter
Mark Crawley
Tameka-Jordan Cunliffe
Natnael Dawit
Salvador Thylmann Foster
George Gregory
Eliana Hayward
William Heron
Elaini Lalousis
Pollyanna Mann
Serena McCall
Eleanor McGrath
Araksee Miller
Elizabeth Jeanne Ortega

Samuel Shterenlikht
Thomas Sutton
Shivum Jaimie Tank
Martha Tribe
Stanley Young

Covers:
Ying-Hsiu Chen
Olivia Devine
Dylan Jones
Zachary Priestley

Special thanks: Amanda Britton MA, Chief Executive, Principal and Artistic Director
Darren Ellis, Deputy Principal
Paul Clark, Costumes

FILM AND AUDIO CLIPS:

Editor: Darshan Singh Bhuller

Film footage, audio, and programme materials provided by: Contemporary Dance Trust Ltd.; Middlesex University; Yorke Dance Project; Singh Productions; Sir Robert Cohan Estate; Sir Robert Cohan Arts Legacy; Abderrahim Crickmay Charitable Settlement; the Victoria and Albert Museum; Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, Martha Graham Dance Company; The Royal Swedish Ballet School.

PRODUCTION TEAM:

For RCDL

Board of Directors:

Roy M. Vestrich (Chair)
Anne Donnelly
Darshan Singh Bhuller

Advisory Board:

Sir Richard Alston CBE
Clare Connor

Max Finbow, Executive Producer
John B. Read, Lighting Designer
Carly Hook: Company Stage Manager
Tom Johnson: Technical Consultant
Press Relations: Martha Oakes; Sue Lancashire, Martha Oakes PR
Photography for RCDL archives: Andrew Lang

For The PLACE

Clare Connor, Chief Executive, The Place and London Contemporary Dance School

Eddie Nixon, Artistic Director

Eleanor Farrow, Visitors Services Manager

Marco Cifre, Technical Manager

Seth Rook Williams, Deputy Technical Manager

Matilda Hunter, Senior Marketing Director

Will Bridgland, Assistant Producer (Theatre)

Note from the Producers:

The Producers wish to extend a special note of thanks to each of the over 100 people including company directors, dancers, technicians, teachers, special coaches, stage personnel and The Place staff who contributed their energy and expertise to this production. The producers also extend their gratitude to the partners and family members whose support and patience helped to make these evenings possible. Many of the individuals involved in the production knew Robert Cohan personally as a friend, teacher, or colleague; they have given generously of their time as a way of saying “*thank you*” to Bob for what he contributed to their own lives. Others may not have known Bob personally but can sense his presence in the very bricks and mortar of The Place, the Robert Cohan Studio at the Rambert School, and in the teachers, designers and mentors that carry Bob’s influence deeply within their own approaches to life and work.

A good share of the those behind *On the And* as well as many joining us in the audience are the very people who made the Cohan legacy possible. It was their energy, work and skills that Bob relied on to bring his artistic vision to life. We know how much you all meant to him and how proud he was to work with you and see your lives and careers blossom. You are his true legacy. You are what happens on the *and*. As Bob would say:

“The dance happens on the *and*. Life happens on the *and*.”



PHOTOGRAPHY AND/OR RECORDING IS NOT PERMITTED DURING TONIGHT’S PERFORMANCE.

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