



Sadler's Wells in Angel
**Lilian Baylis
Studio**

Julie Cunningham & Company

m/y-kovsky | fire bird

10 – 11 November 2022

Julie Cunningham & Company present two queer dances in response to music by Western classical composers.

m/y-kovsky

m/y-kovsky is a response to Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1 (first and second movement). Initially conceived as part of an exploratory evening of work for Art Night 2019, Jules Cunningham draws on a traditional dance canon, playing with queer ways of relating to each other, the space, and the music.

Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No.1

second movement

Performed by Berlin Philharmonic (1996). Martha Argerich, piano.

first movement

Performed by Orchestre de la Suisse Romande (1975). Martha Argerich, piano. Charles Dutoit, conductor.

Choreographed by Jules Cunningham

Performed by Yu-Chien Cheng, Jules Cunningham, Eleanor Perry, Owen Ridley-DeMonick, Stephen Quildan

Original cast included Harry Alexander, Chess Boughey

Assistant Director and Dramaturg Harry Alexander

Lighting Design Imogen Clarke

Producers Kat Bridge & Lydia Wharf

Costume Design Jules Cunningham

Duration: 25 Minutes

Commissioned for Art Night in 2019.

INTERVAL - 20 Minutes

fire bird

Here are all the parts of myself together, always changing, unstable and fragmented. I am dealing with the contradictions – capability and collapse, wanting to hide and wanting to be seen. I am undefended and undefeated.

fire bird is my queer and personal interpretation of the iconic Stravinsky musical score written and first performed over 100 years ago, beginning with the Ballet Russes. I acknowledge the history of this work, its part in Western dance history, my own history and I hold with me the web of connections and people who have made this possible.

- Jules Cunningham

Choreographed and Performed by Jules Cunningham

Featuring JD Samson

Assistant Director and Dramaturg Joyce Henderson

Lighting Design Imogen Clarke

Original Lighting Design Sorcha Stott-Strzala

Costume and Design Tim Spooner and Jules Cunningham

Costume Remake Shanti Freed

Producer Kat Bridge

Producing Support Lydia Wharf

Music The Firebird by Igor Stravinsky (1910) - Recorded and performed by the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra in 2012

Duration: 42 Minutes

Commissioned by The Yard Theatre in 2020 with further support from DanceEast.

Supported using public funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Special thanks to all the brilliant team at Sadler's Wells, DanceEast for studio space, the dancers who have been joining company class, the great humans who have watched run throughs, Christa Holka for photography and Katarzyna Perlak for videography.

Jules and the company would love to hear what you thought. Feel free to ask a question or make a comment during Thursday's post-show discussion, which will be hosted by Annie Pui Ling Lok, independent artist and Co-Artistic Director of Siobhan Davies Studios. Find us on [Instagram @juliecunninghamandcompany](#).

About Julie Cunningham & Company

Julie Cunningham & Company, founded 2017 by Jules Cunningham (they/them), combines clarity of form and attention to detail with an interest in gender identity, the body and its emotional states, and mental health. Jules is developing a movement language that draws on their technical training, expanding and queering it collaboratively, working between sound, text, and visual art.

Jules performed for fifteen years with Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Michael Clark Company, and others, recognised for Outstanding Modern Performance by the Critics Circle National Dance Awards (2014). The international appetite for Jules' work continues to grow as they direct their creative voice to engage pressing political and social concerns, especially LGBTQ+ dialogues.

Jules has presented work in the UK and internationally, alongside engaging in choreographic research and extensive teaching. These include two sold-out runs at the Barbican's Pit Theatre, a new commission for the V&A's REVEAL festival, a new evening of work at Southbank Centre presented by Rambert, a sold out presentation of To Be Me, performed to poetry by Kae Tempest at Edinburgh Fringe Festival as part of the 2017 British Council Showcase, and a new creation for Dance Umbrella Festival.

Jules made their Sadler's Wells Theatre debut as a New Wave Associate in October 2018 with m/y, a work commissioned as part of Sadler's Wells 20th anniversary celebrations. In 2019 Jules was one of ten artists commissioned for Art Night, London and most recently premiered their acclaimed solo fire bird at The Yard. Jules was a recipient of the 2021 Founders Prize Award at the Bethlem Gallery for their visual art work and will be part of a forthcoming exhibition at the Long Gallery, Maudsley Hospital.

These are the first live company performances since the pandemic. It is great to be back.

Coming Up

how did we get here?
19 - 29 January 2023
Sadler's Wells Theatre

Jules Cunningham premieres their latest Sadler's Wells commission, with collaborators Spice Girl, Melanie C and award-winning dancer Harry Alexander. Set in the round with some seating on stage, join us for this intimate evening of dance.

What do we hold in our bodies?

The fullness of our experience is alive and present in every moment.

We feel our power, all the way to the edges of ourselves,
The loneliness of living and never fully being understood,

And the chaos that lives within and around us.

The longing in our hearts,

The unexpected happenings at the edges of our lives,

Our memories and the inrush of the future,

The voices of those near us, and those far away.

How did we get here?

Commissioned by Sadler's Wells. Jules Cunningham is a Sadler's Wells New Wave Associate. Supported using public funding by Arts Council England.

Tickets now on-sale via [Sadler's Wells website](#).



Photo © Dolly Brown @londonlivingdoll