

CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON, OBE (Director & Choreographer) trained at The Royal Ballet School and joined The Royal Ballet in 1991. In 1993, he joined New York City Ballet and was promoted to Soloist in 1998. He was named NYCB's first Resident Choreographer in July 2001. Since then, Mr. Wheeldon has created and staged productions for many of the world's major ballet companies: San Francisco Ballet, The Bolshoi Ballet, The Mariinsky Ballet, The Paris Opera Ballet, and Hamburg Ballet among others.

In 2007, Mr. Wheeldon founded Morphoses/The Wheeldon Company and was appointed an Associate Artist for Sadler's Wells Theatre in London. Mr. Wheeldon now serves as Artistic Associate of The Royal Ballet. He has created many works for the company, including the full-length *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *The Winter's Tale*, both of which were co-productions with The National Ballet of Canada.

In 2012, his ballet *Cinderella* premiered at Het Nationale Ballet and is making its way to audiences worldwide. For the Metropolitan Opera, he choreographed *Dance of the Hours* for Ponchielli's *La Gioconda* (2006) and Richard Eyre's production of *Carmen* (2012) as well as ballet sequences for the feature film *Center Stage* (2000) and the musical *Sweet Smell of Success* on Broadway (2002).

Mr. Wheeldon created a special excerpt for the Closing Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympics, and in April 2016, he was the Artistic Director for the Fashion Forward exhibition in Paris at La Musee Arts et Decoratif.

In 2014, Mr. Wheeldon directed and choreographed the Broadway musical version of *An American in Paris*, which had productions in Paris, New York, and London and has toured extensively through America, China, Japan and Australia. The Joffrey Ballet presented the world premiere in 2016 of *The Nutcracker* reimagined by Mr. Wheeldon and in 2017 he directed and choreographed Lerner & Loewe's *Brigadoon* starring Kelli O'Hara and Patrick Wilson at New York City Center. 2019 saw the premiere of *Corybantic Games* at The Royal Ballet and a re-staged version of *Cinderella* for the English National Ballet at Royal Albert Hall.

Like Water for Chocolate is his latest full-length ballet for The Royal Ballet which had its premiere in June 2022 and its American premiere with American Ballet Theater in 2023.

Most recently he directed and choreographed *MJ The Musical* which opened on Broadway in February 2022, winning four Tony Awards, including Best Choreography. It is currently touring throughout America and opened in London's West End in March 2023.

Among Mr. Wheeldon's other awards are another Tony Award for Best Choreography for *An American in Paris*, 2 Tony Nominations for Best Director, an Outer Critics Award for Best Choreography and Direction for *An American in Paris*, the Martin E. Segal Award from Lincoln Center, the American Choreography Award, the Dance Magazine Award, South Bank Show Award, multiple London Critics' Circle Awards, and the Léonide Massine Prize for new choreography. Mr. Wheeldon's productions of *Cinderella* and *The Winter's Tale* received the Benois de la Danse, and he is an Olivier Award winner for his ballets *Aeternum* for The Royal Ballet and *Polyphonia* for Morphoses.

In 2016, Mr. Wheeldon was named an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) and was made an Honorary Fellow of American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Christopher is a dual citizen of the United States and the United Kingdom and resides in New York City with his husband, Ross Rayburn, and their dogs, Hattie and Theo.