Press Office 20/07/2024

***ROBERTO BOLLE AND FRIENDS***

**TWO EVENINGS WITH STARS FROM THE WORLD OF DANCE AT THE ARENA DI VERONA**

**Tuesday 23** and **Wednesday 24 July**

9.30 pm

**Adding another date this time, the great dance event returns to the Arena di Verona for two evenings, with star Roberto Bolle**—**one of the Étoiles of Teatro alla Scala**—**joined on the immense stage under the stars by eight exceptionally talented principal dancers and artists (*friends*) from all over the world. The rich, varied show combines great classics, modern dance, exciting new pieces and original tracks with aplomb to give all audiences unfettered access to this choreographed art form. Seats available for both evenings.**

The eagerly awaited and highly popular show, in which Roberto Bolle brings the wonders of dance to the Arena di Verona stage, is back. Packed with delights, ***Roberto Bolle and Friends***, a show co-produced by the Fondazione Arena and **ARTEDANZA**srl, sees the Étoile of the Teatro alla Scala joined by several solo artists from some of the world’s greatest theatres in a remarkable, eclectic showcase of classic and contemporary styles—from Petipa and Béjart to McGregor and Volpini—each year, with new stars and surprises.

**At 9.30 pm on Tuesday 23 July and Wednesday 24 July,** eight *Friends* from Milan, London, Budapest, Munich and other international ballet arenas will take to the stage: **António Casalinho** and **Margarita Fernandes** (First Soloists of the Bayerisches Staatsballett in Munich); **Melissa Hamilton** (First Soloist with the Royal Ballet in London); **Tatiana Melnik** (Principal Dancer of the Hungarian National Ballet in Budapest); **Giorgi Potskhishvili** (Principal Dancer of the Dutch National Ballet in Amsterdam); and International Guest Artists **Toon Lobach** and **Casia Vengoechea**. **Nicoletta Manni**—Étoile of Teatro alla Scala—will also appear, with **Roberto Bolle** taking the reins of the evening performance, during which he will star in new specially commissioned choreographed routines.

These include *Turiddu,* created by Massimiliano Volpini to the Intermezzo from Mascagni’s *Cavalleria rusticana*, a tribute to the UNESCO-recognised art of Italian opera singing, which premiered at the Arena Gala last June: this is an exclusive opportunity to see it performed again in the venue it was created for. Volpini is also behind **one of the 2024 edition’s remarkable new pieces: *Prometheus***, an evocative, virtuoso routine performed with fire and played to the Herculean music of Beethoven. Representing classical ballet are *Esmeralda* (Petipa) and *Don Chisciotte* (Minkus), accompanied by the sharp (and acrobatic) performance **to song** of *Les Bourgeois*, the **contemporary sounds** of pieces by Craig Davidson *(Lightness of Beng*), Brumanchon (*Les Indoptes*), Wayne McGregor (*Qualia*) and Kratz (*II*), and **sleek choreographed routines by** Bèjart to the music of Bach (*La Luna*) and Messerer to that of Rachmaninov (*Spring Waters*).

The star-studded cast and captivating show make these two unmissable evenings of dance under the stars at the Arena: seats are still available in various areas, starting from 22 Euro. Info: [www.arena.it](http://www.arena.it)

The two eagerly awaited performances of *Roberto Bolle and Friends* will kick off a busy week at the 101st Arena di Verona Opera Festival for 2024: on Thursday 25 July, *Carmen* will return to the stage, followed by the recent “crystal” production of *Aida* on Friday 26, and a performance of the brand-new production of Puccini’s *Bohème* on Saturday 27.

With 50 evening performances scheduled before 7 September, the Arena di Verona Opera Festival 2024 is being supported by a number of sponsors, led by UniCredit, whose partnership has endured for more than 25 years, followed by Calzedonia, Pastificio Rana, Volkswagen Group Italia, DB Bahn, Forno Bonomi, RTL 102.5, Genny—once again providing uniforms worn by the staff welcoming audience members—and Müller—once again supporting accessibility projects for people with disabilities. Official partners include historic brands such as Veronafiere, Air Dolomiti, A4 Holding, Metinvest, SABA Italia, SDG Group, Sartori di Verona, Palazzo Maffei and Mantova Village. New supporters include Poste Italiane, ManPower Group and Consorzio di Tutela dell'Aceto Balsamico Tradizionale di Modena DOP. In addition to companies, private individuals, and professional associations that make up the ranks of the Membership 67 Columns for the Arena di Verona, founded by Gianluca Rana from the namesake pasta factory, and Sandro Veronesi, patron of the Oniverse Group, with Gruppo Editoriale Athesis as media partner.

**Information**

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**Ticket office**

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Open on show days from Monday to Sunday between 9.30 am and the performance start time

(between 9.30 am and 5.45 pm on non-performance days)

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