

18 19

Danse

Sutra

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui / Moines de Shaolin

25 - 26 septembre

ODYSSUS
Scène des possibles

BLAGNAC

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui / Antony Gormley / Szymon Brzóska
with monks from the Shaolin Temple

Sutra

Marketing and press pack



Sutra. Photo by Hugo Glendinning

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Important note

All copy must be used as provided. No changes or translations are permitted without the agreement of Sadler's Wells. All information contained in this document, along with high resolution images, can be downloaded from www.sadlerswells.com/tour-marketing/sutra

All marketing materials, audience programmes and press releases must be proofed by Sadler's Wells before going to print. Please send all proofs, allowing adequate time for approval, to florent.trioux@sadlerswells.com and sammie.squire@sadlerswells.com (until 21 May 2018) or daniel.king@sadlerswells.com (21 May 2018 onwards)

Introduction

Sutra is a Sadler's Wells production which premiered in 2008. It was created by Sadler's Wells Associate Artist Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui in collaboration with visual artist Antony Gormley, composer Szymon Brzóska and monks from the Shaolin Temple in China.

The show is inspired by the strength, skill and spirituality of Buddhism and the Shaolin tradition. It has toured all over the world in the last ten years, from New Zealand to New York,

Crediting

The following credits must appear on all advance publicity including posters, venue/festival brochures and press releases:

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui / Sadler's Wells London

Sutra

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui / Antony Gormley / Szymon Brzóska
with monks from the Shaolin Temple

Direction & Choreography: Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui

Visual creation and Design*: Antony Gormley

Music: Szymon Brzóska

A Sadler's Wells London Production

Additional credits for programmes:

Co-produced with Athens Festival, Festival de Barcelona Grec, Grand Théâtre de Luxembourg, La Monnaie Brussels, Festival d'Avignon, Fondazione Musica per Roma and Shaolin Cultural Communications Company.

** in French, Antony Gormley's title should read 'création plastique'*



Sadler's Wells
Productions

Brochure Copy

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's Sutra** is one of Sadler's Wells' most exhilarating productions and has toured around the globe to sell-out audiences and mass critical acclaim.

The award-winning collaboration between choreographer Cherkaoui, sculptor **Antony Gormley** and 19 Buddhist monks from the **Shaolin Temple** in China has been seen by over 160,000 people world wide, achieving standing ovations wherever it has been seen. This breathtaking spectacle of athleticism explores the philosophy and faith behind the Shaolin tradition and its relationship with kung fu within a contemporary context.

With **Antony Gormley's** striking set of 21 wooden boxes and Polish composer **Szymon Brzóska's** specially commissioned score performed live, **Sutra** is an incomparable work that has captured the hearts and imaginations of people the world over, as one of the stage's most sophisticated productions and a true work of art.

★★★★★ "Exceeds even out highest expectations" The Times

★★★★★ "This unique, profoundly imagined show takes the concept of cultural exchange to a whole new level" The Guardian

Short version (98 words)

Sutra, the award-winning collaboration between choreographer **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui**, sculptor **Antony Gormley** and 19 Buddhist monks from the **Shaolin Temple** in China, is a breathtaking spectacle of athleticism which explores the philosophy and faith behind the Shaolin tradition and its relationship with kung fu within a contemporary context.

With Antony Gormley's striking set of 21 wooden boxes and Polish composer **Szymon Brzóska's** specially commissioned score performed live, **Sutra** is an incomparable work that has captured the hearts and imaginations of people the world over, as one of the stage's most sophisticated productions and a true work of art.

Selling points

About Sutra

- The title Sutra is derived from the Pali word sutta, whose primary meaning is a collective term for the sermons of Buddha. It is also a generic term for rules and aphorisms, in Hinduism sutras laid down the guidelines for proper conduct in life. The word in Sanskrit also meant string, thread, measure of straightness.
- Sutra has been seen by over 190,000 people worldwide.
- It has travelled to 64 cities across 32 countries including Japan, New Zealand, Mexico, Taiwan and the US.
- In 2009, it won the prestigious Ballettanz Production of the Year award.
- The choreography is by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui who is known for his inquisitive nature and stunning collaborations including zero degrees with kathak dancer Akram Khan, Dunas with flamenco dancer Maria Pages, manga inspired TeZukA and the tango show milonga.
- The set, designed by Antony Gormley, consists of 21 wooden boxes which the monks push, drag and manipulate to make beautiful imagery.
- The score is completely original and has been composed by Szymon Brzóska, a regular collaborator with Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui.
- The music is for percussion, piano and strings and is always played live.
- The show is now on the Key Stage 3 curriculum for Dance.
- 2018 marks the 10th anniversary since the premiere of the show.

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui

- Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui is a Flemish/Moroccan born choreographer.
- He has been an Associate Artist at Sadler's Wells since 2008.
- In 2008 and 2011, he received the title of Outstanding Choreographer of the Year by Ballettanz.
- He was a member of dance collective Les Ballets C de la B where he created Rien de Rien.
- He has choreographed for a wide range of companies including the Cullberg Ballet, Dutch National Ballet, Pilobolus, Ballet de L'Opéra de Paris and Cirque du Soleil.
- He founded his company Eastman in 2010. The company is resident at De Singel in Antwerp.
- In 2012, he helmed the choreography for Joe Wright's film Anna Karenina.
- His production of Babel (words) won the Olivier Award for Best New Dance Production in 2014.
- He became Artistic Director of the Royal Ballet of Flanders in 2015.

Antony Gormley

- Sir Antony Gormley is a British sculptor known for his figurative work including the Angel of the North near Newcastle and Another Place on Crosby Beach, as well as other large scale non figurative installations.
- He won the Turner Prize in 1994 with Field for the British Isles.
- In 2011, won an Outstanding Achievement in Dance award for the set design of Babel (words), choreographed by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui.



- He also collaborated with Cherkaoui and Akram Khan on zero degrees.

Syzmon Brzóska

- Syzmon Brzóska is a Polish composer.
- He has collaborated with Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui on many projects including his 2015 work, mįlonga.

Monks from the Shaolin Temple

- The show is performed 19 Buddhist warrior monks from the original Shaolin Temple in China.
- The monks are trained in the Shaolin tradition from an early age, and the show stars a young boy monk.
- One of the original young boy monks, Dong Dong is now an adult monk in the show.

Press Quotes

From March 2018

★★★★★ “An enthralling, mind-expanding piece of theatre” Daily Telegraph (UK)

★★★★★ “This inspired collaboration remains one of the most engaged and enjoyable creations of the past decade. Dazzling” The Times (UK)

★★★★★ “A striking collaboration. Few dance productions have made such an impact as Sutra” Daily Telegraph (UK)

★★★★★ “Its sheer ingenuity still dazzles” Evening Standard (UK)

★★★★★ “It still fizzles with the excitement and inventiveness that have made it a hit” Daily Telegraph

Pre-2018

★★★★★ “This Sadler’s Wells production exceeds even our highest expectations” The Times (UK)

★★★★★ “This unique, profoundly imagined show takes the concept of cultural exchange to a whole new level” The Guardian (UK)

★★★★★ “Modern dance has few more extraordinary journeys” Daily Telegraph

★★★★★ “Phenomenal acrobatic feats” Metro (UK)

★★★★★ “A tremendously captivating evening that inspires a childlike wonder” Daily Express (UK)



Sadler's Wells
Productions

★★★★ "Mesmerising and magical" Evening Standard (UK)

"Impossible to resist... astounding" Le Monde (France)

"Beautiful movements and amazing acrobatics" El Pais (Spain)

"A sophisticated work of art... beyond entertainment, it offers the audience a sense of harmony and tranquility" Ethnos (Greece)



Sadler's Wells
Productions

Sample Press Release

For release: [insert Day Month Year]

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Antony Gormley and monks from the Shaolin Temple *Sutra*

Monday 26 - Wednesday 28 March

Performances: Mon - Wed at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm

Tickets: £12 - £40

Ticket Office: 020 7863 8000 or www.sadlerswells.com

"This unique, profoundly imagined show takes the concept of cultural exchange to a whole new level" The Guardian

One of **Sadler's Wells'** most successful productions, ***Sutra*** returns to London from **Monday 26 - Wednesday 28 March** to celebrate its 10th anniversary after touring around the globe to sell-out audiences. This award-winning collaboration between choreographer and Sadler's Wells Associate Artist **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui**, sculptor **Antony Gormley** and 19 Buddhist monks from the Shaolin Temple in China is one of Sadler's Wells' longest running and most exhilarating productions. ***Sutra*** embarks on an international tour from March – May 2018. The show visits New Theatre Oxford on **23 and 24 March**, marking the only other UK performance dates for the production.

Since its first sell-out performances at Sadler's Wells in London in May 2008, *Sutra* has toured to 66 cities in 33 countries across the world. The production plays its 200th performance when it returns to the Sadler's Wells stage. With Gormley's striking set of 21 wooden boxes and Polish composer Szymon Brzóska's specially commissioned score performed live, *Sutra* is a breath-taking spectacle of athleticism that explores the philosophy and faith behind the Shaolin tradition and its relationship with kung fu within a contemporary context. *Sutra* received the Production of the Year Award in the Ballet Tanz magazine 2009 yearbook, voted for by 30 international dance critics.

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's debut as a choreographer was in 1999 with Andrew Wale's contemporary musical *Anonymous Society*. Since then, he has made more than 50 fully-fledged choreographic pieces and picked up a slew of prestigious awards. Cherkaoui is an Associate Artist at Sadler's Wells and assumed the role of artistic director at the Royal Ballet of Flanders in 2015. Notable works include Sadler's Wells productions *Sutra* - a dialogue with the warrior monks of the Shaolin Temple - and *mjlonga*, alongside further credits *zero degrees* with Akram Khan, *Dunas* alongside flamenco bailaora, María Pagés, *Play* with kuchipudi danseuse Shantala Shivalingappa, *生长genesis* with Chinese choreographer Yabin Wang and more recently *Mermaid*, a duet for Carlos Acosta and Marta Ortega which received its world premiere at Sadler's Wells in September 2017.

Since founding his company Eastman in Antwerp in 2010, Cherkaoui created the multiple-award-winning *Babel (Words)* together with choreographer Damien Jalet and Antony Gormley. He has also received international acclaim for his choreography in the film *Anna*



Karenina and in 2015 was movement director for Lyndsey Turner's production of *Hamlet* starring Benedict Cumberbatch. In 2016, he was conferred an honorary doctorate by the University of Antwerp for his outstanding contribution to contemporary dance. Cherkaoui's production *Pluto*, a collaboration with Bunkamura Theatre Cocoon, performs at the Barbican Centre this February.

Antony Gormley's career has spanned almost 40 years; his works include *Another Place*, *Domain Field*, *Inside Australia*, *Clearing*, *Breaking Room* and *Blind Light*. His work has been widely exhibited through the UK and internationally. Increasingly, he has taken his practice beyond the gallery, engaging the public in active participation, as in *Clay and the Collection Body* and the acclaimed *One & Other* commission in London's Trafalgar Square. Last year he worked with choreographer Hofesh Shechter on *Survivor* at the Barbican. In November 2012 an exhibition of major new works, *Model*, opened to critical acclaim at White Cube. He was awarded the Turner Prize in 1994, the South Bank Prize for Visual Art in 1999 and the Bernhard Heiliger Award for Sculpture in 2007. In 1997 he was made an Officer of the British Empire (OBE) and was made a knight in the New Year's Honours list in 2014. He has been a Royal Academician since 2003 and a British Museum Trustee since 2007. Gormley previously collaborated with Cherkaoui on the Sadler's Wells co-production *zero degrees* which premiered in 2005.

The monks performing in *Sutra* are from the original Shaolin Temple, situated near Dengfeng City in the Henan Province of China and established in 495AD by monks originating from India. In 1983, the State Council defined the Shaolin Temple as the key national Buddhist Temple. The monks follow a strict Buddhist doctrine, with kung fu and tai chi martial arts forming an integral part of their daily practice. There are many martial arts schools that have also been set up in the region under the name of Shaolin, from which performers for many of the more commercial Shaolin Monk shows are drawn. The performers in *Sutra* however are all Buddhist Monks from the original temple itself.

The title *Sutra* is derived from the Pali word sutta, whose primary meaning is a collective term for the sermons of Buddha. It is also a generic term for rules and aphorisms, in Hinduism sutras laid down the guidelines for proper conduct in life. The word in Sanskrit also meant string, thread, measure of straightness.

Sutra is accompanied by a live, specially commissioned score for five musicians, including piano, percussion and strings by Szymon Brzóska, who also collaborated with Cherkaoui on *Dunas* (2009), *Orbo Novo* (2009) performed by Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet and *Labyrinth* (2011) - his first full length ballet score commissioned by Dutch National Ballet.

For further details of the *Sutra* 2018 international tour please visit www.sadlerswells.com/touring

***Sutra* is a Sadler's Wells Production. Co-produced with Athens Festival, Festival de Barcelona Grec, Grand Théâtre de Luxembourg, La Monnaie Brussels, Festival d'Avignon, Fondazione Musica per Roma and Shaolin Cultural Communications Company.**

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui is a Sadler's Wells Associate Artist

Press night: Monday 26 March at 7.30pm



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For more information or to arrange interviews please contact Dan Macarthur on 020 7863 8114 or dan.macarthur@sadlerswells.com

Press images can be downloaded from <http://media.sadlerswells.com>, please contact the press officer for login details.

NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT SADLER'S WELLS

Sadler's Wells is a world-leading creative organisation dedicated to dance in all its forms. With over three centuries of theatrical heritage and a year-round programme of performances and learning activities, its goal is to motivate everyone to experience dance – to take part, learn, experiment and be inspired. Audiences of over half a million come to Sadler's Wells' London theatres each year, with many more enjoying its touring productions at partner venues across the UK and around the world, or accessing its content through digital channels.

Sadler's Wells commissions and presents more new dance work than any other theatre in the world, embracing the popular and the unknown. Since 2005, it has helped to bring over 140 new dance works to the stage, many of them involving its 16 Associate Artists, three Resident Companies and four Associate Companies – the most exciting talents working in dance today. It also nurtures the next generation of talent through its artist development initiatives, and reaches over 25,000 annually through its learning and engagement programmes

Located in Islington, north London, the current theatre is the sixth to have stood on the site since it was first built by entrepreneur Richard Sadler in 1683. The venue has played an illustrious role in the history of theatre ever since with The Royal Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet and English National Opera having all started at Sadler's Wells. Sadler's Wells is a charity and a National Portfolio Organisation, currently receiving 10% of its revenue from Arts Council England.

Tour dates past and present

27 – 31 May 2008	Sadler's Wells, London, UK
3 – 5 Jul 2008	Festival di Villa Andriana, Tivoli, Italy
9 – 13 Jul 2008	Festival d'Avignon, France
16 – 18 Jul 2008	El Grec Festival, Barcelona, Spain
26 Jul 2008	Athens Festival, Greece
29 & 30 Aug 2008	Groningen Festival, The Netherlands
28 – 30 Oct 2008	La Monnaie, Brussels, Belgium
7 – 9 Nov 2008	Festival de Otono, Madrid, Spain
3 – 6 Dec 2008	Berliner Festspieler, Berlin, Germany
9 – 22 Feb 2009	De Singel, Antwerp, Belgium
2 May 2009	Macau Festival, Macau
5 & 6 May 2009	Grand Theatre de la Ville, Luxembourg
21 – 24 May 2009	The Esplanade, Singapore
13 Jun 2009	Schlossfestspiele, Ludwigsburg, Germany
16 – 18 Jun 2009	Opera de Lille, France
25 – 27 Jun 2009	Theatre National de Challoit, Paris, France
30 Jun – 4 Jul 2009	Sadler's Wells, London, UK
8 – 11 Jul 2009	Julidans Festival, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
17 Jul 2009	Ravenna Festival, Italy
19 Jul 2009	Cividale Festival, Italy
25 – 27 Aug 2009	Helsinki Festival, Finland
31 August – 2 Sep 2009	Norrlandsoperan, Umea, Sweden
15 Sep 2009	BITEF Festival, Belgrade, Serbia
20 Sep 2009	Cankerjev dom, Ljubliana, Slovenia
24 – 29 Sep 2009	Astadtherbst Kulturfestival, Dusseldorf, Germany
30 Sep – 3 Oct 2009	Kampnegel, Hamburg, Germany
4 – 8 Nov 2009	Danse Danse, Montreal, Canada
11 & 12 Nov 2009	National Arts Center, Ottawa, Canada
16 Nov 2009	Grand Theatre de Quebec, Canada
22 & 23 Jan 2010	Centro Cultural de Belem, Lisbon, Portugal
26 Feb – 1 Mar 2010	New Zealand Festival, Wellington, New Zealand
3 – 6 Mar 2010	New Zealand Festival, Wellington, New Zealand
13 – 26 Mar 2010	Sadler's Wells, London, UK
27 & 28 Apr 2010	Birmingham International Festival, UK
1 – 23 May 2010	Netherlands Tour
26 & 27 May 2010	Bregenz Festival, Austria
2 & 3 Jun 2010	Istanbul Festival, Turkey
2 & 3 Jul 2010	Malta Festival, Poznan, Poland
6 & 7 Jul 2010	Koln Opera House, Germany
8 – 11 Sep 2010	Brisbane International Arts Festival, Australia
16 – 19 Sep 2010	Sydney Opera House, Australia
5 – 12 Oct 2010	Tel Aviv Opera House, Israel
19 Oct 2010	Autumne en Normandie, Evreux, France



Sadler's Wells Productions

21 & 22 Oct 2010	Autumne en Normandie, Rouen, France
2 – 4 Nov 2010	Lincoln Center, New York, USA
10 & 11 Nov 2010	University of North Caroline, Chapel Hill, USA
25 – 27 Jun 2011	Tanec, Prague, Czech Republic
1 & 2 Jul 2011	International Tanzsommer, Innsbruck, Austria
25 Mar 2012	Abu Dhabi Festival
10 & 11 Jul 2012	Palacio Belles Artes, Mexico City, Mexico
14 & 15 Jul 2012	Leon, Mexico
21 & 22 Sep 2012	Festspielhaus, St Polten, Austria
29 & 30 Mar 2013	Wales Millenium Centre, Cardiff, UK
3 – 6 Apr 2013	Sadler's Wells, London, UK
9 & 10 Apr 2013	Theatre Royal, Plymouth, UK
7 & 8 May 2013	Birmingham Hippodrome, UK
10 & 11 May 2013	Brighton Dome, UK
14 & 15 May 2013	The Lowry, Salford, UK
29 & 30 Jun 2013	Georgetown Festival, Malaysia
22 & 23 Nov 2014	Alexandrinsky Theatre, St Petersburg, Russia
6 – 8 March 2015	National Performing Arts Centre, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
19 & 20 Mar 2015	Chalon-en-Champagne, France
24 Mar 2015	Olympia, Arcachon, France
27 & 28 Mar 2015	Clermont-Ferrand, France
31 March – 3 Apr 2015	Les Nuits de Fourviere, Lyon, France
1 & 2 Oct 2016	Bunkamura Hall, Tokyo, Japan
5 Oct 2016	Nagoya, Japan
8 Oct 2016	Kokuro, Japan
12 – 15 Jan 2017	Festival a Mil, Santiago de Chile, Chile
16 & 17 Mar 2018	Stadsschouwburg, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
20 Mar 2018	Theater Herleen, Herleen, The Netherlands
23 & 24 Mar 2018	New Oxford Theatre, Oxford, UK
26 – 28 Mar 2018	Sadler's Wells, London, UK
31 Mar & 1 Apr 2018	Rotterdamse Schouwburg, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
4 Apr 2018	Zuiderstrandtheater, The Hague, The Netherlands
7 Apr 2018	Schouwburg Tilburg, Tilburg, The Netherlands
10 Apr 2018	Agnietenhof, Tiel, The Netherlands
12 Apr 2018	Stadsschouwburg Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands
14 Apr 2018	Concertgebouw Brugge, Bruges, Belgium
17 Apr 2018	Cultuurcentrum Hasselt, Hasselt, Belgium
21 Apr 2018	Stadstheater Arnhem, Arnhem, The Netherlands
24 Apr 2018	Stadsschouwburg Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands
1 May 2018	Grand Théâtre de Québec, Quebec, Canada
3 – 9 May 2018	Danse Danse, Montreal, Canada
12 May 2018	Sony Centre for the Performing Arts, Toronto, Canada
15 May 2018	Centre Culturel, Sherbrooke, Canada



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Social Media Content

Images can be downloaded from www.sadlerswells.com/tour-marketing/sutra

A video clip of the show is available to download from www.sadlerswells.com/tour-marketing/sutra

A documentary on the making of Sutra is available to embed from YouTube:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIR20QB2s2I>

There are some vox pops available on YouTube from the 2013 UK tour:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGsxLVbYncs&t=16s>

Interview with Antony Gormley: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p08kQVWAbwo>

Interview with Szymon Brzóska: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AymhndsEIK8>

There is also a Google Exhibition on Sutra available here:
<https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/exhibit/DglScV4ZpewAIA>


ODYSSUD
Scène des possibles

BLAGNAC

Espace pour la Culture
de la Ville de Blagnac.

Scène Conventionnée
d'intérêt national par l'État,
la Région et le Département.

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