

# Ballet Black Open Rehearsal

*Nina: By Whatever Means*

Choreographed by Mthuthuzeli November

**Fri 20 Jan 18:00, The Pit**

Cassa Pancho's Ballet Black is transforming the dance landscape by giving a platform to artists of Black and Asian descent as well as to new and established choreographic voices whose unexpected stories and themes come from the heart to resonate with modern audiences.

Now in their 21st year, this acclaimed ballet company will present award-winning choreographers Will Tuckett and Mthuthuzeli November in a captivating double bill of new and original work at the Barbican in March.

Today you will see *Nina: By Whatever Means* by **Mthuthuzeli November** in rehearsal, a love letter to musician, performer and activist, Nina Simone that combines ballet, jazz and the blues in a moving and inspiring piece of dance theatre.

Ballet Black's *Pioneers* performed at the Barbican will also include **Will Tuckett's** *Then or Now*. Originally created in 2020, this piece blends classical ballet, music and the poetry of Adrienne Rich to ask the question: in times like these, where do we belong?

## **By Whatever Means**

Co-commissioned with the Barbican

Artistic Director and Founder **Cassa Pancho MBE**

Choreography **Mthuthuzeli November**

Lighting **David Plater**

Costume design **Jessica Cabassa**

Composers **Mandisi Dyantyi, Mthuthuzeli November, Nina Simone (1954-2002)**

**Featuring the voices of the Zolani Youth Choir**

Dancers **José Alves, Isabela Coracy, Alexander Fadayiro, Taraja Hudson, Sayaka Ichikawa, Rosanna Lindsey, Helga Paris-Morales, Ebony Thomas**

The performance lasts approximately 1 hour including a Q&A hosted by Toni Racklin (Head of Theatre at the Barbican) with Cassa Pancho MBE.

**Ballet Black** will be at the Barbican performing *Pioneers* in the Barbican Theatre from Wednesday 8 – Sunday 12 March 2023. Tickets are available online at [barbican.org.uk](https://www.barbican.org.uk) or by phoning our Box Office on 020 7638 8891.