

Press Release

Under Embargo until 9am 14 December 2011

Flawless and English National Ballet collaborate on a new production for 2012

Flawless and English National Ballet
HMV Apollo Hammersmith 1 – 2 June 2012
UK Tour 9 June – 8 July 2012
www.ballet.org.uk

The UK's national ballet company **English National Ballet** and World Dance Champions **Flawless** will come together in Summer 2012 in a collaboration fusing streetdance, acrobatics and ballet. The ten Flawless dancers and ten English National Ballet ballerinas will perform together showcasing their skills and combining their talent to celebrate all that is great about dance.

The internationally acclaimed ballet Company and the stars of the UK number-one box office smash hit movie *StreetDance 3D* and the soon to be released sequel *StreetDance 2*, first joined forces in September 2011 when they performed at the *Peace One Day* concert at the O2 in London. They were first introduced to each other at the Buckingham Palace event, *Young people and the performing Arts* in May 2011, at which both parties performed.

The new show will be created by Flawless artistic director and lead choreographer **Marlon "Swoosh" Wallen** and **Jenna Lee**, soloist and choreographer at English National Ballet. The two choreographers will work together fusing the opposing poles of dance to generate a groundbreaking dance experience which follows a group of dancers through an exciting journey into a surreal world of twists, turns, trials and tribulations. Expect the unexpected in this unique collaboration.

Jenna Lee joined English National Ballet in 2002, and was promoted to Soloist in 2008. As well as performing major roles with the Company, she has created many of English National Ballet's more adventurous small scale dance works. In 2006 Jenna choreographed *Ballet Rocks* to launch Sky HD. The piece was to music by Bloc Party and featured eight dancers costumed by Giles Deacon.

Other notable creations include *The Beautiful Game*, *A Football Ballet* in 2009, and pieces for the main stage at Bestival in both 2009 and 2011. Jenna is also an expert in mass-participation choreography, having worked with over 200 school children for *Swanning Around*, a huge dance project which was performed at the Royal Albert Hall and for World Expo in Shanghai in 2010.

Marlon 'Swoosh' Wallen has received awards for Flawless including Best Street Dance Group and Best Choreographed Group. Under his leadership Flawless were named 'UK Street Dance Champions', 'International Dance Champions' and then crowned 'World Dance Champions' after taking on over 50 nations from around the

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President
Dame Beryl Grey, DBE

Artistic Director
Wayne Eagling

Managing Director
Craig Hassall

Registered in England
and Wales
No. 735040

Registered Charity
No. 214005

world in Germany. They were also the first and only group ever to get full marks from all the world judges in street dance history!

Last year Flawless completed a 110 date tour of their own award winning show *Chase The Dream* which also ran in the West End and attracted critical acclaim. Their inspirational and exciting choreography has helped to make street-dance more appealing to a mass audience.

Flawless were finalists in Britain's Got Talent in 2009, where Simon Cowell said they were "*one of the best things I have ever seen in my life*"

Wayne Eagling, Artistic Director of English National Ballet said "*Collaborations like this are vital for English National Ballet to keep the Company fresh and modern and for dancer development. It's a fantastic opportunity for Jenna to showcase her skills which have been nurtured by the Company. I personally can't wait to see the show unfold and to see a whole new audience introduced to the world of ballet.*"

Listings - To book tickets visit www.ballet.org.uk

HMV Apollo Hammersmith 0843 221 0100

Friday 1, Saturday 2 June 2012

7.30pm; 3pm and 8pm

Nottingham Concert Hall 0115 989 5555

Saturday 9, Sunday 10 June

4.30pm and 8.30pm; 2pm and 6pm

Oxford New Theatre 0844 871 3020

Thursday 14, Friday 15 June 2012

7.30pm; 4.30pm and 8.30pm

Torquay Princess Theatre 0844 871 3023

Saturday 16, Sunday 17 June

5.30pm and 8.30pm; 2pm and 6pm

Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre 0844 871 3011

Thursday 21, Friday 22 June 2012

7.30pm; 4.30pm and 8.30pm

New Wimbledon Theatre 0844 871 7646

Saturday 23, Sunday 24 June 2012

5.30pm and 8.30pm; 2pm and 6pm

New Victoria Theatre, Woking 0844 871 7645

Thursday 28, Friday 29 June 2012

7.30pm; 4.30pm and 8.30pm

Aylesbury Waterside Theatre 0844 871 7607

Saturday 30 June, Sunday 1 July 2012

5.30pm and 8.30pm; 2pm and 6pm

Manchester Palace Theatre 0844 871 3019

Friday 6, Saturday 7, Sunday 8 July

7.30pm; 4.30pm and 8.30pm, 2pm and 6pm

- Ends -

For further information and for interview, and image requests please contact Rachel Branton, Press Manager at English National Ballet on 020 7590 2933 / 07930 590350 or e-mail rachel.branton@ballet.org.uk