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## **Our Mission**

We bring world-class classical ballet to the widest possible audience – delighting them with the traditional and inspiring them with the new. We aspire to be the United Kingdom's most exciting and creative ballet company.

## **Our Vision**

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Tamara Rojo, English National Ballet stands for artistic excellence and creativity. We are a world-class organisation, flexible, collaborative, and engaging with its audiences. We honour the tradition of great classical ballet while embracing change, evolving the art form for future generations and encouraging audiences to deepen their appreciation of it.

## **Our Objectives**

- To present productions of classical ballet of the highest quality within England and around the world;
- To offer access to the widest possible audience through affordable pricing and attractive repertoire in a variety of venues including theatres, schools, festivals and digital platforms;
- To inspire, enlighten and uplift the public through performances, events, interaction and experience;
- To develop the art form of ballet by commissioning new choreography, design, and musical composition as well as cherishing the classical repertoire;
- To maintain the highest artistic standards.

Our ambition is great ballet for everyone.

Alina Cojocaru and Ivan Vasiliev © Photography by ASH

## A message from our Chairman



English National Ballet's 2014-2015 season proved to be a transformative one in the life of the company, notable for its artistic achievements, financial health, increased engagement from a growing audience and our strategic investments for the longer term.

We had our most successful Christmas season on record, held the world premiere of award winning Lest We Forget, and we completed our search for a new long term home.

And that's on top of our usual programme of UK and international touring, outreach activities and developing new talent. It has been an incredibly busy, creatively rewarding period, and one that I believe will place the company on a sound footing for the years ahead.

Integral to our recent success is the hard work of all of our staff, but I must in particular pay tribute to our Artistic Director Tamara Rojo, and to our Executive Director, Caroline Thomson. Without their fearless leadership, willingness to take risks and commitment to artistic excellence, English National Ballet would not be the company it is today.

I also wish to say thank you to my Board, whose oversight and commitment to the company is a major factor in the dynamism of English National Ballet. We are blessed with a hard-working, experienced and diverse group of trustees, each of whom deeply love the company and who give considerable time to an organisation which is now becoming a genuine arts leader and innovator. I have had the pleasure of being English National Ballet's Chairman for three years and I am delighted that the Board have placed faith in me to serve a second three year term, effective December 2015.

It has been clear for some time that the company is in need of more space, and a building that is fit for purpose. Our current home in South Kensington has served us well, but with only two studios and a lack of modern facilities, the time is right for us to move on and to have a new building consistent with the company's talents and ambition. I am thrilled that from summer 2018, we will be based at London City Island in East London, For the first time, we will share a home with English National Ballet School and the new purposebuilt facility by leading property developers EcoWorld Ballymore will give us everything we need to continue creating new work and inspiring a love of ballet among the public and the communities we serve.

I have made it a priority in my second term as Chairman to use the move to our transformational new headquarters to underpin our investment in education, digital and music provision. Thanks to our strong box office performance and the ongoing support of Arts Council England, we are in a solid position to realise our bold plans and delivering on our mission to bring world-class ballet to the widest possible audience.

I look forward to the next 12 months and commend this Annual Review to you.

M

Justin Bickle Chairman

"England's National Ballet has always been a very special company but under Rojo's artistic direction it has acquired a tightly-knit, progressive (and most of all, consistent) edge as a springboard for worldleading, superstar performances."

London Dance, Graham Watts



Junor Souza, Yonah Acosta, Carlos Acosta in *Romeo and Juliet* in the round. © Photography by ASH

# A message from our Artistic Director



Tamara Rojo © Jeff Gilbert

## "we dance to enrich people's lives"

Tamara Rojo

I have always been clear about what we are here to do as a ballet company: we are here to enrich people's lives. To connect with them, to move them, to inspire them. And to do that, we need to be continually propelling our art form forward, developing talent, creating new work and reinvigorating the classical repertoire. So when I look back at the last 12 months, it fills me with great pride to be able to say that is *exactly* what we have been doing.

Lest We Forget was a pivotal moment in our story. The anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War was an opportunity for us to reflect and pay tribute to those who fought, and those who were left behind. It was a subject that called for an extraordinary creative effort. So I asked Akram Khan, Liam Scarlett and Russell Maliphant to work with us to create three entirely new works. Collaborating with these exceptional artists was an honour and I would like to thank them for giving me, our dancers and the whole team an unforgettable experience.

Lest We Forget is a marker of what we are capable of. I want us to continue working with exciting artistic partners, pushing our dancers to master new repertoire and surprising our audiences with the possibilities of ballet.

Our productions of the classical greats have continued to captivate audiences this year and this is no less important to me than the creation of new work. We have a responsibility to share these works with as many people as possible – ballet is for everyone and quite often it is the Romeo and Juliets, the

Swan Lakes and the Nutcrackers that first spark a passion for ballet. We will continue to bring new ideas, energy and talent to the classical repertoire – that is a promise.

We ended the year with our first performances as an Associate Company of Sadler's Wells. This new relationship with one of the world's leading dance houses reflects our growing reputation as a versatile and innovative ballet company. Our triple bill, *Modern Masters* drew new audiences to Sadler's Wells, and new audiences to English National Ballet – I trust our relationship will continue to be as artistically fruitful in the years to come. When you collaborate and you are willing to take risks it pays off.

What gave me the biggest thrill, was witnessing how each piece connected with our audiences on a deep, emotional and personal level – that is what dance can do. Whether we were performing at the London Coliseum or on the Pyramid Stage at Glastonbury, I saw people lose themselves in the stories we were telling.

Ultimately, every success we have had over the past year is down to the hundreds of people who are connected to English National Ballet – Arts Council England, our guest teachers, our supporters, our dancers, our musicians, our creative teams and of course, our staff. Thank you to every single person who has contributed their time, talent and enthusiasm.

augus

Tamara Rojo Artistic Director

# **Highlights** 1m+ YouTube video views 187 performances 616k unique visits to ballet.org.uk 261k attendance 33.8k people enjoyed My First Ballet: Coppelia 573k saw us at Glastonbury and on BBC2 and BBC iPlayer Participated in Dance for Parkinson's sessions 40k+ people reached through Engagement programmes

Spring and Fall © Photography by ASH

# A message from our Executive Director



The past 12 months have been both hugely creatively satisfying and fiscally rewarding. We ended the year with a surplus: our box office income of £6, 924, 330 from 156 performances combined with generous support from funders and donors, is testament to the nation's healthy appetite for ballet in all its forms, and means we are well positioned to deliver on our bold plans for the next few years.

Looking back on the objectives we set ourselves for 2014/2015, I am very proud of the year we've had. Lest We Forget saw us add brand new works to our repertoire, while Modern Masters allowed us to perform work by three of the 20th century's most influential choreographers.

We also not only launched our search for a new home, but found one – in 2018, English National Ballet and English National Ballet School will be brought together under one roof for the first time at London City Island.

We continued to focus on building strong teams across the organisation and expanded our Marketing and Development departments. We are committed to investing in people who are passionate about our work and have the ability to deliver our vision of bringing ballet to more people, and more places.

Now in it's fifth year, our Dance for Parkinson's programme continued to touch the lives of hundreds of people with Parkinson's. It is one of the most valuable programmes we run as a company and I am delighted that this year we reached more people than ever before, all of whom benefitted from the power of dance. Long may it continue.

Looking ahead to next 12 months, there is much to be excited about. We will be full steam ahead with planning and fundraising for our move to London City Island, we will be throwing our energy into creating new works by female choreographers, developing a new full-length ballet, *Giselle*, with Akram Khan and performing in some awe-inspiring venues, including "the cathedral of ballet", Palais Garnier in Paris. Off stage, we are going to be working hard to grow and develop our digital presence and we will aim to develop an out-of-London residency and programme of Engagement.

English National Ballet is going from strength to strength – and I am confident that the next year will be just as exhilarating as the last 12 months. It continues to be a thrilling time to be a part of the English National Ballet story.

Carolin 1

Caroline Thomson Executive Director



Dancers of English National Ballet in No Man's Land by Liam Scarlett. © Photography by ASH



2014–2015 saw the world premiere of Lest We Forget, created to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War. We invited three of Britain's leading choreographers to create new works: Akram Khan, Liam Scarlett and Russell Maliphant.

## "Lest We Forget is adventurous and full of promise for ENB's future."

The Daily Telegraph

Their brief was to express the experiences of those who fought, and those who stayed behind. At the opening night, critics and audiences alike were in agreement that they had more than risen to the challenge. The Daily Telegraph declared Lest We Forget "melancholic, but thrillingly uplifting" while audience members responded to the evening through social media, calling it "spellbinding and poignant" @Fiona Trewavas, "groundbreaking, breathtaking, mark-making creative brilliance" @GWDanceWriter and an evening that provided "three strong and beautiful world premieres mixing traditions and taking us to new places" @armslengthal

Akram's Khan's contribution to the evening, *Dust*, was duly rewarded at the 2014 Critics' Circle National Dance Awards with the accolade for Best Modern Choreography. Featuring 24 of our dancers and set to Jocelyn Pook's pounding rhythmic soundtrack, with *Dust*, we added a contemporary piece "full of pain and power" (The Independent) to our repertoire.

The "devastatingly effective" (The Daily Telegraph) Second Breath from Russell Maliphant used the recorded voices of survivors to punctuate the swaying movements of 20 dancers and Andy Cowton's haunting score. While Liam Scarlett's No Man's Land evoked the entwined destinies of the women working in munition factories at home and the men fighting in the trenches.



Lest We Forget showed us exploring the possibilities of ballet, and embracing the experience of working with new creative partners.

Right: Liam Scarlett works with English National Ballet dancers on *No Man's Land*. © Photography by ASH

Left: Tamara Rojo and Akram Khan in *Dust* by Akram Khan. © Photography by ASH

## Artistic Programme Review

In June, we returned to London's Royal Albert Hall for 14 performances of Derek Deane's production of Romeo & Juliet in-the-round. The Shakespearean classic had a cast of 120 and reunited Tamara Rojo and Carlos Acosta in the lead roles. Prokofiev's majestic score was played by the full English National Ballet Philharmonic, with Roberta Guidi di Bagno's grand set designs animating the stage. The highly anticipated return of Acosta and Rojo was met with delight by ballet fans, but we also bade farewell to Principal Dancer Daria Klimentová who performed the role of Juliet for the very last time. Reviews of the production were roundly positive, with the Guardian dubbing the production a "hugely entertaining spectacle."

Continuing the season on a lighter note, we brought a comic tale of love and mistaken identity, *Coppélia*, to the London Coliseum in July. The run was made even more memorable for two of our dancers with news of their promotions in the days leading up to opening night. Yonah Acosta, making his debut in the production, was promoted to Principal, and Shiori Kase to First Soloist.

With the arrival of Autumn, we prepared to take our critically-acclaimed production of Swan Lake around the country to Manchester, Liverpool and Milton Keynes, before a London run at the Coliseum. Since its premiere in 2000, Derek Deane's timeless interpretation has been seen by more than half a million people in the UK. The stellar cast included Alejandro Virelles making his debut as Principal with us and performing the lead role of Prince Siegfried with Alina Cojocaru playing Odette/Odile. Tamara Rojo also returned to the role of Odette/Odile for a number of performances and winner of Emerging Dancer 2014 Junor Souza played Prince Siegfried on six occasions.

Touring is fundamental to our vision of bringing ballet to the widest possible audience and we have long-standing relationships with many of the venues and cities we return to year after year. And as ever, the press in each region came to review our performances, the Liverpool Echo reported "this is a Swan Lake to cherish" while the Manchester Evening News went even further, calling it "a perfect version of a much-loved ballet."

Above: Erina Takahashi in *Coppélia* © Photography by ASH

Right: Barry Drummond in In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated. © Photography by ASH





Also touring throughout the Autumn season was our version of Coppélia. We took our much-loved production from Southampton, to Oxford and on to Bristol. The tour put the spotlight on recently promoted First Soloist Shiori Kase in the lead role of Swanilda. Sharing the limelight were another recently promoted First Soloist, Junor Souza, Laurretta Summerscales, Erina Takahashi, Fernando Bufalá and Tamara Rojo. Léo Delibes' joyful score was played by English National Ballet's full orchestra and critics were were quick to laud our production as one to "lift the spirits" (Oxford Times).

"Yet again, ENB have given us a thoroughly delightful evening at the ballet..."

The Arts Desk on Coppélia

As the year drew to a close, we embarked on what was to become our most successful festive season on record, with Nutcracker in December followed by Swan Lake in January. In total, an extraordinary 105,000 people saw an English National Ballet performance over this period and we performed to practically full-houses every evening.

Wayne Eagling's Nutcracker premiered in 2010 to celebrate our 60th anniversary and has been a firm favourite in our repertoire ever since, seen by more than 300,000 people. Our 2014 run saw two dancers making their debut as Clara; Katja Khaniukova and Ksenia Ovsyanick. And our more seasoned Principals included Alina Cojocaru, Alejandro Virelles and Tamara Rojo, whose performance was described by one audience member as "heaven-sent" (@AmandaStekly). Our opening night made a splash on the front cover of The Times the following day and the Daily Express' warm review pronounced the show to be "spellbinding".



In January, Swan Lake arrived at the Coliseum on the back of its UK tour. We were thrilled to welcome Guest Artists Alban Lendorf, Vitor Luiz and Ivan Vasiliev to perform with the company but there was also a touch of poignancy to proceedings as we said goodbye to Lead Principal Elena Glurdjidze.

This run of Swan Lake continued its fantastic track record for enchanting critics and audiences for over 15 years. The Sunday Express called it "one of the best productions of Swan Lake you are likely to see for a long time" and The Daily Telegraph gave it their seal of approval as "an impeccably judged piece of work".

Swan Lake - Alina Cojocaru and Alejandro Virelles © Photography by ASH

Left: James Forbat

© Photography by ASH

## Artistic Programme Review

In Spring 2015, we presented our first programme of work as Associate Company of the nation's foremost contemporary dance house, Sadler's Wells. When this new partnership was announced in November 2014, Alistair Spalding, Artistic Director and CEO of Sadler's Wells remarked "The new contemporary work that Tamara has been commissioning, has added an exciting dimension to English National Ballet's firmly-established reputation and repertoire, the result of a clear vision for ballet in the 21st century".

It seemed fitting for our inaugural production to present an homage to some of the most influential choreographers of the 20th Century. Modern Masters, was a triple bill of works from three of today's most celebrated choreographers: William Forsythe, Jiří Kylián and John Neumeier.

The programme began with Kylián's *Petite Mort*, which we previously performed in *Ecstasy and Death* in 2013. A witty contemporary ballet, it is performed to the movements of two Mozart Piano Concerti and was originally created in 1991 to mark 200 years since the death of Mozart.

We also gave the UK premiere of Neumeier's Spring and Fall, set to Dvořák's Serenade for Strings in E Major. Featuring two couples and corps de ballet, Lead Principal Alina Cojocaru called the opportunity to perform the work "a dream come true" and we are now privileged to be the only UK company to have Spring and Fall exclusively in our repertoire.

Forsythe's In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated was first created at the request of Rudolf Nureyev when he was Director of the Paris Opéra and this was English National Ballet's first time tackling the piece. Performed on a bare stage, it is a technically demanding work set to an electronic score.

The evening collected a number of four star reviews from publications including The Times, The Daily Telegraph, The Observer and Evening Standard. 86% capacity revealed the public's keen interest in our fledgling partnership with Sadler's Wells and with 36.5% of ticket purchases being made by first time buyers to Sadler's Wells, we showed new audiences the potential of ballet.

As one Twitter user commented "May the relationship with Sadler's Wells be long and prosperous." (@joel\_l\_cottrell)



Right: James Forbat and Kei Akahoshi in Spring and Fall © Photography by ASH

## Artistic Programme Credits



## LEST WE FORGET Second Breath

Direction and Choreography
RUSSELL MALIPHANT
Lighting MICHAEL HULLS
Composer ANDY COWTON
Orchestrator BEN FOSKETT
Costume Design STEVIE STEWART
Collaborative Assistant DANA FOURAS
Assistant CARYS STATON

## No Man's Land

Choreography LIAM SCARLETT
Music Excerpts from Harmonies Poétiques
et Religieuses by FRANZ LISZT, arranged and
orchestrated by
GAVIN SUTHERLAND
Design JON BAUSOR
Lighting PAUL KEOGAN

Co-production of English National Ballet and Queensland Ballet

### Dust

Direction and Choreography AKRAM KHAN
Music JOCELYN POOK\*
Dramaturg RUTH LITTLE
Costume Design KIMIE NAKANO
Lighting Design FABIANA PICCIOLI
Set Design SANDER LOONEN
Rehearsal Directors JOSE AGUDO,
ADREJ PETROVIC and HUA FANG ZHANG

\*By kind permission of Chester Novello Music Ltd  $\,$ 

### **Firebird**

Choreography GEORGE WILLIAMSON Music IGOR STRAVINSKY Set Design DAVID BAMBER and GEORGE WILLIAMSON in collaboration with John Campbell Scenic Studio Costume Design DAVID BAMBER Lighting PAUL KEOGAN

By arrangement with Schott Music Limited and Chester Music Limited

Performance Dates

Barbican London 2-12 April 2014 12 performances

### MY FIRST BALLET: Coppélia

Choreography GEORGE WILLIAMSON
after an original production by RONALD HYND
and MARIUS PETIPA
Concept and Direction GEORGE WILLIAMSON
Music LÉO DELIBES
Music Arrangement GAVIN SUTHERLAND
Design LOUIE WHITEMORE
Lighting RICHARD HOWELL

## Performance Dates

Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury 5-6 April 2014 5 performances

Peacock Theatre, London 8–19 April 2014 19 performances

Palace Theatre, Manchester 26–27 April 2014 5 performances

Assembly Hall Theatre, Royal Tunbridge Wells 3-4 May 2014

5 performances

New Victoria Theatre, Woking 10-11 May 2014 5 performances

Waterside Theatre Aylesbury 17–18 May 2014 5 performances

Churchill Theatre, Bromley 24–25 May 5 performances

Generously supported by The Leverhulme Trust and King's College London

### **ROMEO & JULIET IN-THE-ROUND**

Choreography DEREK DEANE
Music SERGE PROKOFIEV
Design ROBERTA GUIDI DI BAGNO
Lighting Design HOWARD HARRISON

### Performance Dates

Royal Albert Hall London 11–22 June 2014 14 performances

### **COPPÉLIA**

Choreography RONALD HYND after MARIUS PETIPA Music LÉO DELIBES Design DESMOND HEELEY Lighting DAVID MOHR

### Performance Dates

Coliseum London 23–27 July 2014 7 performances

Mayflower Southampton 15–18 Oct 2014 6 performances

New Theatre Oxford 28 Oct-1 Nov 2014 7 performances

Hippodrome Bristol 4-8 Nov 2014 7 performances

### **SWAN LAKE**

Choreography DEREK DEANE after MARIUS PETIPA and LEV IVANOV Additional Choreography FREDERICK ASHTON Music PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY Design PETER FARMER Lighting HOWARD HARRISON

## Performance Dates

Palace Theatre Manchester 8-11 Oct 2014 6 performances

Milton Keynes Theatre Milton Keynes 11–15 Nov 2014 7 performances

Liverpool Empire Liverpool 18–22 Nov 2014 7 performances

Coliseum London 7–18 Jan 2015 15 performances

## **NUTCRACKER**

Choreography WAYNE EAGLING
Based on concept by TOER VAN SCHAYK
and WAYNE EAGLING
Music PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY
Design PETER FARMER
Lighting DAVID RICHARDSON

### Performance Dates

Coliseum London 11 Dec 2014–4 Jan 2015 33 performances

## MODERN MASTERS

## **Petite Mort**

Choreography JIŘÍ KYLIÁN Music W.A. MOZART Set Design JIŘÍ KYLIÁN Costume Design JOKE VISSER Light Design JIŘÍ KYLIÁN (Concept) JOOP CABOORT (realisation) Technical Superviser KEES TJEBBES

## **Spring And Fall (UK Premiere)**

Choreography JOHN NEUMEIER Music ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK Light and Costume Design JOHN NEUMEIER

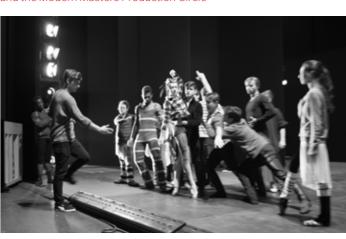
### In The Middle, Somewhat Elevated

Choreography WILLIAM FORSYTHE Music THOM WILLEMS in collaboration with LES STUCK Stage, Light and Costume Design WILLIAM FORSYTHE

### Performance Dates

Sadler's Wells London 10–15 March 2015 8 performances

Generously supported by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and the Modern Masters Production Circle



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## INTERNATIONAL TOUR

Teatros del Canal Madrid 24 – 27 Apr 2014
Teatro del Generalife Granada 4 July 2014
Festival Castell Peralada 1–2 August

Begona Cao and Alejandro Virelles *Modern Masters* rehearsal. © Laurent Liotardo

George Williamson and Company rehearse Firebird © Laurent Liotardo

## Artistic Programme Awards

English National Ballet is living through one of the most thrilling periods in its history; staging new, re-invigorated productions of the Classics and commissioning new works from eminent contemporary choreographers.

In the 2014–2015 season, we received the following honours:

## Awards

## National Dance Awards

Outstanding Company of 2014

## National Dance Awards

Akram Khan – Best Modern Choreography

Dust

## Manchester Theatre Awards

Robert Robson Award for Dance Le Corsaire

## Knights of Illumination Awards 2014: DANCE

Paul Keogan – *No Man's Land*, **Lest We Forget** at the Barbican

## **USA International Ballet Competition**

Shiori Kase – Gold Medal

## **Breaking Glass Award**

Stina Quagebuer – Vera



**Dancers** 

**Lead Principals** 

Alina Cojocaru

Isaac Hernández

Fernanda Oliveira

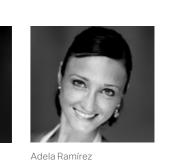












Crystal Costa





Laurretta Summerscales

Erina Takahashi



Carlos Acosta\*

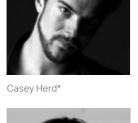


Esteban Berlanga\*



Mathias Dingman\*



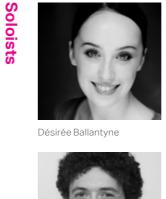


Alban Lendorf\*

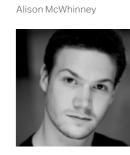
Vitor Luiz\*

Ivan Vasiliev\*

"As so often with ENB, the corps were resplendent." On Swan Lake, January 2015 – The Daily Telegraph









**Principals** 

**Character Artists** 



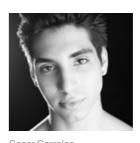
Friedman Vogel\*







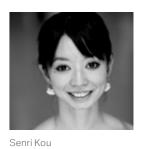
Daniel Kraus



Laurent Liotardo



Anton Lukovkin



Ksenia Ovsyanick

Yonah Acosta





Jane Haworth





Juan Rodríguez

26

Michael Coleman

## **English National Ballet Dancers**

# **First Artists**

Artists of the Company



Tiffany Hedman



Anjuli Hudson



Madison Keesler



Van Le Ngoc

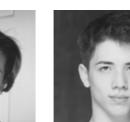


Makoto Nakamura

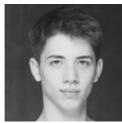




Tamarin Stott



Precious Adams



William Beagley



Francisco Bosch





Isabelle Brouwers



Emilia Cadorin



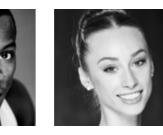
Yoko Callegari

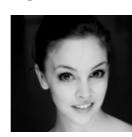


Jung ah Choi









Jennie Harrington



Amber Hunt



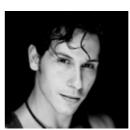


Rina Kanehara



Sarah Kundi

## "With the ENB dancers on fizzing form, this is a night to savour." On Modern Masters, March 2015 - The Stage





Adriana Lizardi



Joshua McSherry-Gray



Guilherme Menezes



Vitor Menezes





Grant Rae



Maria José Sales



Daniele Silingardi



Angela Wood



Erik Woolhouse



Jia Zhang



Jinhao Zhang

## **English National Ballet Philharmonic**

We are committed to achieving the highest musical as well as dancing standards, and some of the country's top musicians form our orchestra.

2014/2015 saw English National Ballet's orchestra renamed English National Ballet Philharmonic, during an exceptionally busy season where as usual live music played a vital part in the company's UK performances.

With the triumphant success of Lest We Forget the orchestra explored significant new work by current British composers something the company seeks to continue developing over the coming years and clearly approached with relish by the musicians.

The orchestra played a fundamental role in our UK performances and the 14/15 financial year saw English National Ballet Philharmonic taking on Romeo and Juliet at the Royal Albert Hall (boasting an orchestra of 91 players), Coppélia and Swan Lake during our Autumn Tour and of course Nutcracker at the Coliseum during the Christmas/ New Year season.

The season also afforded a number of smaller appearances, including groups for events big and small.

This year saw a departure for our regular Choreographics season in that it featured members of the orchestra playing newly commissioned works by young emerging British composers. English National Ballet Philharmonic also performed the soundtrack of Jocelyn Pook's score for Akram Khan's Dust at Glastonbury alongside further recordings made for performances in both Granada and Peralada during the summer of 2014.

## **ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET PHILHARMONIC**

#### Violin I Matthew Scrivener (Leader) Rachel Allen (co-leader) Emil Chakalov Anne Martin Ruth Knell Linda McClaren Fiona Chesterman

Violin II Alain Petitclerc\* Susan Croot Charlotte Howes Caroline Barnes Catherine Smart

Edward Brenton

Stephen Dinwoodie Viola Alexandros Koustas\* David Danford Linda Kidwell

Elizabeth Sharpe

Cello

Garry Stevens\* Naomi Elliott Rosemary Edwards Lars Payne

Double Bass Jeremy Gordon\* Dominic Black Catherine Ricketts

Flute Christopher Green\* Helen Keen

Oboe Gareth Hulse\* Jenny Brittlebank

Clarinet Derek Hannigan' Paul Allen

Bassoon

John McDougall' Howard Legge

French Horn Mark Johnson\* Alexandra Carr Richard Dilley Andrew Paterson Duncan Fuller

Trumpet Andrew Mitchell\* Patricia Reid

Trombone Michael Crowther'

Bass Trombone Leslie Storey\*

Tuba Martin Knowles' Isobel Frayling-Cork\*

Tympani Kate Eyre\*

Percussion Austin Beattie\* Kevin Nutty

Piano / Celeste / Organ Julia Richter Chris Swithinbank

\* Section Principal



"the orchestra means business"

The Arts Desk

English National Ballet Philharmonic Music Director Gavin Sutherland © Photography by ASH

## Nurturing Talent

We believe in rewarding hard work and nurturing talent: it makes us stronger as a company and motivates our dancers to reach their full potential. We give our dancers opportunities to learn from mentors, create new work, and work alongside some of the world's finest guest artists and teachers.



"Emerging Dancer shows a company in very fine form with dancers' development high up its agenda".

London Dance

It is an honour to welcome guest teachers and artists to work with the Company, and in 2014 we were thrilled to have Irek Mukhamedov work with our dancers as a teacher. Guest artists including Ivan Vasiliev, Alban Lendorf and Carlos Acosta were equally inspiring.

We are always proud to see our dancers recognised at competitions and through the discovery of their own choreographic work. In 2014, Shiori Kase won the Senior's Gold Medal at the USA International Ballet Competition.

Our **Emerging Dancer** competition exists to recognise and reward young talent within the Company. Nominated dancers work with an artistic mentor, before performing in front of an audience and a distinguished panel of judges. Audiences also have their say by being able to vote throughout the national tour for their favourite dancer who will win the People's Choice Award.

The Emerging Dancer competition occurred twice during the year, each time supported by Talbot Hughes McKillop. In May 2014 at the Lyceum Theatre judges Deborah Bull, Clement Crisp, Dame Gillian Lynne, Arlene Philips, Wayne Sleep and Tamara Rojo selected joint winners Junor Souza and Alison McWhinney. Junor also received the People's Choice Award that year. In March 2015 Jinhao Zhang walked away with the Emerging Dancer award and Laurretta Summerscales was named winner of the People's Choice award in a competition held at Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall. The judges were Leanne Benjamin, Michael Nunn, William Trevitt, Didy Veldman and Tamara Rojo.

Our **Choreographics** programme is a platform for aspiring choreographers to produce and perform new work. In 2014, four English National Ballet dancers participated; Makoto Nakamura, Fabian Reimair, James Streeter and Stina Quagebeur.

Under the direction of Associate Artist, George Williamson and with the guidance of Kerry Nicholls and Dr Bruce Wall, they worked in collaboration with professional composers, who in turn created new music for the pieces, to create original works inspired by texts about the First World War. The finished works were performed at The Pit, Barbican in May 2014. Stina Quagebeur's piece *Vera* was subsequently selected for The Breaking Glass Award and performed in New York.

Our partnership with Opera Holland Park over three years, has continued to be an artistically fruitful one. Dance Holland Park 2012, an English National Ballet and Opera Holland Park initiative, invited west London based dance organisations to nominate emerging choreographers who would benefit from the opportunity to build their portfolio and choreographic skills within the genre of opera. In the 2014 season, English National Ballet dancer James Streeter was invited by Opera Holland Park to choreograph the ballet *The Judgement of Paris* within their production of *Adriana Lecouvreur* which was performed by English National Ballet's dancers.

Our relationship with English National Ballet School is an essential way in which English National Ballet can continue to support the development of young dancers. The Company offers regular opportunities to the School's dancers to perform as part of the My First Ballet series and in productions where additional dancers are required for the corps de ballet.



Irek Mukhamedov rehearses Swan Lake with Ken Saruhashi. © Laurent Liotardo

Right: Alison McWhinney and Junor Souza perform Esmerelda pas de deux. © Photography by ASH



Each year, we perform in locations that take ballet beyond the walls of the theatre; from festivals to galleries and museums. It is all part of our goal to go out and meet new audiences, reaching communities and people who wouldn't normally see ballet.

The 2014–2015 season saw English National Ballet make history as the first ever ballet company to perform on the Pyramid Stage at the world-famous Glastonbury Festival. Our performance of Akram Khan's *Dust* from Lest We Forget was watched in rapt silence by over 30,000 people on site, as well as 43,000 BBC iPlayer viewers and 500,000 BBC2 viewers.

In July, we took to the stage at Suffolk's Latitude Festival as part of Sadler's Wells Presents, where we we performed James Streeter's *In Living Memory* and Van Le Ngoc's *Four Seasons*.

Part of our mission is to help grow the ballet audience of the future, introducing children to narrative ballet in a way that is accessible, fun and affordable for families. Our My First Ballet series of specially commissioned works for children aged three and over is highly regarded and is a unique partnership between English National Ballet and English National Ballet School.

This season we presented *My First Ballet:* Coppélia, playing seven venues across England and reaching an audience of 33,806 people. Affirming the production's ability to engage even the youngest audience members, the Islington Gazette remarked that it was "lovingly rendered and well-pitched for its target three-plus audience".

## Reaching Audiences



To support the My First Ballet series, we also formed a partnership with King's College London, Widgit and Sign 2 Learn to make ballet more accessible to children with learning difficulties and disabilities. Together, we created a range of symbolised resources to accompany *My First Ballet: Coppélia*, making the story clearer and easier to understand. The resource packs were available to be downloaded for free by anyone.

## "My First Ballet: Coppélia is pitch perfect and an ideal introduction to classical dance"

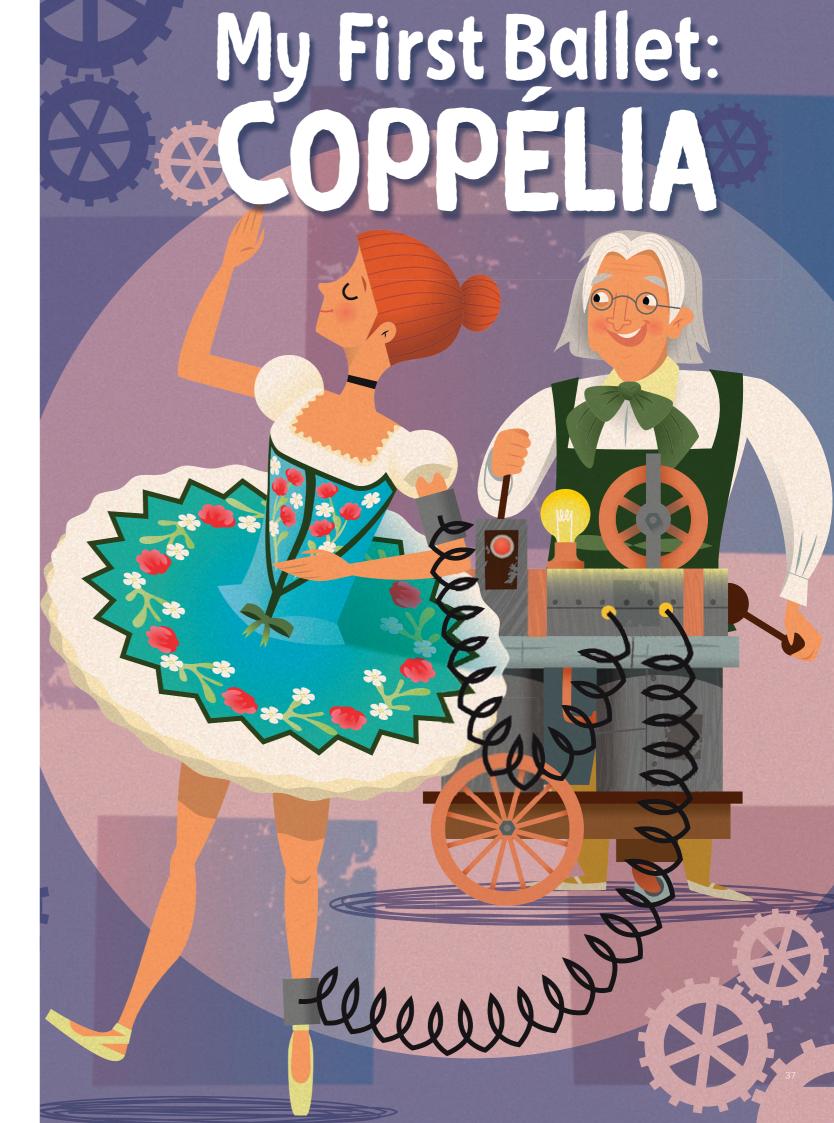
Anne Coates, Parenting Without Tears

English National Ballet's pricing policy reflects our commitment to enabling people, whatever their means, to be able to see us perform. We seek to have a low entry price of £10-£14 to all performances as a way of widening access to our art form and make it more affordable for all.

In 2014/2015 our ticket pricing for London Coliseum performances was simplified while maintaining a range of price points, and while offering initiatives for audience development including; family friendly performances where up to children under 16 go free for every full paying adult, offer incentives for under 30s, half-price tickets for children and discounts for students, registered unemployed, over 60s, under 16s, people with disabilities, schools and groups.

Digital media provides a key platform through which English National Ballet can reach the widest possible audience providing access to our work, artists and creative talent across the Company. We continued to develop our digital presence to reach out to an ever wider international audience, connecting with thousands of dance fans who have seen us perform, and thousands more who haven't. Our aim is to use our digital channels to inform, inspire and educate audiences, wherever they might be in the world. In the last year, we have seen our followers increase across all of our platforms, including on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We also saw our email subscribers go up by 97% and a rise in new visitors to our website. New projects included the release of Le Corsaire on DVD/Blu-Ray and the creation of an interactive advent calendar. This festive digital tool had more than 30,000 unique visits and attracted people from 94 countries.

Overall, nearly 65,000 people attended one of our productions outside of London, and nearly 197,000 people enjoyed an English National Ballet performance in London, including our annual Christmas Season at the Coliseum, which was our most successful season on record. Over 102,000 people made English National Ballet a part of their Christmas holiday plans and we performed to 95% capacity for the run. 80% of those booking tickets were booking to see a performance by English National Ballet for the first time.



Right: Illustration by Mark Ruffle



Our Engagement department were busier than ever holding events, programmes, projects and classes throughout the country, reaching over 40,600 people.

In 2014–2015 we built on the success of our **Dance Journeys** project, with generous support from John Lyon's Charity. Students from four west London secondary schools formed a company of 70 dancers for the Dance Journeys: Perfect Disorder performance at Sadler's Wells Theatre on 13 March 2015. The ambitious dance performance, choreographed by Richard Chappell, Sonia Illescas, Melanie Teall and Stina Quagebeur, was inspired by William Forsythe's In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated, with original music by Chris Swithinbank. Selected students from each school also performed alongside **ENBYouthCo** dancers for English National Ballet's first ever curtainraiser performance as part of the Modern Masters matinee on 12 March 2015. An original score was played live by English National Ballet Philharmonic for both performances.

For a second year in a row, we were invited by Artistic Director Tom Kemp to contribute to his international festival of music, Music@ Malling. This unique festival brings together artists from around the world to perform in historical venues in and around West Malling in Kent. English National Ballet First Soloist Fabian Reimair contributed to the event by choreographing a new work, which was performed by dancer Daniele Silingardi and dance artist Amelia Carrington-Lee led a number of creative dance workshops with students from local primary schools. Each school group created a short piece which was performed alongside Reimair's work.



Schools' Link is our annual programme of repertory-based workshops linked to the productions we are touring. Bringing ballet into schools and children and young people into the theatre to recognise from seeing the Company perform what they have learnt in the dance workshop, not only enhances the individual and group experience, it also contributes to gaining Arts Award. Almost 4,000 children took part in an English National Ballet workshop from Lest We Forget to Swan Lake, and on-stage workshops for children through our family friendly ballet My First Ballet: Coppélia tour.

**Creative Pathways**, a cross curricular project at Knole Academy, focused on creative learning around *Romeo & Juliet*, and working with choreographer Hubert Essakow and Company artists across costume, lighting, and design, reinterpreted the old, making new, and performing the work.

English National Ballet also offers adult ballet, youth ballet and BalletFit classes for learners of all levels. 584 sessions were held with 14,900 participants.

Right: Adult Ballet Class. © Photography by ASH

Left: Dance Journey's at Sadler's Wells.

© Photography by ASH

## **Engagement**



Romeo & Juliet also provided the inspiration for a family event that brought together the Tri Borough Music Hub, Royal College of Music, Royal Albert Hall and English National Ballet in a music and dance extravaganza.

In May, our Engagement team collaborated with Imperial War Museum North for a special **Museums at Night** event, recreating Russell Maliphant's *Second Breath* set amongst war-themed exhibits and artefacts. The performance was live streamed as a part of the launch of BBC Arts Online.

Big Dance 2014, a Mayor of London and GLA initiative, aims to get everyone dancing, and in the west London hub, English National Ballet brought together hundreds of dancers of all ages and backgrounds to Westfield London to perform the Big Dance Pledge 2014 as a mass celebration of dance and community spirit. Groups of performers came from across west London including Rambert Youth Company, Hammersmith Academy, West London School of Dance, Young Dancers Academy, Open Age and our own Classes programme.

Our youth dance company **ENBYouthCo** was founded in 2012 and has grown out of our choreographic project work with young people. The company has quickly established a reputation for strong performance work and exciting repertory. We develop talented young dancers through opportunities to work with world class artists, to share the main-stage

with English National Ballet, and to learn first-hand about being a professional dancer. In 2014, award winning choreographer Cameron McMillan created a new work on the young dancers, inspired by social media and its impact on how the dancers see themselves. *Kinetic Echo – Our Dancing Selves* was a Big Dance commission and premiered at Westfield London Shopping Centre.

As part of our public engagement offer to engage with marginalised communities, we develop models of artistic practice that can have a positive impact of health and well-being.

Our **Dance for Dementia** dance and music project at the Westbourne Dementia Centre and in Kensington and Chelsea enhanced the lives of 330 people living with dementia. Participants, their loved ones and carers take part in dance and music workshops, see us perform, meet the dancers and go behindthe-scenes. It is a chance to get out, engage with new people and learn - all of which impacts positively on wellbeing.

English National Ballet's **Dance for** Parkinson's programme is ground-breaking in its model for practice, professional development and cultural engagement across the country. Artistically driven, the programme offers high quality dance and cultural experiences to people with Parkinson's and their communities. In 2014, we established two new hub partnerships for the programme with DanceEast in Ipswich and National Dance Company Wales in Cardiff. With these new partnerships in place, we delivered two Dance for Parkinson's Professional Development Weekends and were able to invest in training four regional artists to join our specialist team of Dance for Parkinson's Associate Artists. We also have hubs for the programme in London, Oxford and Liverpool meaning that in the last year we held 135 sessions across these regions and reached more than 5,000 people in the process.



Above: Dance for Parkinson's Photo © Rachel Cherry

Right: Kinetic Echo © Photography by ASH



Over the last financial year, nearly £2 million was raised through private donations, grants and sponsorship, a significant increase from the previous year. Our investment in a new fundraising team, including a new Development Director, paid dividends.

With a new team came a new fundraising strategy. A review and relaunch of our individual Patrons' schemes, including the introduction of a new Artistic Director's Circle, provided support for Tamara Rojo's new vison for English National Ballet. At the end of the year we had increased our Patrons Membership by 25 percent. including nine members of the Artistic Director's Circle. We also launched two new major giving syndicates: a production syndicate supporting our new mixed programme, Modern Masters, which premiered at Sadler's Wells Theatre in March 2015, and a Guest Artist Syndicate, which enabled us to bring Danish Royal Ballet star, Alban Lendorf, to the London Coliseum to perform in our Nutcracker in December, Ivan Vasiliev to dance four performances of Swan Lake in January and Irek Mukhamedov as Guest Teacher.

Our Corporate Membership scheme benefitted from being simplified and relaunched. As a result we welcomed Aviva, Lloyds Private Banking and Weil, Gotshal & Manges as new members. We were also pleased that XL Catlin sponsored First Soloist Junor Souza, in a show of their commitment to nurturing talent within the Company. XL Catlin have supported Junor's career progression by visiting him during rehearsals and introducing him to their clients.



Our support from Trusts and Foundations went from strength to strength during the financial year, including a grant from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation towards Modern Masters. Our ground-breaking Dance for Parkinson's programme continues to be generously supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and we were delighted to receive funding from the West London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the first time that one of our programmes has been supported in this way. In addition, The Leverhulme Trust gave generously to our My First Ballet performances at the Peacock Theatre and on tour in April and May, providing a younger audience with an opportunity to experience ballet for the first time, performed by students from English National Ballet School.

The year also saw us hold over 100 events for our supporters including opening nights at the Royal Albert Hall, Sadler's Wells Theatre and our annual Christmas party at the St Martins Lane hotel around Nutcracker at the London Coliseum, together with masterclasses, dinners and performances in our studios at Markova House. The highlight of the year was our annual Spring Gala at The Dorchester in March where over 300 guests enjoyed performances including Vera choreographed by Stina Quagebeur and Spring and Fall from Modern Masters. The evening was a successful start to a new fundraising year at English National Ballet, raising over £215,000 for the Company.

Left: Alban Lendorf with Tamara Rojo in *Coppélia*. © Photography by ASH

Right: 2015 Spring Gala © Photography by ASH We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our business partners, individual supporters and trusts and foundations whose generosity and involvement helps us to maintain and enrich our high performance standards and to deliver on our ambitions.

## **Financial Performance**

English National Ballet continuously works to be more efficient, increase revenue and invest in its artistic output.

#### INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

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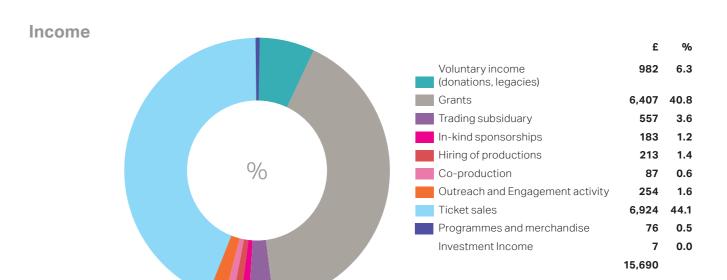
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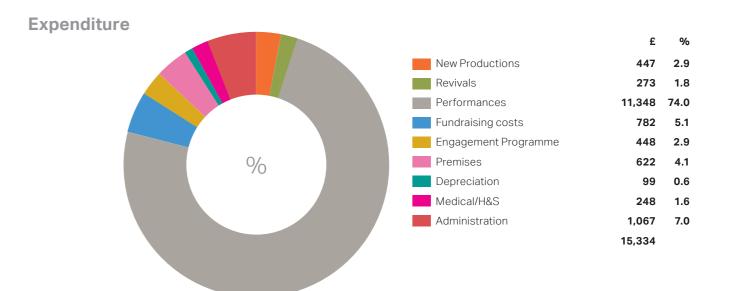
The Vandervell Foundation West London Clinical Care Commissioning Group

> ARTS COUNCIL IDED ENGLAND

For the financial year 2014/15 we are delighted to report a total operating surplus of £356,304. After one of the most successful seasons at the box office, our ongoing funding from Arts Council England and careful control of expenditure, the Company's finances are in a stable position to support its future plans for new repertoire and a new home at London City Island.

For a full set of the annual statutory accounts please contact finance@ballet.org.uk or they can be downloaded from our website at www.ballet.org.uk





## Looking Forward

English National Ballet is full of energy and renewed creative vigour. We want to achieve artistic excellence at every level; continue to be artistically brave; and for audiences far and wide to connect with dance and with us.



"I want the space to echo to the sound of creative Britain."

Tamara Rojo

We know we can do more, create more, engage more and have a wider lasting impact. We are on a journey to challenge and elevate all aspects of our Company and art form.

In Spring 2015, we announced that we will move into a new home in 2018. This transformational move will bring English National Ballet and English National Ballet School together under one roof, combining modern training facilities, teaching and rehearsal studios, alongside a unique Production Studio unrivalled in the UK.

This state-of-the-art facility will enable new opportunities for collaboration and nurturing of dance talent. It will have dedicated digital facilities enabling wider audience engagement to enhance our traditional touring outside London.

Located at London City Island, a new neighbourhood developed by Eco World Ballymore, we will bring ballet and dance to the heart of East London and the local community and provide a resource for the wider performance sector.

The development is a short distance from Canning Town and adjoins Trinity Buoy Wharf, which is home to an emerging creative arts cluster. It is based in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, on the border of the London Borough of Newham.

The building is designed by leading architects Glenn Howells Architects. At over 99,000 square feet it will be more than four times the size of ENB and ENB School's current homes and feature:

- A Production Studio for the development and rehearsal of productions and creation of new commissions.
- Seven large studios for rehearsals and teaching.
- A dedicated **Music Room** for English National Ballet Philharmonic.
- A health suite including a gym,
   pilates studio, hydrotherapy pool
   and rehabilitation facilities.
- Digital Infrastructure that allows for the capture and sharing of work
- Dedicated **Engagement spaces**
- Open spaces and architectural features
   that will create a transparent, open,
   welcoming environment, sharing the
   creative process with the public, inside
   and outside the building.

Computer generated image of London City Island. Courtesy of Glenn Howells Architects.

## **English National Ballet Board** and Advisors

for the 2014-2015 Financial Year

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The Directors of English National Ballet are its Trustees for the purpose of charity law.



Ksenia Ovsyanick in Firebird by George Williamson. © Photography by ASH



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Erina Takahashi and James Forbat perform in James Streeter's In Living Memory. © Photography by ASH

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