

English National Ballet and English National Ballet School present
My First Ballet: Cinderella

National Tour

6 April – 30 July 2017

Performance times and ticket prices vary (see below for details)

www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

English National Ballet and English National Ballet School present *My First Ballet: Cinderella*, a reimagined version of the classic fairy-tale created especially for children as young as three. Adapted to an hour in length and with a narrator to help young audiences follow the story, *My First Ballet: Cinderella* is the perfect introduction to the magic of ballet.

My First Ballet: Cinderella opens in Dartford on 6 April 2017 before embarking on a national tour to The Peacock, London (11-22 April), New Theatre Oxford (28 & 29 April), Liverpool Empire (5 & 6 May), New Wimbledon Theatre (13 & 14 May), Bristol Hippodrome (20 & 21 May), and New Victoria Theatre Woking (26 & 27 May). The production will also return in July for an additional run of summer performances at The Peacock, London (18-23 July) and Manchester Opera House (26-30 July).

This production tells the story of Cinderella, who is tormented by her stepsisters and not allowed to attend the Prince's ball. Left behind to an evening of chores, she is visited by her Fairy Godmother who transforms her into a Princess who shall go to the ball.

Choreographed by George Williamson, award-winning former student of English National Ballet School, *My First Ballet: Cinderella* is part of the *My First Ballet* series which enters its sixth year in 2017. Since its inception in 2012, over 200,000 people have enjoyed the series which has included the hugely successful *My First Ballet: Swan Lake*, *Coppélia* and *Sleeping Beauty*.

The *My First Ballet* series is performed by second year students of English National Ballet School, providing them with valuable rehearsal and performance experience within a professional touring company.

Choreographer George Williamson, said: *"Cinderella was the first production I created in the series, and I'm thrilled to be revisiting the choreography and reworking it for a brand new audience. I'm proud to be working with English National Ballet and the School to lead the way in creating tailor made productions for children, offering what for many will be their first experience of a ballet performance."*

To coincide with *My First Ballet: Cinderella*, English National Ballet will host on-stage creative dance workshops, aimed to provide a gateway into the world of ballet. Children and their parents/ guardians will have the opportunity to learn extracts from the production with English National Ballet dance artists and get up close to costumes and scenery. For more information, please go to www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

English National Ballet School Summer Performances return this year to New Wimbledon Theatre 7-8 July. Tickets go on sale Monday 24 April.

Ends

For further information, interview requests and images please contact Alice Gibson, Press Officer at alice.gibson@ballet.org.uk or call 020 7590 2932.

For further information about English National Ballet and to book tickets visit www.ballet.org.uk. Please note performance details are subject to change.

Notes to Editors

My First Ballet: Cinderella Symbol Resources

English National Ballet and English National Ballet School are delighted to once again be commissioning Widget to create a range of symbol resources alongside *My First Ballet: Cinderella*. Using Widget symbols, these resources aim to make ballet more accessible to children with learning difficulties and disabilities, by supporting written text to make the meaning clearer and easier to understand. These resources are available to download for free (PDF format) and extra activities are printed in programmes at venues throughout the *My First Ballet: Cinderella* tour. The *My First Ballet: Cinderella* Symbol Resources are designed for use before, during and after performances.

English National Ballet

English National Ballet has a long and distinguished history. Founded in 1950 as London Festival Ballet by the great English Dancers Alicia Markova and Anton Dolin, it has played a major role in the growth and history of ballet in the UK. Today, English National Ballet is renowned for taking world-class ballet to the widest possible audience through its national and international tour programme, offsite performances at festivals including Glastonbury and Latitude, its distinguished orchestra English National Ballet Philharmonic, and being a UK leader in creative learning and engagement practice and delivery, building innovative partnerships to deliver flagship programmes such as English National Ballet's Dance for Parkinson's. Under the artistic directorship of Tamara Rojo, English National Ballet has gained new acclaim as it introduces innovative new works to the Company's repertoire while continuing to honour and reinvigorate traditional ballet.

English National Ballet School

English National Ballet School is a world-renowned specialist training centre for aspiring and highly talented young ballet dancers aged 16 to 19. Founded in 1988 by English National Ballet, today the school exists as a separate entity but maintains strong links with its parent company, sharing its commitment to excellence and access. Its mission is to nurture and develop the next generation of world-class dance artists; artists who are confident and versatile, able to push boundaries and bring their creativity to the fore. Students participate in a three-year programme, validated by Trinity College London, with graduates joining prestigious dance companies worldwide. Currently a third of the dancers at English National Ballet are graduates of the School. The School also offer weekly children's ballet classes, ENBS Juniors, for 3 – 10 year olds.

George Williamson

Whilst at English National Ballet School, George won the Choreographic Competition for three consecutive years. Ballets created included, *Round the Corner* 2009 presented at the Peacock Theatre and the City of London Festival. In 2010 he created *Ana-Chro-Po* for English National Ballet School's Summer performance. For Polish National Ballet he created *Animus* in 2011. For New English Ballet Theatre he created *Threefold* in 2012. *Firebird* was his first commission for English National Ballet receiving its world premiere at the London Coliseum in 2012. *My First Cinderella*, premiered at The Peacock, 2013. That same year George received a nomination for the Benois de la Danse Award for *Firebird* and created *Tempus* for Her Majesty The Queen's Coronation Festival at Buckingham Palace. For Dutch National Ballet's Junior Company he created *Dawn Dances* and for New York Choreographic Institute, *Four On The Floor*. In 2014 he created *My First Ballet: Coppélia*. In 2015 *My First Ballet: Swan Lake* and his first full length ballet *Egle Queen of the Grass Snakes* for Lithuanian National Ballet. In 2016 he created *Strangers* for New English Ballet Theatre as well as *My First Ballet: Sleeping Beauty*, *Murmuration* for American Ballet Theatre Studio Company, and *CRANE* for Dutch National Ballet.

Listings Information

Orchard Theatre, Dartford

6 – 8 April 2017

Box Office: 01322 220000

Tickets: £15 - £20 www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

The Peacock, London

11 April – 22 April 2017

Box Office: 020 7863 8000

Tickets: £10 - £25 www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

New Theatre, Oxford

28 April – 29 April 2017

Box Office: 0844 871 3020

Tickets: £11.50 - £29.40 www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

Liverpool Empire

5 May – 6 May 2017

Box Office: 0844 871 3017

Tickets: £11.50 - £29.40 www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

New Wimbledon Theatre

13 May – 14 May 2017

Box Office: 0844 871 7646

Tickets: £11.50 - £29.40 www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

The Bristol Hippodrome

20 – 21 May 2017

Box Office: 0844 871 3012

Tickets: £11.50 - £29.40 www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

New Victoria Theatre, Woking

26 – 27 May 2017

Box Office: 0844 871 7645

Tickets: £11.50 - £29.40 www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

The Peacock, London

18 – 23 July 2017

Box Office: 020 7863 8000

Tickets: £10 - £25 www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

Manchester Opera House

26 – 30 July 2017

Tickets on sale late February

For more information, see: www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

Booking fees may apply.

Twitter: #ENBMyFirst / @ENBallet

Facebook: [facebook.com/EnglishNationalBallet](https://www.facebook.com/EnglishNationalBallet)