

# English National Ballet 16/17 Season

- English National Ballet becomes the first UK company to perform Pina Bausch's *The Rite of Spring*
- Part of a triple bill that also includes works from William Forsythe and Hans van Manen, presented at Sadler's Wells in spring 2017.
- English National Ballet to present both Mary Skeaping's *Giselle* and Akram Khan's *Giselle* in the same season.
- Akram Khan's *Giselle* to have its world premiere in Manchester followed by a national tour.
- Rudolf Nureyev's *Romeo & Juliet* returns to London with performances at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall in August 2017.
- First time English National Ballet has performed at Royal Festival Hall in almost a decade.

**English National Ballet** today announces its 16/17 season.

In March 2017 English National Ballet presents **Pina Bausch's masterpiece *The Rite of Spring*** at Sadler's Wells, becoming only the second Company in the world beyond Tanztheater Wuppertal, and the only UK Company to perform the work. The programme also includes **William Forsythe's *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated*** and ***Adagio Hammerklavier*** by **Hans van Manen**.

**Artistic Director of English National Ballet, Tamara Rojo said:** "*Pina Bausch was an incredible artist, and remains one of the most influential people in modern culture today. Her work transcends description; it affects you on a deep emotional level, speaking to your spirit and defying logical analysis.*

*Pina's Rite of Spring is of great significance, and it gives me so much joy that English National Ballet becomes only the second ballet Company in the world, and the only UK Company to be entrusted to perform the work. I'm proud to present it alongside masterpieces from William Forsythe and Hans van Manen, and I am truly honoured and humbled to be able to perform these works to audiences at Sadler's Wells in 2017."*

**Salomon Bausch, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Executive Director of the Pina Bausch Foundation said:** "*We are very much looking forward to working with Tamara Rojo and her remarkable company. It is going to be a new experience not only for the dancers but vice versa for the piece, which is going to have a new home in London.*"

During 36 years as Artistic Director of Tanztheater Wuppertal, **Pina Bausch** nurtured an ensemble of vivid imagination and grand scale and developed an artistic canon renowned for its diverse cultural influences and rich visual style. *The Rite of Spring* is regarded as one of her most revered works.

This triple bill sees another work new to English National Ballet's repertoire, ***Adagio Hammerklavier*** choreographed by "*one of the great masters*" (the Guardian) **Hans van Manen**, performed by three couples and set to Beethoven's Piano Sonata No 29, Op 106. Alongside this is **William Forsythe's *In the Middle, Somewhat Elevated***, first performed by the Company in 2015.

**English National Ballet** also announces that the Company will **present two versions of the iconic story of *Giselle*** in the same season.

**Artistic Director of English National Ballet, Tamara Rojo said:** “*My vision for English National Ballet has been to introduce new works that push the boundaries of ballet, for both the Company and audiences, while at the same time honouring and reinvigorating traditional works that have become so loved over the years. Ballet, and art, has the potential of interpretation and reinterpretation, and this is vital to drive our art form forward. And so I am thrilled that this season we will present the world premiere of Akram Khan’s reimagining of the iconic story of Giselle, as well as performing Mary Skeaping’s classical production.*”

As previously announced, the 16/17 season sees the **world premiere** of ***Giselle*** choreographed by **Akram Khan**, take place at the Palace Theatre, Manchester (27 Sep - 1 Oct) before touring to Bristol (18 - 22 Oct), Southampton (26 - 29 Oct), and Sadler’s Wells (15 - 19 Nov).

One of the greatest romantic ballets of all time, *Giselle* is the **first full length ballet choreographed by Akram Khan** and sees Academy-Award winning designer Tim Yip create the set and costumes, while composer Vincenzo Lamagna creates an adaptation of the original score by Adolphe Adam, performed by English National Ballet Philharmonic. *Giselle* also sees dramaturgy from Ruth Little and lighting design from Mark Henderson. English National Ballet and Akram Khan previously collaborated together on the award-winning piece *Dust*, part of its Lest We Forget programme.

Alongside the production, English National Ballet will deliver an ambitious programme of activity around Akram Khan’s *Giselle* that will help engage audiences beyond the stage.

In addition to Akram Khan’s version, the 16/17 season sees **Mary Skeaping’s *Giselle*** return to English National Ballet’s repertoire with a run at the London Coliseum in January 2017. Skeaping’s production, with its classical language, features some of ballet’s most dramatic scenes and otherworldly images.

Following English National Ballet’s most successful *Nutcracker* run on record, where **over 73,000 people** came to see the production at the London Coliseum, Wayne Eagling’s ***Nutcracker*** will tour to Milton Keynes (23 - 26 Nov) and Liverpool (29 Nov - 3 Dec) before returning to the Coliseum (14 Dec - 7 Jan), continuing the Company’s tradition of presenting a *Nutcracker* production each year since inception.

Summer 2017 sees English National Ballet return to Southbank Centre’s Royal Festival Hall for the first time since 2008, when it presents Rudolf Nureyev’s ***Romeo & Juliet*** there in August 2017.

The world’s greatest love story, *Romeo & Juliet* features inventive, passionate choreography set to Prokofiev’s score, performed live by the English National Ballet Philharmonic. This production, “*the most deeply romantic of all versions*” (Sunday Express), sees audiences transported to Renaissance Verona, with lavish sets and costumes. Originally created by Nureyev in 1977 to celebrate the Queen’s Silver Jubilee, English National Ballet recently performed it on its national tour to critical acclaim.

Following its most successful season on record, when over 53,000 people came to see *My First Ballet: Sleeping Beauty*, the ever popular series returns in Spring 2017 with an eight-week national tour of ***My First Ballet: Cinderella***. Key to English National Ballet’s commitment to making ballet accessible to all, and working in partnership with English National Ballet School, *My First Ballet* takes a popular ballet title and reworks it with the addition of a narrator, for an audience as young as three.

Returning for its eighth year in Spring 2017 is English National Ballet’s **Emerging Dancer** competition. Over the years Emerging Dancer has grown significantly in popularity, and last season saw Cesar Corrales awarded both the Emerging Dancer and People’s Choice Awards in front of an audience of over 2,000 people at the London Palladium and over 10,000 people online via a livestream. Offering not only the opportunity to shine a light on the younger talent

within the company, Emerging Dancer also allows mentoring partnerships for the finalists, as well as recognising the exceptional talent of an Artist of the Company that has gone above and beyond the call of duty, with the Corps de Ballet award.

**For further information, interview requests and images please contact Robert James, PR Manager at [robert.james@ballet.org.uk](mailto:robert.james@ballet.org.uk) or call 020 7590 2933.**

**For further information about English National Ballet and to book tickets visit [www.ballet.org.uk](http://www.ballet.org.uk). Please note performance details are subject to change.**

## **Notes to Editors**

### **English National Ballet's 2016/2017 Listings information**

#### ***Giselle* by Akram Khan**

Palace Theatre, Manchester

27 September - 1 October 2016

Tickets: £13.90 - £58.15

Box office: [www.ballet.org.uk/akram-khan-giselle](http://www.ballet.org.uk/akram-khan-giselle) or 0844 871 3019

#### ***Giselle* by Akram Khan**

The Bristol Hippodrome

18 - 22 October 2016

Tickets: £13.90 - £49.40

Box office: [www.ballet.org.uk/akram-khan-giselle](http://www.ballet.org.uk/akram-khan-giselle) or 0844 871 3012

#### ***Giselle* by Akram Khan**

The Mayflower, Southampton

26 - 29 October

Tickets: £10.75 - £45

Box office: [www.ballet.org.uk/akram-khan-giselle](http://www.ballet.org.uk/akram-khan-giselle) or 02380 711 811

#### ***Giselle* by Akram Khan**

Sadler's Wells, London

15 – 19 November

Tickets: £12 - £45

Box office: [www.ballet.org.uk/akram-khan-giselle](http://www.ballet.org.uk/akram-khan-giselle) or 020 7863 8000

#### ***Nutcracker***

Milton Keynes Theatre

23 – 26 November 2016

Tickets: £10.75 - £45.25

Box office: [www.ballet.org.uk/nutcracker](http://www.ballet.org.uk/nutcracker)

#### ***Nutcracker***

Liverpool Empire

29 November – 3 December 2016

Tickets: £10.75 - £40.25

Box office: [www.ballet.org.uk/nutcracker](http://www.ballet.org.uk/nutcracker)

#### ***Nutcracker***

London Coliseum

14 December 2016 – 7 January 2017

Tickets: £14 - £79

Box office: [www.ballet.org.uk/nutcracker](http://www.ballet.org.uk/nutcracker)

#### ***Giselle* by Mary Skeaping**

London Coliseum

11 - 22 January 2017

Tickets: £14 - £79

Box office: [www.ballet.org.uk/giselle](http://www.ballet.org.uk/giselle)

**Pina Bausch / William Forsythe / Hans van Manen**

Sadler's Wells

23 March - 1 April 2017

Tickets on sale November 2016

For more information see: [www.ballet.org.uk/bausch-forsythe-van-manen](http://www.ballet.org.uk/bausch-forsythe-van-manen)

**Emerging Dancer**

Venue and Date TBC

For more information see: [www.ballet.org.uk/emergingdancer](http://www.ballet.org.uk/emergingdancer)

***My First Ballet: Cinderella***

Orchard Theatre, Dartford

6 - 8 April 2017

Box Office: or [www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet](http://www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet)

Tickets: £15 - £20

***My First Ballet: Cinderella***

Peacock Theatre, London

11 - 22 April 2017

Box Office: or [www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet](http://www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet)

Tickets: £10 - £25

***My First Ballet: Cinderella***

New Theatre, Oxford

28 & 29 April 2017

Box Office: or [www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet](http://www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet)

Tickets: £11.50 - £26.50

***My First Ballet: Cinderella***

Liverpool Empire

5 & 6 May 2017

Box Office: or [www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet](http://www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet)

Tickets: £11.50 - £26.50

***My First Ballet: Cinderella***

New Wimbledon Theatre

13 & 14 May 2017

Box Office: or [www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet](http://www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet)

Tickets: £11.50 - £26.50

***My First Ballet: Cinderella***

Bristol Hippodrome

20 & 21 May 2017

Box Office: or [www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet](http://www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet)

Tickets: £11.50 - £26.50

***My First Ballet: Cinderella***

New Victoria Theatre, Woking

26 & 27 May 2017

Box Office: or [www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet](http://www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet)

Tickets: £11.50 - £26.50

***Romeo & Juliet***

Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall

1 - 5 August 2017

Box Office: or [www.ballet.org.uk/romeoandjuliet](http://www.ballet.org.uk/romeoandjuliet)

Tickets: £12 - £55

**About 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 is an Associate Company of Sadler's Wells.

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