

English National Ballet

Emerging Dancer

Sadler's Wells

Thursday 25 May 2017

Performance at 7.30pm

Tickets: £12 - £28

Box office: 0844 412 4655 or www.ballet.org.uk/emergingdancer

"This competition is like no other!" (London Dance)

Now in its eighth year, **English National Ballet's Emerging Dancer** competition will be held at **Sadler's Wells** on **Thursday 25 May 2017**.

Through this annual event, English National Ballet recognises the excellence of its artists. Selected by their peers, six of the company's most promising dancers perform in front of an eminent panel of expert judges, before one receives the 2017 Emerging Dancer Award.

The recipients of the People's Choice Award, selected by members of the public, and the Corps de Ballet Award, acknowledging the work on and off-stage of a member of the Corps de Ballet, will also be revealed.

Emerging Dancer is a key part of English National Ballet's commitment to developing and nurturing talent within the Company. Last year's winner of both the Emerging Dancer Award and the People's Choice Award, **Cesar Corrales**, has since been promoted to First Soloist. He has performed principal roles in Akram Khan's Giselle, Swan Lake in-the-round, Nutcracker, and Mary Skeaping's Giselle, and his performance as Ali in Le Corsaire has been nominated for Outstanding Male Performance at the 2017 Critics Circle National Dance Awards.

The 2017 finalists are:

Isabelle Brouwers

Having trained at English National Ballet School, Isabelle joined English National Ballet in 2014. This season, Isabelle has performed as Myrtha in Akram Khan's Giselle, Mirliton and Lead Flowers in Nutcracker, and as Myrtha in Mary Skeaping's Giselle. A previous Emerging Dancer finalist in 2014 and 2015, Isabelle won Silver Medal at the 2013 Genée International Ballet Competition, and came second place in Young British Dancer of the Year 2013.

Rina Kanehara

Rina trained at the Princess Grace Academy, Monaco and joined English National Ballet after being named Prize Winner at the Prix de Lausanne 2015. In the 2016/2017 season Rina made her debut as Clara in Nutcracker, and performed as Moyna and in the Peasant pas-de-deux in Mary Skeaping's Giselle. Rina was a finalist in Emerging Dancer 2016 and has won Silver Medal at Varna 2016, Gold Medal at the Youth American Grand Prix 2012, Gold Medal at Nagoya Ballet Competition 2012, Gold Medal at Nara Ballet Competition 2011.

Madison Keesler

Madison joined English National Ballet in 2013, and was previously with The Hamburg Ballet and San Francisco Ballet. This season she worked closely with Akram Khan on the creation of Giselle and performed in the title role, as well as performing as Lead Snowflakes and Flowers in Nutcracker, and as Bathilde in Mary Skeaping's Giselle. Madison was a finalist in Emerging Dancer 2014.

Aitor Arrieta

Aitor joined English National Ballet at the start of the 2016/2017 season. In his short time with the company he has performed as Albrecht in Akram Khan's Giselle, as the Nutcracker, and in the Peasant pas-de-deux in Mary Skeaping's Giselle. He received The Professional Dancers' Association of Gipuzkoa Discover Award in 2015, the 2015 Dancer Revelation of Gipuzkoa Prize, Gold Medal at the International Dance Contest of Biarritz, 2013 and 1st place Championship of Euskadi Aurreku, 2011.

Guilherme Menezes

Guilherme joined the company from English National Ballet School in 2011. This season he has performed as the Nutcracker and Lead Flowers in Nutcracker, and in Akram Khan's Giselle. He was a finalist at Prix de Lausanne 2010 and was a finalist in Emerging Dancer 2013.

Emilio Pavan

Previously a member of Queensland Ballet, Emilio joined the company in 2015. He has performed in Akram Khan's Giselle and made his debut as Nephew in Nutcracker this season.

Previous winners of the Emerging Dancer award include **Shiori Kase** (2011) and **Yonah Acosta** (2012), who have since both been promoted to Principal, **Junor Souza** (2014), who has since been promoted to First Soloist, **Alison McWhinney** (2014), who has since been promoted to Soloist, and **Jinhao Zhang** (2015), who has since been promoted to First Artist.

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.

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.