

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 2PM, THURSDAY 23 JUNE 2017

# English National Ballet

## *Romeo & Juliet*

**Southbank Centre, Royal Festival Hall**

**Tuesday 1 - Saturday 5 August 2017**

**Performances at 7.30pm (mat at 2pm)**

**Tickets: £12 - £55**

**Box Office: [www.ballet.org.uk](http://www.ballet.org.uk) or [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)**

Returning to London in its 40th anniversary year, English National Ballet perform Rudolf Nureyev's *Romeo & Juliet* at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall from 1 - 5 August 2017.

The world's greatest love story, *Romeo & Juliet* features Nureyev's inventive and passionate choreography set to Prokofiev's exhilarating score, performed live by English National Ballet Philharmonic.

For *Romeo & Juliet*, English National Ballet welcomes **Jurgita Dronina**, who joins the Company as Lead Principal following her guest performances with the Company in *Giselle* at the Grand Opera House, Belfast this week and earlier this year at the London Coliseum. She performs in *Romeo & Juliet* alongside new Lead Principal **Aaron Robison**, who joined the Company in June. Dronina, who remains Principal with The National Ballet of Canada, will perform with English National Ballet for the 17/18 season, further details to be announced shortly.

**Of joining English National Ballet, Dronina said:** *"I am very excited to have this unique opportunity to be part of two incredible companies this season: English National Ballet in London and The National Ballet of Canada in Toronto. I consider myself very lucky to be able to work for two inspiring women, Tamara Rojo and Karen Kain, who have extraordinary visions for the future of their companies. I feel honoured to be a part of this."*

*Under directorship of Tamara Rojo, English National Ballet has attracted the best artists from around the world, offering impeccable coaching, as well as the opportunity to bring world class ballet to a wide range of audiences worldwide. I am truly looking forward to all that this season has to offer and I feel privileged and grateful to both of my directors for making this lifetime experience possible."*

English National Ballet also sees Guest Artist **Josua Hoffalt**, Étoile at Paris Opera Ballet, make his debut with the Company performing in the role of Romeo.

Further principal casting includes Lead Principal **Isaac Hernández**, Principal **Yonah Acosta**, and First Soloist **James Forbat** perform in the role of Romeo. Performing in the role of Juliet is Lead Principal **Erina Takahashi**, Principal **Laurette Summerscales**, and Soloist **Alison McWhinney**.

Originally created by Nureyev especially for English National Ballet in 1977 to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee, *Romeo & Juliet* has since toured the world to critical acclaim, winning the Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Ballet in its premiere year.

**Press night: Tuesday 1 August 2017 at 7.30pm**

## **Romeo & Juliet Principal Casting**

*Casting is subject to change. Please see [www.ballet.org.uk](http://www.ballet.org.uk) for up to date casting.*

In the order of Romeo, Juliet, Mercutio, Benvolio, Tybalt, Paris

### **Tuesday 1 August: Press night**

Isaac Hernández, Erina Takahashi, Cesar Corrales, James Forbat, James Streeter, Emilio Pavan\*

### **Wednesday 2 August**

Josua Hoffalt\*, Laurretta Summerscales, Yonah Acosta, Laurent Liotardo, Fabian Reimair, Jinhao Zhang\*

### **Thursday 3 August (matinee)**

James Forbat, Alison McWhinney, Pedro Lapetra, Vitor Menezes, Fernando Bufalá, Aitor Arrieta\*

### **Thursday 3 August**

Yonah Acosta, Erina Takahashi, Cesar Corrales, Guilherme Menezes, James Streeter, Emilio Pavan

### **Friday 4 August**

Josua Hoffalt, Laurretta Summerscales, Fernando Bufala, Laurent Liotardo, Fabian Reimair, Jinhao Zhang\*

### **Saturday 5 August (matinee)**

Aaron Robison\*, Jurgita Dronina\*, Ken Saruhashi, James Forbat, Fabian Reimair, Aitor Arrieta

### **Saturday 5 August**

Isaac Hernández, Erina Takahashi, Fernando Bufala, Guilherme Menezes, James Streeter, Emilio Pavan

\*Debut in role.

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