

English National Ballet

Song of the Earth & La Sylphide *Romeo & Juliet / Akram Khan's Giselle / Nutcracker*

National Tour

Wednesday 11 October – Saturday 2 December 2017

Performance times and ticket prices vary

www.ballet.org.uk

Continuing its commitment to taking world-class ballet to audiences across the country, this autumn **English National Ballet** presents five productions on its national tour.

Two works new to English National Ballet's repertoire, Sir Kenneth MacMillan's masterwork, ***Song of the Earth*** and August Bournonville's ***La Sylphide*** recreated by Frank Andersen and Eva Kloborg, will be performed at the **Manchester Palace Theatre (11-14 October)** and **Milton Keynes Theatre (17 – 21 October)**.

First performed in 1965, MacMillan's choreography for *Song of the Earth* was different from anything he had previously devised. Featuring three central figures, a Woman, a Man, and a Messenger, this powerful, moving exploration of life, death, and renewal is set to Mahler's song cycle, *Das Lied von der Erde*, performed live by English National Ballet Philharmonic. These performances of *Song of the Earth* coincide with the 25th anniversary of MacMillan's death.

Devised by one of the world's leading producers of Bournonville ballets, Frank Andersen and Eva Kloborg's faithful version of the 1830s Romantic ballet *La Sylphide* sees James wake from a dream on the morning of his wedding to Effy to encounter a mysterious sylphide before him, setting off a fateful sequence of events.

Song of the Earth and *La Sylphide* will also be performed at the London Coliseum in January 2018.

Winner of the South Bank Sky Arts Award for Dance, **Akram Khan's *Giselle*** comes to Liverpool for the first time, with performances at the **Liverpool Empire Theatre (25-28 October)**. Hailed as "a masterpiece of 21st century dance" (Mail on Sunday), Khan's *Giselle* is one of a community of migrant workers cast out of their jobs in a condemned garment factory. Last season over 40,000 people saw Akram Khan's reimagined *Giselle* performed on tour.

The world's greatest love story, Rudolf Nureyev's ***Romeo & Juliet*** returns this autumn with performances at the **Bristol Hippodrome (21-25 November)**. Featuring inventive and passionate choreography, and set to Prokofiev's famous score, performed live by the English National Ballet Philharmonic, these performances mark the 40th anniversary of the production, which was originally created for English National Ballet in 1977 to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

English National Ballet had its most successful ***Nutcracker*** run on record last season, when over 100,000 people came to see the production on tour or at the London Coliseum. This year sees Wayne Eagling's *Nutcracker* tour to the **Mayflower Theatre Southampton (29 November – 2 December)** before returning to the London Coliseum, continuing the Company's tradition of presenting a *Nutcracker* production each year since 1950.

For further information, interview requests, and images please contact Robert James, Head of Communications at robert.james@ballet.org.uk or call 020 7590 2933.

Listings information:

Song of the Earth / La Sylphide

Manchester Palace Theatre

Wednesday 11 October - Saturday 14 October 2017

Press night: Wednesday 11 October 2017

For more information, see: www.ballet.org.uk/song-sylphide

Song of the Earth / La Sylphide

Milton Keynes Theatre

Tuesday 17 October - Saturday 21 October 2017

Press night: Tuesday 17 October 2017

For more information, see: www.ballet.org.uk/song-sylphide

Akram Khan's *Giselle*

Liverpool Empire Theatre

Wednesday 25 October - Saturday 28 October 2017

Press night: Wednesday 25 October 2017

For more information, see: <http://giselle.ballet.org.uk>

Romeo & Juliet

Bristol Hippodrome

Tuesday 21 November - Saturday 25th November 2017

Press night: Tuesday 21 November

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

Nutcracker

Mayflower Theatre, Southampton

Wednesday 29 November - Saturday 2 December 2017

Press night: Wednesday 29 November 2017

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

Booking fees may apply.

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.