

[Under embargo until 2pm Wednesday 13 September 2017](#)

English National Ballet 2018 Spring/Summer Season

- World premiere of new work by William Forsythe created especially for English National Ballet.
- To be performed in *Voices of America: Robbins/Forsythe/Barton*, a new mixed bill dedicated to neoclassical ballet with an American accent.
- Alongside his new work, English National Ballet perform Forsythe's *Approximate Sonata 2016* for the first time.
- *Voices of America* also includes Jerome Robbins' shocking ballet *The Cage*, and a reworked version of Aszure Barton's *Fantastic Beings*.
- Kenneth MacMillan's *The Sleeping Beauty* to be performed at the London Coliseum.
- New version of *My First Ballet: Swan Lake* to tour the UK.

English National Ballet today announces its 2018 Spring/Summer Season.

In April 2018, **English National Ballet** will present the world premiere of a new work by one of the most revered choreographers working today, **William Forsythe**, his first creation for a UK ballet company in over 20 years.

Forsythe's new work will be presented at Sadler's Wells as part of **Voices of America**, a new mixed bill dedicated to neo-classical ballet with an American accent, featuring works with audacious attitude from three generations of choreographers.

Alongside his new work, English National Ballet will also perform Forsythe's *Approximate Sonata 2016*. Originally created in 1996, Forsythe recently reworked this piece for Paris Opera Ballet. A series of pas de deux that deconstruct the classical ballet vocabulary, *Approximate Sonata 2016* is accompanied by a new version of the original score by Thom Willems.

Voices of America sees another work new to English National Ballet, **Jerome Robbins'** *The Cage*. One of Robbins' most shocking and intense ballets, *The Cage* looks at the rites and rituals of a species where the female considers the male to be prey, featuring 14 female and two male dancers. Originally created in 1951, *The Cage* is set to Stravinsky's *Concerto in D for String Orchestra*, performed live by English National Ballet Philharmonic.

Completing the mixed bill is a reworked version of **Aszure Barton's** *Fantastic Beings*. Originally created as part of English National Ballet's *She Said* programme in 2016, *Fantastic Beings* is a mysterious, magnetic work that sees 16 dancers take to the stage, accompanied by Mason Bates' dynamic score performed live by English National Ballet Philharmonic.

Of Voices of America Tamara Rojo CBE, Artistic Director of English National Ballet said:
"For a while now I have wanted to dedicate a programme to the abstract, neoclassical style of ballet that is born out of America. It gives me great pleasure to now be doing so with a new work created especially for us by the genius that is William Forsythe, alongside his *Approximate Sonata 2016*.

"I am excited that these Forsythe works will be accompanied by Jerome Robbins' brilliantly shocking ballet *The Cage*, and a revival of Aszure Barton's fabulous *Fantastic Beings*. I cannot wait for audiences to experience the power and emotion of these ballets next spring."

In June 2018, English National Ballet revives **Kenneth MacMillan's** *The Sleeping Beauty* at the London Coliseum. This classical dark fairy-tale ballet offers "some of the most ravishing steps in 19th century repertory" (The Guardian). Featuring stunning sets by Peter Farmer, elaborate costumes by Nicholas Georgiadas, and Tchaikovsky's ravishing score played live by English National Ballet Philharmonic. This revival coincides with the recent anniversary of MacMillan's death, and follows the Company's performances of MacMillan's masterpiece *Song of the Earth* in the autumn/winter.

Returning for its ninth consecutive year is English National Ballet's **Emerging Dancer** competition, which will be held at the London Coliseum for the first time on 11 June 2018. Recognising the excellence of the company's artists, this annual celebration remains vital to developing and nurturing young talent within the Company. Over the years Emerging Dancer has grown significantly in popularity, with last year's Facebook livestream receiving over 89,000 views worldwide.

Next spring, English National Ballet will present a brand-new version of the ever-popular **My First Ballet: Swan Lake**, which premieres at London's Peacock theatre before touring to seven venues across the country. Created in partnership with English National Ballet School, the My First Ballet series reworks popular ballet titles to make them accessible to children as young as three. Since inception in 2012 over a quarter of a million people have seen a ballet from the series.

English National Ballet continues to present the very best of British ballet to audiences across the world next season when it tours **Akram Khan's** *Giselle* internationally for the first time. In March 2018, the production will headline the Auckland Arts Festival in New Zealand before opening the Dublin Dance Festival in Ireland in May 2018. Last season English National Ballet toured *Le Corsaire*, *Coppélia*, and Ballet Bold, a mixed bill that included *Adagio Hammerklavier*, *In the Middle*, *Somewhat Elevated*, and *The Sleeping Beauty*(Act 3) internationally to over 18,000 people in Japan and Poland respectively.

Tickets for *The Sleeping Beauty* and *My First Ballet: Swan Lake's* national tour go on sale to Friends of English National Ballet at 10am on Thursday 14 September 2017. General on sale is 10am, Monday 18 September 2017.

Tickets for *Voices of America* and *My First Ballet: Swan Lake* at the Peacock, London go on sale to Friends of English National Ballet at 10am on Monday 30 October 2017. General on sale is 10am, Monday 6 November 2017.

On sale date for Emerging Dancer to be announced shortly.

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

For information on how to become a Friend of English National Ballet see www.ballet.org.uk/support-us

Listing information for English National Ballet 2018 Spring/Summer Season

**Voices of America: Robbins/Forsythe/Barton
Sadler's Wells, London**

Thursday 12 – Saturday 21 April 2018

Press night: Thursday 12 April 2018

Box office: 020 7863 8000 or www.ballet.org.uk

Tickets: from £12 (on sale Autumn 2017)

My First Ballet: Swan Lake
Peacock Theatre, London

Thursday 29 March – Saturday 7 April 2018

Press night: Thursday 29 March, 7pm

Box Office: 020 7863 8222 or www.ballet.org.uk

Tickets: from £10

My First Ballet: Swan Lake
Churchill Theatre, Bromley

Saturday 14 – Sunday 15 April 2018

Box Office: 020 3285 6000 or www.ballet.org.uk

Tickets: from £15.50

My First Ballet: Swan Lake
New Theatre, Oxford

Saturday 21 – Sunday 22 April 2018

Box Office: 0844 871 3020 or www.ballet.org.uk

Tickets: from £11.50

My First Ballet: Swan Lake
Opera House, Manchester

Saturday 28 – Sunday 29 April 2018

Box Office: 0844 871 3018 or www.ballet.org.uk

Tickets: from £11.50

My First Ballet: Swan Lake
The Grand Theatre, Blackpool

Saturday 5 – Sunday 6 May 2018

Box Office: 01253 290190 or www.ballet.org.uk

Tickets: from £10

My First Ballet: Swan Lake
New Victoria Theatre, Woking

Saturday 12 – Sunday 13 May 2018

Box Office: 0844 871 7645 or www.ballet.org.uk

Tickets: from £11.50

My First Ballet: Swan Lake
Princess Theatre, Torquay

Saturday 19 – Sunday 20 May 2018

Box Office: 0844 871 3023 or www.ballet.org.uk

Tickets: from £11.50

The Sleeping Beauty
London Coliseum

Wednesday 6 – Saturday 16 Jun 2018

Press night: Wednesday 6 June 2018

Box Office: 020 7845 9300 or www.ballet.org.uk

Tickets: from £14

Emerging Dancer
London Coliseum

Monday 11 June 2018

Box Office: 020 7845 9300 or www.ballet.org.uk

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.

English National Ballet is an Associate Company of Sadler's Wells.