

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday 12 December 2017

English National Ballet
Song of the Earth / La Sylphide
Le Jeune Homme et la Mort / La Sylphide
London Coliseum
9 - 20 January 2018
www.ballet.org.uk

- Guest Artist **Ivan Vasiliev** to perform in *Le Jeune Homme et la Mort* alongside Lead Principal **Tamara Rojo**.
- Lead Principal **Isaac Hernández** and Principals **Begoña Cao**, **Joseph Caley** and **Cesar Corrales** debut in the production.

Following performances on tour this autumn, English National Ballet presents Sir Kenneth MacMillan's masterwork, *Song of the Earth* and Frank Andersen's faithful version of the 1830s Romantic ballet *La Sylphide* at the London Coliseum this January where Roland Petit's *Le Jeune Homme et la Mort* is also revived.

Making his return to the London stage, Guest Artist **Ivan Vasiliev**, performs the lead role in Roland Petit's *Le Jeune Homme et la Mort* alongside Lead Principal **Tamara Rojo**. Born in Vladivostok, Russia, Vasiliev is a former Principal with the Bolshoi Ballet and American Ballet Theatre and is currently Principal with Mikhailovsky in St. Petersburg. He previously performed in *Le Jeune Homme et la Mort* with English National Ballet in 2011, and in 2015 he performed with the Company in *Swan Lake*.

Further Principal casting for *Le Jeune Homme et la Mort* includes Lead Principal **Isaac Hernández** and Principal **Begoña Cao**, Principal **Joseph Caley** and **Cao**, and Principal **Cesar Corrales** and Artist of the Company **Jia Zhang**.

Principal casting for *Song of the Earth* sees Lead Principal **Tamara Rojo** perform in the role of The Woman, alongside Principal **Joseph Caley** and Lead Principal **Aaron Robison** in the role of The Man and The Messenger of Death.

And *La Sylphide* sees performances from Lead Principals **Jurgita Dronina** and **Isaac Hernández**, Lead Principal **Erina Takahashi** and Guest Artist **Ciro Tamayo**, Principal **Shiori Kase** and Lead Principal **Aaron Robison**, Principal **Joseph Caley** and Junior Soloist **Rina Kanehara**, and First Soloist **Alison McWhinney** and Soloist **Aitor Arrieta**.

Principal casting

Please note, casting is subject to change. Please see www.ballet.org.uk for up to date casting.

Song of the Earth / La Sylphide
London Coliseum
Tuesday 9 – Saturday 13 January

Song of the Earth
(in the order of The Woman, The Man, The Messenger of Death)

Tuesday 9 January (Press night)
Tamara Rojo, Joseph Caley†, Aaron Robison†

Wednesday 10 January

Jurgita Dronina†, Aitor Arrieta, TBC

Thursday 11 January (matinee)

Fernanda Oliveira, Aitor Arrieta, Ken Saruhashi

Thursday 11 January

Tamara Rojo, Joseph Caley†, TBC

Friday 12 January

Erina Takahashi, Isaac Hernández†, TBC

Saturday 13 January (matinee)

Fernanda Oliveira, Aitor Arrieta, Ken Saruhashi

Saturday 13 January

Tamara Rojo, Joseph Caley†, TBC

La Sylphide

(in the order of *La Sylphide* and *James*)

Tuesday 9 January (press night)

Jurgita Dronina† and Isaac Hernández†

Wednesday 10 January

Erina Takahashi and Ciro Tamayo±, with Eva Kloborg†† as Madge.

Thursday 11 January (matinee)

Shiori Kase and Aaron Robison†

Thursday 11 January

Erina Takahashi and Ciro Tamayo±, with Eva Kloborg†† as Madge.

Friday 12 January

Rina Kanehara and Ciro Tamayo±

Saturday 13 January (matinee)

Shiori Kase and Aaron Robison†

Saturday 13 January

Jurgita Dronina† and Isaac Hernández†

Le Jeune Homme et la Mort / La Sylphide

London Coliseum

Tuesday 16 – Saturday 20 January

Le Jeune Homme et la Mort

(in the order of *The Man and The Woman*)

Tuesday 16 January (press night)

Ivan Vasiliev†† and Tamara Rojo

Wednesday 17 January

Isaac Hernández*† and Begoña Cao*

Thursday 18 January (matinee)

Cesar Corrales*† and Jia Zhang

Thursday 18 January

Joseph Caley*† and Begoña Cao

Friday 19 January

Ivan Vasiliev†† and Tamara Rojo

Saturday 20 January (matinee)

Cesar Corrales† and Jia Zhang

Saturday 20 January

Isaac Hernández† and Begoña Cao

La Sylphide

(in the order of La Sylphide and James)

Tuesday 16 January (press night)

Alison McWhinney and Aitor Arrieta

Wednesday 17 January

Rina Kanehara and Joseph Caley†

Thursday 18 January (matinee)

Erina Takahashi and Ciro Tamayo±

Thursday 18 January

Jurgita Dronina† and Aaron Robison†

Friday 19 January

Shiori Kase and Joseph Caley†

Saturday 20 January (matinee)

Alison McWhinney and Aitor Arrieta

Saturday 20 January

Jurgita Dronina† and Aaron Robison†

*Debut in the role with English National Ballet

†Sponsored by the Aud Jebsen International Talent Programme

††Guest Artists and Teachers sponsored by Aud Jebsen

±Guest Artist

About Ivan Vasiliev

Honored Artist of Russia

Born in Vladivostok, he studied at the Dnepropetrovsk Ballet School in Ukraine and later at the Belarus State Ballet School in Minsk, graduating in 2006. While still a student, Vasiliev danced Basilio in Don Quixote and Ali in Le Corsaire with the Belarus National Ballet. In 2006, he was invited to join the Bolshoi Ballet as a Soloist, making his debut with the Company, at the age of 17, as Basilio in Don Quixote. He was promoted to Principal Dancer in 2010. In 2011, he joined the Mikhailovsky Ballet as a Principal Dancer. Vasiliev's repertoire with the Mikhailovsky includes principal roles in Don Quixote, Giselle, The Sleeping Beauty, Romeo and Juliet, La Fille mal gardée, La Bayadère, Laurencia, La Sylphide, The Flames of Paris, Le Halte de cavalerie, and Class Concert. His awards include medals at the international ballet competitions in Varna, Moscow, and Perm. He is also the winner of the Triumph Youth Prize, British Critics' Circle National Dance Awards in the category Spotlight and as

Best Male Dancer, and the Benois de la Danse Award for his performance in *Le Corsaire* and *The Flames of Paris* (2009). In 2011, he received Grand Prix at the International Dance Open Festival. In 2014, he was awarded the title of Honored Artist of Russia.

In 2012–2013, Ivan Vasiliev was a Principal Dancer with American Ballet Theatre (ABT). In 2014, he took part in the closing ceremony of the Winter Olympics in Sochi (*Natasha Rostova's First Ball* scene). In 2015, Ivan Vasiliev made his debut as a choreographer: at the Barvikha Luxury Village he premiered his *Ballet № 1*. In 2016, he staged three one-act ballets — *Morphine*, *Blind Affair*, and *Bolero* — which are included in the repertoire of the Mikhailovsky Theatre. In May 2016, Vasiliev's ballet *Love is All Around* premiered at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow.