

English National Ballet and English National Ballet School present
My First Ballet: Swan Lake

National Tour

29 March – 20 May 2018

Performance times and ticket prices vary (see below for details)

www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

English National Ballet and English National Ballet School present a new version of the well-known classic, *Swan Lake*, as part of its *My First Ballet* series created especially for children as young as three. Adapted to an hour in length and with a narrator to help young audiences follow the story, *My First Ballet: Swan Lake* is the perfect introduction to the magic of ballet.

My First Ballet: Swan Lake opens at The Peacock, London on 29 March 2018 before embarking on a national tour to Churchill Theatre, Bromley (14 & 15 April), New Theatre, Oxford (21 & 22 April), Manchester Opera House (28 & 29 April), The Grand Theatre, Blackpool (05 & 06 May), New Victoria Theatre, Woking (12 & 13 May) and Princess Theatre, Torquay (19 & 20 May).

Featuring choreography by Antonio Castilla, English National Ballet's Ballet Master and Répétiteur, and Dramaturgy by Lou Cope, this new version follows the familiar story of *Swan Lake*, but told from a different point of view.

Antonio Castilla, Choreographer of *My First Ballet: Swan Lake*, said: *"I'm very excited to be working on this project and to be charged with telling our young audiences this wonderful story. In this new version of My First Ballet: Swan Lake, we have put the focus on Odile, rather than Odette, with the narrative following her journey and the difficult decision she must make, allowing us to explore important themes of friendship, forgiveness and honesty."*

Since its inception in 2012, over 250,000 people have enjoyed the series which has included the hugely successful *My First Ballet: Cinderella*, *Coppélia* and *Sleeping Beauty*.

Tamara Rojo CBE, Artistic Director of English National Ballet, said: *"Our My First Ballet series is a brilliant way of introducing new audiences to the joy of ballet. It allows us to present popular ballets in which the narrative, choreography and music are condensed, but the ballet itself is not compromised. I look forward to sharing this new version of Swan Lake with young audiences across the country, and I hope they leave the theatre feeling inspired and excited by what ballet has to offer."*

The *My First Ballet* series is performed by students of English National Ballet School, providing them with valuable rehearsal and performance experience within a professional touring company.

To coincide with *My First Ballet: Swan Lake*, English National Ballet will host on-stage creative dance workshops, aimed to provide a gateway into the world of ballet. Children and their parents/ guardians will have the opportunity to learn extracts from the production with English National Ballet dance artists and get up close to costumes and scenery. For more information, please go to www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

English National Ballet School Summer Performances return this year to New Wimbledon Theatre 6-7 July. Tickets go on sale Monday 23 April.

Ends

For further information, interview requests and images please contact Alice Gibson, Senior 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.

Notes to Editors

***My First Ballet: Swan Lake* Symbol Resources**

English National Ballet and English National Ballet School are delighted to once again be commissioning Widgeit to create a range of symbol resources alongside *My First Ballet: Swan Lake*. Using Widgeit symbols, these resources aim to make ballet more accessible, supporting written text to make the meaning clearer and easier to understand, aiding literacy and learning for all ages and abilities. These resources are available to download for free (PDF format) and extra activities are printed in programmes at venues throughout the *My First Ballet: Swan Lake* tour. The *My First Ballet: Swan Lake* Symbol Resources are designed for use before, during and after performances.

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 School

English National Ballet School is a world-renowned specialist training centre for aspiring and highly talented young ballet dancers aged 16 to 19. Founded in 1988 by English National Ballet, today the school exists as a separate entity but maintains strong links with its parent company, sharing its commitment to excellence and access. Its mission is to nurture and develop the next generation of world-class dance artists; artists who are confident and versatile, able to push boundaries and bring their creativity to the fore. Students participate in a three-year programme, validated by Trinity College London, with graduates joining prestigious dance companies worldwide. Currently a third of the dancers at English National Ballet are graduates of the School. The School also offer weekly children's ballet classes, ENBS Juniors, for 3 – 10 year olds.

Listings Information

The Peacock, London

29 March – 07 April 2018

Box Office: 020 7863 8222

Tickets: £10 - £25 www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

Churchill Theatre, Bromley

14 & 15 April 2018

Box Office: 020 3285 6000

Tickets: £13 - £23 www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

New Theatre, Oxford

21 & 22 April 2018

Box Office: 0844 871 3020

Tickets: £13.40 - £29.40 www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

Manchester Opera House

28 & 29 April 2018
Box Office: 0844 871 3018
Tickets: £13.40 - £29.40 www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

The Grand Theatre, Blackpool

05 & 06 May 2018
Box Office: 01253 290190
Tickets: £13 - £23 www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

New Victoria Theatre, Woking

12 & 13 May 2018
Box Office: 0844 871 7645
Tickets: £13.40 - £29.40 www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

Princess Theatre, Torquay

19 & 20 May 2018
Box Office: 0844 871 3023
Tickets: £13.40 - £29.40 www.ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

Booking fees may apply.

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