

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2018

# English National Ballet

## Voices of America

### *Robbins / Forsythe / Barton*

#### Sadler's Wells, London

#### Thursday 12 – Saturday 21 April 2018

[www.ballet.org.uk](http://www.ballet.org.uk)

From 12 - 21 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 his 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. Performed as part of the Jerome Robbins Centennial Celebrations, a global celebration of the 100th birthday of Jerome Robbins.

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."*

**Press night: Thursday 12 April 2018 at 7.30pm**

For further information, interview requests, and images please contact Robert James, Head of Communications on [robert.james@ballet.org.uk](mailto:robert.james@ballet.org.uk) or call 020 7590 2933.