

English National Ballet 2018-2019 Season

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- English National Ballet and English National Ballet School set to move into joint state-of-the-art home in Canning Town, East London
- Christopher Wheeldon to create a new in-the-round version of *Cinderella* for English National Ballet and the Royal Albert Hall
- ENB's second bill featuring female choreographers, *She Persisted* includes a new work inspired by Ibsen's *A Doll's House* by First Artist Stina Quagebeur
- *She Persisted* also features Pina Bausch's *Le Sacre du printemps* and Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's *Broken Wings*
- *Lest We Forget* returns to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War
- Akram Khan's *Giselle* tours internationally to the Harris Theater, Chicago and to the Chekov International Festival at the Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow
- Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *Manon* performed on tour and at the London Coliseum
- *ENB in Paris*, following the Company's performances at the Palais Garnier, to be released via YouTube

English National Ballet has today announced its 2018-2019 season at a press conference at London City Island, the site of its future home.

English National Ballet's 2018-2019 season begins as the Company prepares to move to its new purpose-built home at London City Island in Canning Town, a new neighbourhood from EcoWorld Ballymore.

The Company is thrilled to announce it has been successful in its stage two application to Arts Council England's Capital Large Grants programme, funded by the National Lottery, for a £3 million investment in its future home. Bringing both English National Ballet and English National Ballet School together under one roof for the first time, the new building will create a centre that combines state-of-the-art training, fitness and rehab, and teaching facilities, seven stage-sized rehearsal studios, and a unique production studio with five-storey fly tower unrivalled in the UK.

The new building will include digital infrastructure which will allow both organisations to capture and share work and engage with audiences around the UK and the rest of the world, and dedicated Engagement spaces to further the Company's work with the local community and wellbeing programme including its flagship English National Ballet Dance for Parkinson's programme. Fundraising for English National Ballet and English National Ballet's move is ongoing.

Tamara Rojo, Artistic Director, English National Ballet said: *"We are so grateful to Arts Council England for their continued support and investment in our new home, which will be a space that will echo the sound of creative Britain. It will be a place where artists will be nurtured from school to beyond their stage careers, and where our continued commitment to their health and fitness will have the best possible infrastructure.*

"We will have state of the art spaces to allow us to further create ground-breaking new work and continue to develop our artform. It will be a space we will be able to share with other artists and artforms, and will allow us to be even more open and welcoming to our local communities and audience"

One of the first new productions to be created in the Company's new home is from multi award-winning choreographer **Christopher Wheeldon**, who premieres a new in-the-round version of *Cinderella* in June 2019 at the Royal Albert Hall. Co-produced by English National Ballet and the Royal Albert Hall, Wheeldon's inventive production features over 90 dancers and combines magnificent sets and costumes, theatrical surprises, and lively choreography in what promises to be the ballet spectacular of 2019.

Lucy Noble, Artistic Director at the Royal Albert Hall, said: "We're thrilled to be co-producing Christopher Wheeldon's exquisite production of *Cinderella* with English National Ballet, specially adapted for the world's most famous stage. The Royal Albert Hall and English National Ballet have a long and happy partnership, which started in 1997 with *Swan Lake* and has since seen hundreds of thousands of people enjoying ballet in-the-round in our wonderful Hall. This co-production continues our shared ambition to take great art to everyone."

English National Ballet continues to showcase the woman's voice in choreography with its second programme dedicated to female choreography, **She Persisted** at Sadler's Wells in April 2019. Following 2016's acclaimed *She Said* programme, *She Persisted* includes the premiere of *Nora*, a new work by Company member **Stina Quagebeur**, based on Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

She Persisted also sees **Pina Bausch's** masterwork *Le Sacre du printemps* (The Rite of Spring) return. Regarded as one of Bausch's most revered works, English National Ballet is only the second ballet Company in the world to be allowed to perform the work.

During 36 years as Artistic Director of Tanztheater Wuppertal, Pina Bausch nurtured an ensemble of vivid imagination and grand scale and developed an artistic canon renowned for its diverse cultural influences and rich visual style.

First premiered in April 2016, **Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's** *Broken Wings* is also revived. Based on the life of Frida Kahlo, *Broken Wings* was nominated for Best Modern Choreography at the 2016 Critics Circle National Dance Awards. *Broken Wings* will see legendary ballet star and Guest Ballet Master at English National Ballet, Irek Mukhamedov, reprise his role as Diego Rivera.

To commemorate the end of the First World War, English National Ballet's acclaimed **Lest We Forget** programme returns to Sadler's Wells in September 2018. Featuring three poignant works, *Lest We Forget* reflects on the experiences of those who fought in the conflict, and those who stayed behind. Drawing on superb design and evocative scores, choreographers **Liam Scarlett, Russell Maliphant** and **Akram Khan** have created dance pieces full of unforgettable and haunting images.

Since its premiere in 2014, *Lest We Forget* has gone on to receive the South Bank Sky Arts Award for Dance, and Best Modern Choreography at the 2014 Critic's Circle National Dance Awards for Akram Khan's *Dust*. English National Ballet also became the first ballet company to perform at Glastonbury when it presented *Dust* on the Pyramid Stage in front of over 30,000 people.

Continuing its commitment to UK touring and presenting world-class ballet to the widest possible audience, Autumn 2018 sees English National Ballet present Sir **Kenneth MacMillan's** *Manon* outside London for only the second time in 30 years, touring to Manchester, Southampton, and Milton Keynes. Famous for its expressive choreography and dramatic challenge, *Manon* features some of the most demanding and fulfilling roles in ballet. *Manon* is accompanied by Jules Massenet's haunting music performed live by English National Ballet Philharmonic.

Also performed as part of English National Ballet's Autumn tour is its hugely successful production of the timeless classic **Swan Lake** choreographed by Derek Deane. Touring to

Liverpool and Bristol, *Swan Lake* features some of the most iconic scenes in ballet performed to Tchaikovsky's glorious score performed live by English National Ballet Philharmonic.

Following performances of *Manon* and *Swan Lake* on tour, English National Ballet will present both productions at the London Coliseum in January 2019.

Continuing its Christmas tradition of presenting a **Nutcracker** production each year since 1950, English National Ballet's Nutcracker returns to the London Coliseum following sold out performances in 2016 and 2017.

English National Ballet remains committed to developing and nurturing talent within the company, and 2019 sees the tenth anniversary of its **Emerging Dancer** competition. Recognising the excellence of the Company's artists, this annual celebration sees six finalists mentored by their peers to perform in front of a panel of preeminent judges. The winner of Emerging Dancer is announced alongside the People's Choice award and the Corps de Ballet award, introduced to recognise the hard work and dedication of an exceptional member of the corps.

Developing the ballet audience of tomorrow, English National Ballet and English National Ballet School's **My First Ballet** series takes a popular ballet title and adapts it in time and length, making it accessible to audiences as young as three. Since 2012, over 250,000 people have seen a ballet from the series. Further details for My First Ballet's Spring 2019 tour to be confirmed shortly.

To mark two years since English National Ballet became the first UK company in 60 years to perform on the **Palais Garnier** stage, **ENB in Paris** will be released in June 2018 via our YouTube channel. A film by Michael Nunn & William Trevitt, this five-part documentary follows the Company as it prepares to make history with its performances of *Le Corsaire* on this world-renowned stage.

Taking the very best in British ballet to audiences across the world, English National Ballet tours **Akram Khan's Giselle** internationally next season. The Company will make its first performances in the United States for over 30 years in February 2019 when it performs at the Harris Theater in Chicago, and for the first time in the Company's history it will perform at the Chekov International Festival on the stage of the Bolshoi Theatre June 2019.

At today's press conference, English National Ballet released the results of its 2016-2017 annual review.

During the 2016-2017 financial year the Company gave 175 performances in England and a further six abroad, to a paid attendance of over 296,000 people, reaching a capacity attendance of 87%. English National Ballet is committed to taking world class ballet to the widest possible audience. In 2016/2017 over 30,000 tickets sold were priced at £14 or under across every UK venue.

Digital innovation and communication is essential in ensuring that English National Ballet meets its objective to provide access to the widest possible audience.

In 2017 our website was redesigned and re-launched. In 2016 we created an enhanced digital campaign for Akram Khan's *Giselle*, with a bespoke microsite which housed images and short films chronicling the creative process. To date, the site has had over 485,000-page views and the films have had over 6.5 million views.

Our digital reach and participation showed significant growth in 2016/2017. We recorded 33.91% increase in visitors to our website from the previous year, a 116% increase in followers on Instagram, 60.1% increase in Facebook followers, a 30.7% increase in YouTube subscribers, and our video content received 14.9 million views.

English National Ballet also announced that Justin Bickle will step down as chairman in 2018.

Justin Bickle joined the Board in 2009, succeeding John Talbot as Chairman in 2013. Bickle, who moved to Dublin following his new role as Co-Founder and CEO of Glenveagh Properties PLC, announced his plans to the Company in December 2017. The search for a new Chair is underway, and the Company expects to announce Bickle's successor in Summer 2018.

Bickle commented: *"It has been my great honour to serve as the Chairman of ENB's Board for the past five years, and to have led some of the most significant moments in its recent history; in particular securing the deal with EcoWorld Ballymore in order to create our new purpose-built, world-class home for the Company and English National Ballet School at London City Island. I'm incredibly proud to have helped enable this investment in the Company, its dancers, musicians, staff and students as I know it will allow English National Ballet to truly cement its place as a real powerhouse in the dance world."*

Manon, Swan Lake and **Nutcracker** open for priority booking to Friends from **10am on Thursday 14 March**, with general booking open from **10am on Monday 19 March**. [Become a Friend today](#) to enjoy priority booking, access to exclusive events throughout the season, and great discounts.

She Persisted, Cinderella, My First Ballet: Sleeping Beauty and **Emerging Dancer 2019**, will open for booking in **Autumn 2018**. [Sign up to our e-newsletter](#) to find out when booking is announced.

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

English National Ballet's 2018-2019 Season Listings

Lest We Forget

Sadler's Wells, London

Thursday 20 September – Saturday 29 September 2018

Press night: Thursday 20 September, 7.30pm

Box Office: 020 7863 8000 or www.ballet.org.uk/lestweforget

Manon

Manchester Opera House

Wednesday 17 October – Saturday 20 October 2018

Press night: Wednesday 17 October, 7.30pm

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

Manon

Milton Keynes Theatre

Wednesday 24 October – Saturday 27 October 2018

Press night: Wednesday 24 October, 7.30pm

Box Office: 0844 871 7652 or www.ballet.org.uk/manon

Manon

Mayflower Theatre, Southampton

Wednesday 31 October – Saturday 03 November 2018

Press night: Wednesday 31 October, 7.30pm

Box Office: 02380 711811 or www.ballet.org.uk/manon

Swan Lake

Liverpool Empire

Wednesday 21 November – Saturday 24 November 2018
Press night: Wednesday 21 November, 7.30pm
Box Office: 0844 871 3017 or www.ballet.org.uk/swanlake

Swan Lake
Bristol Hippodrome

Tuesday 27 November – Saturday 01 December 2018
Press night: Tuesday 27 November, 7.30pm
Box Office: 0844 871 3012 or www.ballet.org.uk/swanlake

Nutcracker
London Coliseum

Thursday 13 December – Sunday 30 December 2018
Press night: Thursday 13 December, 7.30pm
Box Office: 020 7845 9300 or www.ballet.org.uk/nutcracker

Swan Lake
London Coliseum

Thursday 03 January – Sunday 13 January 2019
Press night: Thursday 03 January, 7.30pm
Box Office: 020 7845 9300 or www.ballet.org.uk/swanlake

Manon
London Coliseum

Wednesday 16 January – Sunday 20 January 2019
Press night: Wednesday 16 January, 7.30pm
Box Office: 020 7845 9300 or www.ballet.org.uk/manon

Akram Khan's Giselle
Harris Theatre, Chicago

Thursday 28 February – Saturday 02 March 2019

She Persisted
Sadler's Wells, London

Tuesday 02 April – Saturday 13 April 2019
Press night: Tuesday 02 April, 7.30pm
Box Office: 020 7863 8000

Emerging Dancer
Sadler's Wells, London

Tuesday 07 May 2019
Press night: Wednesday 08 May 2019
Box Office: 020 7863 8000 or www.ballet.org.uk/emerging

My First Ballet

Further details to be announced shortly

Cinderella in-the-round
Royal Albert Hall, London

Thursday 06 June – Sunday 16 June 2019
Press night: Thursday 06 June, 7.30pm
Box Office: 020 7589 8212 or www.ballet.org.uk/cinderella-intheround

Akram Khan's Giselle
Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow

Thursday 11 July – Sunday 14 July 2019