

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NatWest to become English National Ballet's first Principal Partner

English National Ballet is thrilled to announce NatWest as its first Principal Partner supporting the Company over the next four years.

NatWest believes that a more inclusive society is a stronger one and this principle sits at the heart of this ground-breaking partnership.

NatWest's support will allow English National Ballet to bring more communities together by providing them with increased access to the very best in British ballet. Last year English National Ballet gave 175 performances to audiences of over 295,000 people with over 30,000 tickets being sold for £14 or less.

Digital innovation is essential in ensuring English National Ballet provides access to ballet to the widest possible audience. Video content for its production of Akram Khan's Giselle has received over 7.5 million views, while the production was recently screened in over 175 cinemas across the country. English National Ballet is a UK leader in engagement practice and delivery, building innovative partnerships to deliver flagship initiatives such as its national Dance for Parkinson's programme.

This partnership with NatWest will see both companies work together to ensure English National Ballet's activity reaches as many people across the country as possible.

Tamara Rojo CBE, Artistic Director, English National Ballet said: *"This support from NatWest allows us to continue our ambitious aim to push the boundaries of ballet for both the Company and audience by honouring and reinvigorating traditional works, introducing innovative new works, and allowing us to be even more open with our local communities through our offstage projects including our ground-breaking Dance for Parkinson's programme. We believe that ballet has no barriers and is for everyone, everywhere, and I am thrilled to be able to continue to share our artform with as many people as possible."*

Patrick Harrison, Executive Director, English National Ballet added: *"This four-year commitment from NatWest gives us strong support and security from a valued partner. Working together will help deliver on the significant opportunities our move to a purpose-built new home in East London offers, and allow us to continue to invest in our art form for generations to come."*

Alison Rose, CEO of Commercial & Private Banking, NatWest, said: *"I am delighted to be announcing our four-year partnership with English National Ballet. As the company's Principal Partner, we will be working collaboratively to take ballet to a wider and more diverse audience in communities across the country. We look forward to sharing the positive values of this dynamic and captivating art form."*

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

Notes to Editors

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.

NatWest

NatWest serves customers in England and Wales supporting them with their personal, private and business banking needs, and supports large corporates in Western Europe. Alongside a wide range of banking services, NatWest offers businesses specialist sector knowledge in areas such as manufacturing and technology, as well as access to specialist entrepreneurial support.