

14/09/2018

English National Ballet

Manon

National Tour

17 October 2018 - 20 January 2019

www.ballet.org.uk/manon

- Principal casting sees debut performances from Lead Principals Cojocar, Dronina, Caley, Hernández and Cirio
- Rupert Pennefather to perform with English National Ballet for the first time

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 of London for only the second time in 30 years with performances in Manchester (17-20 October), Milton Keynes (24-27 October) and Southampton (31 October–03 November).

Principal casting for *Manon* sees Lead Principals **Alina Cojocar** and **Jurgita Dronina**, and First Soloists **Alison McWhinney** and **Emma Hawes**, debut in the title role with English National Ballet. Lead Principal **Erina Takahashi** and Principal **Begoña Cao** return to the role.

Lead Principals **Joseph Caley**, **Isaac Hernández** and **Jeffrey Cirio**, as well as Principal **Francesco Gabriele Frola** and Soloist **Aitor Arrieta** debut in the role of Des Grieux with English National Ballet. In addition, Former Royal Ballet Principal, **Rupert Pennefather**, performs with the Company as Guest Artist in the role. British born Pennefather will dance in Southampton, marking his first time performing with English National Ballet.

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.

Following performances on tour, English National Ballet will perform *Manon* in London (16-20 January 2019).

Principal Casting (In the order of Manon and Des Grieux)

Manchester Opera House

Wednesday 17 October

Alina Cojocar* and Joseph Caley*

Thursday 18 October (mat)

Alison McWhinney* and Francesco Gabriele Frola*

Thursday 18 October

Jurgita Dronina* and Isaac Hernández*

Friday 19 October

Erina Takahashi and Jeffrey Cirio*

Saturday 20 October (mat)

Begoña Cao and Aitor Arrieta*

Saturday 20 October
Alina Cojocaru and Joseph Caley

Milton Keynes Theatre

Wednesday 24 October
Jurgita Dronina and Isaac Hernández

Thursday 25 October (mat)
Erina Takahashi and Jeffrey Cirio

Thursday 25 October
Begoña Cao and Aitor Arrieta

Friday 26 October
Alison McWhinney and Francesco Gabriele Frola

Saturday 27 October (mat)
Alina Cojocaru and Joseph Caley

Saturday 27 October
Jurgita Dronina and Isaac Hernández

Mayflower Theatre, Southampton

Wednesday 31 October
Erina Takahashi And Jeffrey Cirio

Thursday 01 November (mat)
Emma Hawes* and Rupert Pennefather*+

Thursday 01 November
Alison McWhinney and Francesco Gabriele Frola

Friday 02 November
Begoña Cao and Aitor Arrieta

Saturday 03 November (mat)
Jurgita Dronina and Isaac Hernández

Saturday 03 November
Alina Cojocaru and Joseph Caley

*Debut in the role with English National Ballet
+Guest Artist

Casting for performances in London to be announced in due course.

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

For further information, interview requests and images please contact Alice Gibson, PR Manager, on alice.gibson@ballet.org.uk or call 020 7590 2932.

Notes to Editors:

Listing Information

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

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