

# English National Ballet

## *Cinderella* in-the-round

### Royal Albert Hall

Thursday 06 – Sunday 16 June 2019

Tickets: [ballet.org.uk/cinderella](http://ballet.org.uk/cinderella) / [royalalberthall.com/cinderella](http://royalalberthall.com/cinderella) / 0845 401 5045

This summer **English National Ballet** performs their biggest production to date, a new, in-the-round version, of **Christopher Wheeldon's *Cinderella*** at the **Royal Albert Hall** (06–16 June 2019.)

Principal casting for the production is announced today and sees Lead Principals **Alina Cojocaru** and **Isaac Hernández**, Lead Principals **Erina Takahashi** and **Joseph Caley**, Lead Principal **Jeffrey Cirio** and Guest Artist **Maria Kochetkova**, and First Soloist **Emma Hawes** and Principal **Francesco Gabriele Frola** dance the roles of Cinderella and Prince Guillaume respectively.

Kochetkova joins English National Ballet as Guest Artist for performances of *Cinderella* having previously danced the title role with San Francisco Ballet. Born in Moscow, the international ballet star trained at the Bolshoi Ballet School before going on to dance with companies across the world including The Royal Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, the Mariinsky and Mikhailovsky Theatres, and English National Ballet (2003-2007).

Also announced today are those dancing the role of Benjamin, the prince's friend: **Jeffrey Cirio**, **Francesco Gabriele Frola**, Soloist **Ken Saruhashi**, and First Artist **Barry Drummond**.

Co-produced by English National Ballet and the Royal Albert Hall, Wheeldon's inventive staging, with over 130 dancers working on the production, combines magnificent sets and costumes, theatrical surprises, and lively choreography set to Prokofiev's famous score performed by English National Ballet Philharmonic, in what promises to be the ballet spectacular of 2019.

Working from the darkly intriguing Brothers Grimm version of the story, Wheeldon originally created *Cinderella* to great acclaim for Dutch National Ballet and San Francisco Ballet: he and his creative team now reunite for the re-staging of this sparkling ballet. The production includes striking set design by Julian Crouch – founder of the influential theatre company, Improbable – puppetry from Basil Twist (whose credits include *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*) and projection from Daniel Brodie.

English National Ballet has presented grand-scale in-the-round productions at the Royal Albert Hall since 1997, including *Swan Lake* – with its record-breaking 60 swans – and re-workings of *Romeo & Juliet* and *Sleeping Beauty*.

#### ***Cinderella* Principal Casting:**

In the order of Cinderella, Prince Guillaume, Benjamin

#### **Thursday 6 June**

Alina Cojocaru, Isaac Hernández, Jeffrey Cirio

#### **Friday 7 June (mat)**

Emma Hawes, Francesco Gabriele Frola, Ken Saruhashi

**Friday 7 June**

Erina Takahashi, Joseph Caley, Barry Drummond

**Saturday 8 June (mat)**

Alina Cojocaru, Isaac Hernández, Ken Saruhashi

**Saturday 8 June**

Maria Kochetkova, Jeffrey Cirio, Francesco Gabriele Frola

**Sunday 9 June (mat)**

Erina Takahashi, Joseph Caley, Barry Drummond

**Tuesday 11 June**

Alina Cojocaru, Isaac Hernández, Ken Saruhashi

**Wednesday 12 June**

Maria Kochetkova, Jeffrey Cirio, Francesco Gabriele Frola

**Thursday 13 June**

Erina Takahashi, Joseph Caley, Barry Drummond

**Friday 14 June (mat)**

Emma Hawes, Francesco Gabriele Frola, Ken Saruhashi

**Friday 14 June**

Maria Kochetkova, Jeffrey Cirio, Barry Drummond

**Saturday 15 June (mat)**

Erina Takahashi, Joseph Caley, Barry Drummond

**Saturday 15 June**

Alina Cojocaru, Isaac Hernández, Jeffrey Cirio

**Sunday 16 June (mat)**

Emma Hawes, Francesco Gabriele Frola, Ken Saruhashi

*Please note, casting is subject to change. Please see [www.ballet.org.uk](http://www.ballet.org.uk) for up to date casting.*

**-ENDS-**

**Listings:**

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**Royal Albert Hall**

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Tickets from £15

[ballet.org.uk/cinderella](http://ballet.org.uk/cinderella) / [royalalberthall.com/cinderella](http://royalalberthall.com/cinderella)

**Credits:**

Choreography: Christopher Wheeldon

Music: Sergei Prokofiev

Libretto: Craig Lucas

Design: Julian Crouch

Lighting design: Natasha Katz  
Puppetry design: Basil Twist  
Projection design: Daniel Brodie

English National Ballet is a National Portfolio Organisation supported by Arts Council England.

**For further information, interview requests, and images, please contact Alice Gibson, PR Manager on [alice.gibson@ballet.org.uk](mailto:alice.gibson@ballet.org.uk) or call 020 7590 2932.**