

30/09/2019

English National Ballet celebrates 70th Anniversary

London Coliseum

Friday 17 & Saturday 18 January 2020

www.ballet.org.uk

As part of its **70th anniversary season**, **English National Ballet** will celebrate its history with **three specially curated gala performances** at the London Coliseum on 17 and 18 January 2020.

The gala performances celebrate the countless dancers, choreographers, artists, musicians, artisans, technicians and audience members who, over the Company's 70 years, have been part of the English National Ballet family. Showcasing the world-class talent of the entire Company, alongside the future stars of the ballet world from English National Ballet School, the programme includes some of the most important and ground-breaking works that make up English National Ballet's diverse repertoire.

Tamara Rojo CBE, Artistic Director of English National Ballet said: *"Our 70th Anniversary Gala performances are a rare opportunity to showcase in one place a huge variety of brilliant work from our extraordinarily rich history. This will be a Gala that celebrates the sheer love of dance, both on and off the stage, that has been part of our vision from the beginning. Throughout the three performances we will be bringing together as many people as possible from the English National Ballet family, on stage and in the audience, to celebrate and give thanks for the generosity of all who make this the very special Company it is. Alongside the Gala, we want to make sure we thank our audiences and partners throughout the season and will do so in a variety of creative ways."*

Using archive footage of English National Ballet, Dominic Best, who directed BBC documentaries *Good Swan, Bad Swan: Dancing Swan Lake* and *Giselle: Belle of the Ballet*, will create a special film which will dissolve into live performance on stage. The programme features extracts from great masterworks which have not been recently performed by the Company, including George Balanchine's *Apollo*, John Cranko's *Onegin*, Roland Petit's *Carmen*, Léonide Massine's *Farruca (3-Cornered Hat)*, Christopher Bruce's *Swansong*, and Ben Stevenson's *Three Preludes*. These will be performed alongside excerpts of some of the Company's modern productions including *Dust* by Akram Khan, *Broken Wings* by Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, and *Playlist (Track 2)* by William Forsythe.

The gala performances conclude with a nod to English National Ballet's early years, with a performance of one of its signature pieces, *Etudes* by Harald Lander, first performed by the Company in 1955.

Elsewhere in this special anniversary season, English National Ballet will give away 70 tickets during each run in every city it tours to, celebrating and thanking its touring communities. Working with its partner venues and community groups, these tickets will be distributed to individuals who are making a positive impact in their community. To thank its audiences and fans, English National Ballet will also give a 'Golden Ticket' for a special English National Ballet experience to one audience member per performance throughout the season. Opportunities will include behind-the-scenes tours, complimentary tickets and programmes, and meet and greets.

We were delighted to offer 70 free tickets to performances of Akram Khan's *Giselle* at Sadler's Wells in September to staff and volunteers of Mousetrap Theatre Project, St Margaret's House,

Sunnyside Community Gardens, Synergy Theatre Projects, as well as Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea Libraries.

The 70th Anniversary comes as English National Ballet marks a new chapter in its history with its move into a new purpose-built state-of-the-art home in East London. This transformational move will allow English National Ballet to continue to develop world-class artists, create ground-breaking new works, and honour the Company's rich repertoire for years to come. With dedicated engagement, learning and public spaces, the Company will be able to connect with, and provide opportunities to, local communities like never before.

English National Ballet's 70th Anniversary Gala concludes its winter season at the London Coliseum which also sees the continued tradition of performing a Nutcracker production every year since the Company's inception in 1950 and the return of the critically acclaimed award-winning production of *Le Corsaire*, which returns to the UK following performances to audiences in excess of 100,000 people across the world.

Full Gala repertoire and further details of English National Ballet's 70th Anniversary celebrations to be announced.

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

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

Notes to Editors

To find out more about the organisations listed see:

mousetrap.org.uk

stmargaretshouse.org.uk

sunnysidecommunitygardens.org

synergytheatreproject.co.uk

rbkc.gov.uk/libraries/libraries

Listings

English National Ballet's 70th Anniversary Gala London Coliseum

Friday 17 & Saturday 18 January 2020

Box Office: 020 7845 9300 or www.ballet.org.uk/70th-anniversary-gala

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. www.ballet.org.uk

About Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development body for arts and culture across England, working to enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to visual art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.

www.artscouncil.org.uk