

English National Ballet and English National Ballet School present

My First Ballet: Cinderella

National Tour

Thursday 9 April – Sunday 31st May

Performance times and ticket prices vary (see below for details)

www.ballet.org.uk/my-first-ballet-cinderella/

English National Ballet and English National Ballet School present a pocket-sized version of the classic fairy-tale ballet *Cinderella*, as part of its much-loved *My First Ballet* series for children as young as three.



My First Ballet: Cinderella, newly choreographed by London Children's Ballet Artistic Director Ruth Brill, is tailor-made for young audiences. At an hour in length, featuring gorgeous music and dancing and a narrator in the form of the Fairy Godmother, it's the perfect introduction for children to the magic of ballet.

Ruth Brill, Choreographer of *My First Ballet: Cinderella*, said “Cinderella is my favourite fairy-tale, it has such a brilliant range of characters. Prokofiev’s beautiful score is inspiring music to create to and I’m intrigued by the magic in the story, arising from Cinderella’s dreams and enduring hope, despite

her circumstances. The moral of our story is – never give up, be kind to each other and you will find happiness one way or another – and what's more inspiring than that?"

My First Ballet: Cinderella opens at The Peacock, London on 9 April until 18 April 2020 before touring to Wycombe Swan Theatre, High Wycombe (25 & 26 April), Churchill Theatre, Bromley (9 & 10 May) and Richmond Theatre, Richmond from 27 May until 31 May.

Created in 2012, the My First Ballet Series has welcomed over 320,000 people to enjoy the wonders of ballet. In addition to *Cinderella*, the series has included the hugely successful performances of *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty*.

The *My First Ballet* series is performed by second year students of English National Ballet School, providing them with valuable rehearsal and performance experience within a professional touring company.

Tamara Rojo CBE, Artistic Director of English National Ballet, said: "Now in its ninth year, our My First Ballet series allows us to present popular ballets where the choreography, narrative and music are condensed for young audiences, but the ballet itself remains of the highest quality. I love seeing girls and boys discover the joy of dance – and hope they'll be inspired to try it themselves. I'm thrilled that ENB Alumna Ruth Brill has returned to create this year's magical production."

Ruth Brill said: "I've really enjoyed creating *My First Ballet: Cinderella* for English National Ballet. I trained at English National Ballet School and danced for ENB for the first five years of my performing career. It's great to be returning home to where it all began and working with the next generation of dancers from ENBS.

"I'm passionate about making ballet accessible to everyone. It is important for the story to be well told, and I'm enjoying working with Dramatic Associate Patricia Doyle. We want everyone to follow our story and feel comfortable in a theatre environment.

"It's really rewarding when you hear genuine spontaneous reactions from children in the audience. I hope this production will provide an opportunity for some of our audience members to catch the 'ballet bug'."

To coincide with *My First Ballet: Cinderella*, English National Ballet will host on-stage family dance workshops, providing a gateway into the world of ballet. Children and their parents/guardians will have the opportunity to learn extracts from the production, get up close to costumes and scenery, and bring the characters to life with English National Ballet dance artists.

In addition, English National Ballet are delighted to be working in partnership with Widgit to make ballet more accessible to children with learning difficulties and disabilities, by creating a range of symbol resources. These free resources are available to download online and are designed for use before, during and after performances.

-ENDS-

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

For further information and images, please contact Laura Nixon, Senior Press Officer, on laura.nixon@ballet.org.uk or 02075902933

Notes to Editors

Listings

The Peacock, London

9 April – 18 April 2020
Box Office: 020 7863 8222
Tickets: £10.00 – £37.00

Wycombe Swan, High Wycombe

25 & 26 April 2020
Box Office: 01494 512 000
Tickets: £13.50 - £28.50

Churchill Theatre, Bromley

9 & 10 May 2020
Box Office: 020 3285 6000
Tickets from £20.50

Richmond Theatre, Richmond

27 May – 31 May 2020
Box Office: 0844 871 7651
Tickets from £12.00

My First Ballet: *Cinderella* Symbol Resources

English National Ballet and English National Ballet School are delighted to once again be commissioning Widgit to create a range of symbol resources alongside My First Ballet: *Cinderella*. Using Widget symbols, these resources aim to make ballet more accessible, supporting written text to make the meaning clearer and easier to understand, aiding literacy and learning for all ages and abilities. These resources are available to download for free (PDF format) and extra activities are printed in programmes at venues throughout the My First Ballet: *Cinderella* tour. My First Ballet: *Cinderella* Symbol Resources are designed for use before, during and after performances.

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.

English National Ballet School

English National Ballet School is a world-renowned specialist training centre for aspiring and highly talented young ballet dancers aged 16 to 19. Founded in 1988 by English National Ballet, today the school exists as a separate entity but maintains strong links with its parent company, sharing its commitment to excellence and access. Its mission is to nurture and develop the next generation of world-class dance artists; artists who are confident and versatile, able to push boundaries and bring their creativity to the fore. Students participate in a three-year programme, validated by Trinity College London, with graduates joining prestigious dance companies worldwide. Currently a third of the dancers at English National Ballet are graduates of the School. The School also offer weekly children's ballet classes, ENBS Juniors, for 3 – 10 year olds.

About Arts Council England

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