

28/05/2020

## ENB at HOME: June



English National Ballet's 'ENB at HOME' programme continues to provide free access to full-length ballets and online content, providing ways for people to keep fit and active during this time and keeping ballet accessible to everyone, everywhere.

Through their Wednesday Watch Parties, which are a part of ENB at HOME, English National Ballet invites audiences around the world to enjoy **never before seen full-length recordings of Company performances**. The Wednesday evening (7pm) premieres on Facebook and YouTube give people the chance to see some of English National Ballet's most loved productions for free, from their own homes, with recordings available for 48 hours.

The ballets which have been streamed in the series so far have been viewed more than 570,000 times by people in over 100 countries. Following a short break, Wednesday Watch Parties will return with a celebration of Sir Kenneth MacMillan, by streaming two of his productions:

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June – *Song of the Earth*

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June – *Manon*

First performed in 1965, MacMillan's choreography for [\*Song of the Earth\*](#) was different from anything he had previously devised. Featuring three central figures, a Woman, a Man, and a Messenger, this powerful, moving exploration of life, death, and renewal is set to Mahler's song cycle, *Das Lied von der Erde*, performed live by English National Ballet Philharmonic. The streamed performance was filmed at the Palace Theatre Manchester in October 2017 when English National Ballet performed this masterwork as a part of the national celebration of MacMillan in the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death.

Famous for its expressive choreography MacMillan's [Manon](#) features some of the most demanding and fulfilling roles in ballet. The young and naïve Manon is torn between two lives: privilege and opulence with the wealthy Monsieur GM, or innocent love with the penniless student Des Grieux. Aristocrats and beggars, courtesans and harlots fill the stage as audiences are taken from a gambling den in 18th-century Paris to a desolate Louisiana swamp in one of British ballet's most dramatic stories. Recorded at the Manchester Opera House in October 2018, *Manon* is accompanied by Jules Massenet's haunting music performed by English National Ballet Philharmonic.

ENB announced today the conclusion of Artistic Director Tamara Rojo's daily ballet classes, following an incredible 40 classes that she has recorded since 20 March. Tamara's classes proved popular with professional dancers and ballet fans alike as a way to keep fit as well as an opportunity to train with one of the best ballet dancers in the world, and have been watched over 1.7 million times on YouTube and Facebook, Tamara said:

*"On behalf of ENB I would like to thank everyone who have been enjoying our online classes and Wednesday Watch Parties. Thank you for sharing this time with us and for your encouragement and support, it really means the world to us.*

*"It has been an honour and a privilege to bring daily class to you all and I can hardly believe we have reached 40 classes broadcast from my kitchen. This marks the end of my series of classes as it is now time for me and my colleagues at ENB to concentrate on the future of the company and, together with the government and our other colleagues in the performing arts, to find ways to return safely to our studios, theatres and to our work.*

*"Around the world things are slowly going back to normal, which is encouraging, so when it is safe and appropriate to do so please return to your teachers, return to your schools, return to your training and return to the theatres near you so that you can continue to support our beloved art form."*

The 40 classes Tamara recorded are still available on ENB's website and YouTube channel alongside the full range of classes that form the ENB at Home programme. These include beginners classes, family workshops, Dance for Parkinson's, Youth Ballet, Boys' classes, Ballet Fit and classes for those with limited mobility. ENB at Home will continue with new Wednesday Watch Parties, a weekly 'Ballet for Summer Fitness' class and more. Keep an eye on ENB's social channels for updated information on these classes and ENB at HOME content.

**-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](mailto:laura.nixon@ballet.org.uk)

## **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 been at the forefront of ballet's growth and evolution ever since.

English National Ballet brings world class ballet to the widest possible audience through performances across the UK and on eminent international stages including The Bolshoi Theatre and Palais Garnier; its distinguished orchestra, English National Ballet Philharmonic; and being a UK leader in creative learning and engagement practice, building innovative partnerships to deliver flagship programmes such as English National Ballet's Dance for Parkinson's.

Under the artistic directorship of Tamara Rojo CBE, English National Ballet has introduced ground-breaking new works to the Company's repertoire whilst continuing to honour the tradition of great classical ballet, gaining acclaim for artistic excellence and creativity. 2019 saw English National Ballet enter a new chapter in its history with a move into a purpose-built state-of-the-art home in East London which brings a renewed commitment to, and freedom for, creativity, ambition, and connection to more people, near and far, than ever before. [www.ballet.org.uk](http://www.ballet.org.uk)

### **ENB Future Fund**

Launched to celebrate our 70th Anniversary, ENB Future Fund enables the Company to make confident longer-term plans for all areas of our work. This is vital now, more than ever.

Covid-19 is the biggest challenge we've faced in our 70-year history. It is having a significant effect on the way we rehearse, operate and perform and affects our long-term sustainability.

Donations to the Future Fund support our important work to continue to connect, inspire and enhance well-being across our artistic, engagement and community programmes. As a charity, we rely on people's support now more than ever.

We want to continue changing the perceptions of what ballet is and what it can be. Any donation, large or small, will go towards protecting our work and ensuring we remain accessible, welcoming and relevant for all.

To find out more about supporting English National Ballet, please contact the Development team on [support@ballet.org.uk](mailto:support@ballet.org.uk) or call 020 7590 2950.

## **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](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)