

13/05/2020

## ENB at HOME: Wednesday Watch Parties



English National Ballet announces the next instalments of their Wednesday Watch Party series. Following three successful streams, which saw over 350,000 people tuning in, Stina Quagebeur's [Nora](#) will receive its online premiere on 20 May, followed by Derek Deane's [Swan Lake](#) on 27 May.

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. Recordings are available for 48 hours.

The online premiere of *Nora* showcases ENB's Associate Choreographer and First Artist of the Company Stina Quagebeur's first work for the main stage. *Nora* is inspired by the lead character in Henrik Ibsen's play *A Doll's House*, and follows a woman on the path to independence. With a small cast of eight dancers, including Crystal Costa as Nora and Lead Principal Jeffrey Cirio as Nora's husband, and music by Oscar-nominated composer Philip Glass, the piece premiered as part of the 'She Persisted' triple bill of female works in April 2019, sponsored by Cunard, production supporters and our Principal Partner, NatWest.

Derek Deane's version of the iconic *Swan Lake* has delighted audiences worldwide for over two decades but has never been streamed online in full, until now. Featuring Lead Principals Isaac Hernández as Prince Siegfried and Jurgita Dronina as Odette/Odile, this performance of *Swan Lake* captures all the magic of the classic ballet, from the ballerinas in white tutus moving in unison, to the captivating romance between Prince Siegfried and the Swan Queen Odette. This performance of *Swan Lake* was recorded at the Liverpool Empire in 2018 as part of the English National Ballet's annual Autumn UK tour and features Tchaikovsky's score performed live by English National Ballet Philharmonic.

Whilst English National Ballet's building is closed and some future performances and events have been cancelled, ENB at HOME sees the Company continue to give free access to great ballet content as well as providing ways to keep people fit and moving during these uncertain

times. This includes online ballet classes tailored to suit a range of abilities, virtual performances from ENB Philharmonic, blogs, playlists and behind the scenes insights.

The programme for further Wednesday Watch Parties will be announced in due course.

**-ENDS-**

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

For further information, please contact Laura Nixon, Senior Press Officer, on [laura.nixon@ballet.org.uk](mailto:laura.nixon@ballet.org.uk)

## **Notes to Editors**

### **English National Ballet events affected by COVID-19**

Following government advice about Coronavirus COVID-19, some English National Ballet performances, events, workshops and classes have been cancelled. This includes performances of *Creature* by Akram Khan at Sadler's Wells (01-08 April) and the UK tour of *My First Ballet: Cinderella* (09 April – 31 May). The world premiere of *Creature* will now take place on 11 November 2020 at Sadler's Wells, with performances until 15 November. Emerging Dancer has been postponed and will now take place on 22 September 2020 at Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre. Theatre box offices are contacting bookers directly. English National Ballet's home on London City Island, Canning Town, is closed.

[ballet.org.uk/covid-19-updates](https://ballet.org.uk/covid-19-updates)

### **Supporting English National Ballet**

We have deeply appreciated the many warm wishes and expressions of empathy and care from friends and fans from around the globe. Ticket sales provide substantial revenue funding, contributing over a third of our annual income. There are substantial financial implications to postponements in our programme that impact our future work. We are working hard to find ways to navigate the financial impact of this unprecedented and challenging time. As a charity, any donation, large or small, will help during this period of uncertainty.

[ballet.org.uk/join-give/donate](https://ballet.org.uk/join-give/donate)

### **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)

### **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)