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ENB at HOME: Wednesday Watch Parties



English National Ballet today announces the next instalments of their Wednesday Watch Party series. Following the successful launch of the series, which saw over 100,000 people tuning in for the online stream of *Broken Wings*, Rudolf Nureyev's [Romeo & Juliet](#) will receive its online premiere on 6 May, followed by Azure Barton's [Fantastic Beings](#) on 13 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 *Romeo & Juliet* sees English National Ballet Lead Principals Alina Cojocaru and Isaac Hernández as Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers. Created for the Company in 1977 to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee, this production features Rudolf Nureyev's passionate choreography, sumptuous sets and costumes, and Prokofiev's evocative score, here performed live by English National Ballet Philharmonic. This performance of *Romeo & Juliet* was recorded at The Bristol Hippodrome in 2015 as part of English National Ballet's annual Autumn UK Tour.

Fantastic Beings will also be streamed in full for the first time. Azure Barton's fantastical, energetic work was originally created for English National Ballet's She Said programme in 2016. With a cast of 20 English National Ballet dancers, this reworked version was recorded at Sadler's Wells in 2018 when it was performed as part of the company's Voices of America mixed bill. The work is accompanied by a dynamic score by Mason Bates, *Anthology of Fantastic Zoology*, 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 Alice Gibson, PR Manager, on alice.gibson@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

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

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

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.

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