

04 November 2020

ENB at Home

English National Ballet launches dedicated on-demand video platform featuring Ballet on Demand and BalletActive

English National Ballet's dedicated on-demand video platform, **ENB at Home**, launches today, giving audiences further access to a wide range of exciting ballet content from the stage and beyond, from the comfort of their homes. ENB at Home offers two services, **Ballet on Demand** which features world class ballet productions available to rent for 72hr periods; and **BalletActive**, which offers a variety of ballet-based classes, available by subscription.

In November and December, **Ballet on Demand** will play host to the world premieres of five pieces created for English National Ballet's **new digital season**. Filmmaker Amy Becker-Burnett has worked with choreographer Arielle Smith to create the energetic, old movie musical inspired, *Jolly Folly*; Shaun James Grant has collaborated with Stina Quagebeur on *Take Five Blues*, a response to Bach's *Vivace* and Paul Desmond's jazz standard, *Take Five*; Michael Nunn and William Trevitt have teamed up with Russell Maliphant on a mesmerising piece which uses light as an integral partner; and Thomas James has worked on the creation of two films, *Laid in Earth* which sees a 'torn apart' quartet from choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and *Senseless Kindness* choreographed by Yuri Possokhov and based on Vasily Grossman's great novel, *Life and Fate*.

English National Ballet's Artistic Director, Tamara Rojo CBE, said: *"Amongst the challenges of 2020, we have been able to find opportunity for creation and collaboration. It's been fascinating to see these filmmakers and choreographers work together, sharing their talent and blending their artistry, in the creation of five very diverse and beautiful films."*

Available now on Ballet on Demand are Akram Khan's award-winning *Giselle* and the epic pirate adventure *Le Corsaire*, both of which were recorded specifically for screen, as well as selections from the Company's archives including Akram Khan's poignant reflection on the First World War, *Dust* and one of the jewels of Romantic ballet, *La Sylphide*. Additional titles will be announced soon.

Building on the popular series of classes which ENB made available online during lockdown **BalletActive** continues to give people the opportunity to actively engage with ballet-based exercise from home with a monthly or annual subscription-based class programme. A wide variety of classes appealing to a range of levels will feature, including technique masterclasses from members of ENB's own Artistic team, Renato Paroni de Castro and Mayumi Ganley; professional level classes from Artistic Director Tamara Rojo; yoga sessions to complement ballet practice; exercises designed especially for small spaces, contemporary dance for beginners and much more. The first series of classes will be released today with further classes added over the coming months.

With the Government's announcement that England is to enter a second lockdown, English National Ballet's return to the stage has been postponed. The five pieces that feature in the digital season had been adapted for live on-stage performances for socially distanced audiences at Sadler's Wells, London, later this month. Sadly, these shows, *Reunion: An Evening with English National Ballet*, are not able to go ahead.

-ENDS-

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

NatWest is Principal Partner of English National Ballet.

Sarah and Dominic Murphy are Lead Supporters of the Short Digital Commissions.

Charles Holloway is Principal Supporter of *Take Five Blues* by Stina Quagebeur.

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For further information and images, please contact Alice Lawley, PR Manager, on alice.lawley@ballet.org.uk or 07946541703

Notes to Editors

ENB at Home Ballet on Demand

72hr rentals from £4.99, no subscription required

Stream to your favourite devices

Premiere dates for the digital season and further archive titles to be announced soon

<https://ondemand.ballet.org.uk>

Ballet Active

7-day free trial then £9.99 a month, cancel anytime; or £99.99 for an annual plan

Stream to your favourite devices

<https://active.ballet.org.uk>

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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