

21 December 2020

English National Ballet's Christmas gift - *Nutcracker Delights* to be released online

As a gift to its audiences this Christmas, English National Ballet will make a recorded performance of *Nutcracker Delights* available to watch for free on YouTube and Facebook, from 2pm Thursday 24 December, for 30 days.

As London moved into Tier 4 COVID-19 restrictions and the subsequent cancellation of all scheduled performances of *Nutcracker Delights*, the Company decided to film and share a recording of this specially-adapted production with its audience as a thank you at the close of its 70th Anniversary year. *Nutcracker Delights* was filmed on 18 and 19 December at the London Coliseum by Michael Nunn and William Trevitt.



English National Ballet's *Nutcracker Delights* © ASH

Photos are available for editorial use [here](#).

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English National Ballet's Artistic Director, Tamara Rojo CBE said: *"Everyone involved in Nutcracker Delights worked incredibly hard to prepare for what would have been our first live performances since January. We were devastated to have to cancel our scheduled shows at the London Coliseum just a few days before opening.*

English National Ballet has performed a version of The Nutcracker every year of our 70-year history, and we were determined this Christmas should be no different. This year has demonstrated the capacity of the arts sector to respond to challenges with creativity and resolve. And so I'm pleased that we have quickly found a way, despite the circumstances, to bring Nutcracker Delights to life this Christmas, continuing our 70-year tradition, and allowing us to share some much-needed festive magic with our audiences.

We especially wanted to thank our faithful audience that year after year have come to see us dance by gifting this performance from some of our incredible ENB dancers, who we know they would have missed seeing this year."

Nutcracker Delights is a specially adapted version of the Christmas classic which sees the Company perform a showcase of the ballet's most popular moments, accompanied by Tchaikovsky's famous score played live by musicians from English National Ballet Philharmonic.

The recording captures the debut performance of new ENB Principal, Natascha Mair. Mair dances the role of Clara alongside Lead Principal Erina Takahashi as the Sugar Plum Fairy, Lead Principal Joseph Caley as the Prince and First Soloist Aitor Arrieta as Nutcracker.

The London Coliseum Box Office is contacting ticket holders for live performances of *Nutcracker Delights* (17 Dec – 3 January) to arrange credit vouchers for next year's full-length *Nutcracker* or refunds.

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

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

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

Nutcracker Delights is presented by English National Ballet Enterprises Limited

English National Ballet is grateful for the generous grant it has been awarded through the Government's Culture Recovery Fund, which allows it to continue to create, perform and serve its audiences.

NatWest is Principal Partner of English National Ballet.

Listings:

Nutcracker Delights

Available on English National Ballet's [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) channels
From 2pm, 24 December 2020 until midnight, 23 January 2021

Digital programme and cast list will be available [here](#).

A film by Michael Nunn and William Trevitt

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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