

English National Ballet: Dance for Dementia

This **Dementia Action Week*** (17-23 May), **English National Ballet** announces plans to support people whose lives are affected by dementia.

Central to English National Ballet's Dance for Dementia programme is a new partnership with **Barchester Healthcare** which will see the Company deliver an in-house professional development programme for staff as well as a range of dance and music focussed events and workshops for care home residents.

A focussed training programme for staff in selected Barchester homes will begin in Autumn 2021 led by English National Ballet Associate Dance Artists and Musicians. Barchester staff will attend a number of special training sessions with the Company and help lead dance workshops for their residents. In addition, all of Barchester's homes will be invited to join in with a number of live events which include taking part in creative dance classes and hearing from English National Ballet Philharmonic, costume department and other artists of the Company. These sessions will be delivered virtually and coincide with days of celebration including International Youth Day, Last Night of the Proms, Remembrance Day and a Christmas Special.

From January 2022, a series of workshops will then be delivered in-person at selected homes.

English National Ballet's Executive Director, Patrick Harrison, said: *"We are delighted to be working with Barchester Healthcare on this innovative partnership as part of our Dance for Dementia programme. English National Ballet is committed to making ballet accessible and inclusive for all and these sessions will allow us to bring the joy of dance to residents. The specialised training programme for staff at the homes will ensure creativity through dance can flourish in all settings."*

Barchester Healthcare's CEO, Pete Calveley, said: *"At Barchester, we embrace the very latest technology and techniques to ensure our residents can live a life that feels comfortable, enriching and connected. We are always looking at new ways to enhance our resident experience through partnerships and initiatives. We are delighted to build on our existing relationship with English National Ballet to bring our residents a whole host of unique virtual experiences, workshops and training sessions throughout what I am sure will be a hugely beneficial year-long programme of activity. We are incredibly grateful to English National Ballet for their support."*

The partnership follows a successful events programme in December 2020 which saw residents and patients in over 130 Barchester care homes enjoy three *Nutcracker* themed virtual workshops that explored movement, dance, music and costume.

English National Ballet has also pledged to sign the **Dementia Friendly Venues Charter**, a world-first that has been launched by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, this week. The Charter for public-facing venues across London has been devised with Alzheimer's Society and the Museum of London and aims to ensure that every Londoner with dementia and their carers has a dementia-friendly cultural venue on their doorstep.

English National Ballet is committed to making its East London home, Mulryan Centre for Dance, a dementia-friendly venue supported by the Charter and through membership of the **Dementia Friendly Arts and Culture Network**. The Network shares best practice and gives access to guidance and material that helps members to take practical action to meet the Charter's aims.

Further information about English National Ballet's Dance for Dementia activity will be announced in due course.

*Led by Alzheimer's Society, Dementia Action Week is a national event that sees the public coming together to take action to improve the lives of people affected by dementia.

-ENDS-

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.

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

Notes to Editors

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

NatWest is Principal Partner of English National Ballet.

Ballymore is Principal Building Partner of English National Ballet.

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 live performances across the UK and on eminent international stages including The Bolshoi Theatre and Palais Garnier; its digital platforms Ballet on Demand and BalletActive; 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 when it moved into a purpose-built state-of-the-art home in east London, Mulryan Centre for Dance, bringing 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 agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.

www.artscouncil.org.uk

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million Emergency Response Package with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of several bodies administering the Government's Culture Recovery Fund and unprecedented support package of £1.57 billion for the culture and heritage sector. Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19

About Barchester Healthcare

Barchester Healthcare is one of the UK's largest care providers supporting older people living independent lives with dignity and respect. Providing a wide range of services for a variety of needs, Barchester Healthcare support almost 12,000 residents across 236 homes for short breaks to long term stays.

At Barchester, we celebrate life and make sure the people we support do too. We do this by treating everyone as individuals, and always tailoring our services and support to meet their needs, which vary person to person. To find out more about Barchester or to find your closest care home, please visit our website www.Barchester.com

Barchester Healthcare has been supporting families with pioneering dementia care in specially designed, dementia-friendly Memory Lane communities since 1992. The company strongly believes people living with dementia should enjoy a fulfilled and happy life, with specialist support to continue doing the things they love every day. All Barchester staff receive specialist dementia care training to ensure they provide the best care for residents.