

Tuesday 03 August 2021

English National Ballet: New Season Updates

As rehearsals for English National Ballet's 2021-2022 Season begin, Company updates are announced.

Dancers and repertoire announced for Emerging Dancer: A Celebration

Whilst a reduction in live performance has made it impossible to select Emerging Dancer finalists and People's Choice Award winners this year, English National Ballet continues to recognise the excellence of its Artists with **Emerging Dancer: A Celebration**. This special event features performances from previous winners and will be **live streamed** on YouTube and the ENB at Home platform from the Holloway Production Studio in the company's east London home, the Mulryan Centre for Dance, on **02 September 2021**.

Recipients of the 2020 Emerging Dancer Award, **Ivana Bueno**, and People's Choice award, **Victor Prigent**, will perform an extract from *La Sylphide*. Winner of 2017's Emerging Dancer Award, **Rina Kanehara**, performs with two-time award winner (People's Choice Award, 2017 and Corps de Ballet Award, 2018) **Georgia Bould**, and 2018's People's Choice Award winner, **Alice Bellini**, in a new work for three dancers by Nikita Goile. **Alison McWhinney** and **Junor Souza**, who were joint winners of the Emerging Dancer Award in 2014, will perform a pas de deux from Liam Scarlett's *No Man's Land*. Emerging Dancer Award winners **Aitor Arietta** (2017) and **Julia Conway** (2019) perform a Grand pas Classique. Mlindi Kulashe creates a new work for 2019's People's Choice Award winner, **Rhys Antoni Yeomans**, whilst **Shiori Kase**, who received the Emerging Dancer Award in 2011, will perform a pas de deux from *Flames of Paris* with 2018's winner, **Daniel McCormick**.

English National Ballet First Soloist, **James Streeter**, who is producing the event as part of the Company's Dance Leaders of the Future programme, said: "*It's a huge honour to be involved in this very special event. It is a real opportunity for us to celebrate not only the incredible journeys these dancers have been on since winning an award as part of the competition but also to thank and celebrate with our audiences who have made Emerging Dancer what it is today.*"

Lead Principal Erina Takahashi celebrates 25 years with English National Ballet

The 2021-22 Season marks Lead Principal Erina Takahashi's 25-year anniversary with English National Ballet. Takahashi joined the Company in 1996, with a promotion to Principal in 2000 and then Lead Principal in 2007.

Tamara Rojo CBE, English National Ballet's Artistic Director, said: "*On behalf of us all at English National Ballet, I want to congratulate Erina as we celebrate her 25th year with the Company. During this time, Erina's artistry, generosity, professionalism and complete commitment have been a constant source of inspiration to all at ENB and brought joy to the many thousands who have seen her perform. Erina is an integral part of the English National Ballet*

family; she brings warmth and positivity into the studio every day and myself, the artistic team and her fellow dancers and colleagues are deeply grateful for her dedication and love working with her.”

Erina will perform the role of Marie in upcoming performances of *Creature* by Akram Khan and as Clara/Sugar Plum Fairy in *Nutcracker* this Christmas.

New joiners announced and thanks given to those leaving

The start of the 2021-2022 Season sees English National Ballet welcome **Ashley Coupal** and **Shunhei Fuchiyama**, both Prix de Lausanne 2021 Scholarship Prize Winners, as Artists of the Company.

As previously announced, international ballet star **Maria Kochetkova** returns to the Company, joining as a Lead Principal.

Hua Fang Zhang returns to English National Ballet's Artistic Team as Guest Rehearsal Mistress.

We give thanks to Junior Soloist, **Senri Kou**, who leaves the Company after 16 years to pursue a teaching career and Ballet Mistress, **Mayumi Ganley**, who leaves to pursue other projects.

As previously announced, the much-anticipated world premiere of ***Creature by Akram Khan*** will take place at **Sadler's Wells** from **23 September – 02 October 2021**. *Creature* is an unearthly tale of exploitation and human frontiers inspired by Georg Büchner's expressionist classic *Woyzeck*, with shadows of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Drawing on themes of abandonment, isolation and the fragility of the mind, *Creature* is the tale of an outsider and the search for belonging and is Akram Khan's third collaboration with the Company.

Tickets for English National Ballet's winter season at the London Coliseum are also on sale now. The Company returns to the venue with their annual Christmas production ***Nutcracker*** (16 December 2021 – 8 January 2022) and the world premiere of Tamara Rojo's adaptation of ***Raymonda*** (13 January – 23 January 2022).

English National Ballet's digital platform **ENB at Home** continues to provide Ballet on Demand and BalletActive content for those looking to watch full-length ballet productions or take part in classes from home and on the move. **BalletActive** now hosts over 160 different ballet-based classes for all abilities, from beginners to advanced as well as yoga and strength and conditioning sessions to support ballet practice. On **Ballet on Demand** the five dance films which were first created in 2020 for the Company's digital season are now available as a package. The Reunion package is available for £15 for 14 days access plus a bonus 38 minute documentary giving an insight into the inspiration behind the pieces and process of creating the films.

-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 Laura Nixon, Senior Press Officer, on laura.nixon@ballet.org.uk or 07741659109

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.

Emerging Dancer: A Celebration is A Genesis Kickstart Fund project, supported by the Genesis Foundation

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 groundbreaking 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

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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