

English National Ballet

Emerging Dancer: A Celebration

Online premiere Thursday 9 September 2021

www.ballet.org.uk/emerging-dancer-celebration

Celebrating 11 years of its **Emerging Dancer** competition, **English National Ballet** will stream a special event featuring an exciting programme of classical ballet and new creations performed by previous winners.

Recorded in the Holloway Production Studio at the Company's east London home, the Mulryan Centre for Dance, the **stream will be available to watch for free** on [YouTube](#) and [Ballet on Demand](#), from **Thursday 9 September, for 30 days**.



2019 People's Choice winner Rhys Antoni Yeomans in English National Ballet's Holloway Production Studio where Emerging Dancer: A Celebration will be recorded © Photography by ASH

Over the past decade the Emerging Dancer competition has developed from a small studio event to taking place in some of London's most prestigious theatres as well as being streamed to global audiences. English National Ballet has recognised the dedication and excellence of its artists through the competition, with six dancers selected by their peers every year to perform both classical and contemporary repertoire in front of a panel of industry judges and a live audience before one receives the Emerging Dancer prize. A People's Choice winner is also announced as part of the proceedings, as voted for by audiences throughout the previous season.

Whilst a reduction in live performance has made it impossible to select winners this year, this special celebratory event will bring the artistry and talent of previous winners to online audiences.

Tamara Rojo CBE, Artistic Director of English National Ballet, said: *“Emerging Dancer has always been about recognising the incredible dancers we have in our Company and giving them a chance to really showcase their individual talent. This year’s celebration event is a wonderful way to acknowledge previous Emerging Dancer winners and see them perform together. It is also an opportunity to thank our global audience who have tuned into the competition online or in person over the years and who have enjoyed following the careers of the dancers as they go from strength to strength.”*

First Soloist James Streeter will produce Emerging Dancer as part of the Company’s Dance Leaders of the Future programme. He said: *“It’s a huge honour to be involved in this very special event. I have been fortunate enough to experience being part of Emerging Dancer as a dancer so I know what it means to everyone given the opportunity and this celebration is a chance to mark the success of the first decade of Emerging Dancer and see performances from some of the incredible previous winners.”*

The programme for Emerging Dancer: A Celebration includes the recipients of the 2020 Emerging Dancer Award, **Ivana Bueno**, and People’s Choice award, **Victor Prigent** performing an extract from *La Sylphide*. Winner of 2017’s Emerging Dancer Award, **Rina Kanehara**, performs with 2017’s People’s Choice Award winner, **Georgia Bould** and 2018’s People’s Choice Award winner, **Alice Bellini**, in a new work entitled *Lilith’s voice* 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**.

-ENDS-

Please note: the online premiere on 9 September replaces the previously announced date (2 September).

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 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.

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.

Listings

English National Ballet

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www.youtube.com/enballet or ondemand.ballet.org.uk

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 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



President: Dame Beryl Grey DBE
Chair: Sir Roger Carr
Artistic Director: Tamara Rojo CBE
Executive Director: Patrick Harrison

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