



English
National
Ballet



EMERGING DANCER

A CELEBRATION

PREMIERES ONLINE
9 SEPTEMBER 2021

ballymore.
Principal Building Partner of
English National Ballet



NatWest
Principal Partner of
English National Ballet

A WORD FROM TAMARA ROJO

Welcome to ***Emerging Dancer: A Celebration***.

This special event celebrates over a decade of this unique programme and its place in English National Ballet's Company life.

Our annual ***Emerging Dancer*** competition was created in 2010 by Wayne Eagling, during his time as Artistic Director, and has been a much-loved part of English National Ballet's season ever since. My sincere thanks to Wayne for this lasting legacy.

Emerging Dancer shines a spotlight on rising talent within our Company: habitually, six finalists are nominated by their colleagues to take part in the competition. The challenges of the past eighteen months have reduced our opportunities for live performance, but now feels, to us, a perfect time to reflect on eleven years of ***Emerging Dancer*** and to celebrate some of the wonderful artists who have lit up its stage in years gone by. I am thrilled that we are able to share the performance online with an audience of dance lovers worldwide, filmed from the beautiful Holloway Production Studio at the Mulryan Centre for Dance, our East London home.

In this diverse programme of classical and contemporary works we will revisit a number of longstanding repertoire favourites, as well as enjoying two newly commissioned works, created by Nikita Goile and Mlindi Kulashe. I thank them both for sharing their gifts with us. The programme will be performed by our brilliant orchestra and twelve wonderful dancers, past winners of the Emerging Dancer Award and the People's Choice Award: Aitor Arrieta,

Alice Bellini, Georgia Bould, Ivana Bueno, Julia Conway, Rina Kanehara, Shiori Kase, Daniel McCormick, Alison McWhinney, Victor Prigent, Junor Souza and Rhys Antoni Yeomans. It has been a pleasure to see each of these dancers excel in the time since they took part in the competition and this performance is a celebration of their skill, artistry and hard work.

My thanks to all who have made this event possible behind the scenes. In particular, I would like to thank James Streeter, who produced the event as part of the Dance Leaders of the Future programme, and the Company members who have given their time and expertise as mentors: Joseph Caley, Sarah Kundi, Pedro Lapetra, Fernanda Oliveira, Ken Saruhashi and Erina Takahashi.

Sincere thanks to Sue and Graeme Sloan for their continued support of ***Emerging Dancer***. We are grateful to the Genesis Foundation for the grant received from the Genesis Kickstart Fund. Thank you as ever to all our valuable supporters for their ongoing support and encouragement.

I hope you enjoy the performance.



Tamara Rojo CBE
English National Ballet Artistic Director
and Lead Principal

“

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.”

James Streeter, First Soloist with English National Ballet, who is producing *Emerging Dancer: A Celebration* as part of the Dance Leaders of the Future programme

REPERTOIRE

GRAND PAS CLASSIQUE

Performed by Aitor Arrieta and Julia Conway

Choreography: Victor Gzovsky

Music: Daniel Auber

Reduced orchestration: Gavin Sutherland

Coached by Erina Takahashi and Joseph Caley

LILITH'S VOICE

Performed by Alice Bellini, Georgia Bould and Rina Kanehara

Choreography: Nikita Goile

Music: Extracts from *Cello Suite No.2*

in D minor, BWV 1008 (Prelude) by

Johann Sebastian Bach and *Sonata No.1*

in E minor (Allegro non troppo)

by Johannes Brahms

Piano: Julia Richter

Cello: Ann Lines

Electronic music: *The view* by Antoine

Degonville

Coached by Sarah Kundi and Fernanda Oliveira

SELF TAPE

Performed by Rhys Antoni Yeomans

Choreography: Mlindi Kulashe

Music: Extracts from *Symphony No.6 in F major, K.43 (Allegro)* and *Rondo (Allegretto)*

from Oboe Concerto in C major, K.314

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Oboe: Rachel Harwood-White

Coached by Ken Saruhashi

NO MAN'S LAND

Performed by Alison McWhinney and Junor Souza

Choreography: Liam Scarlett

Music: *Cantique d'Amour* from *Harmonies*

Poétiques et Religieuses by Franz Liszt

Costume Design: Jon Bausor

Piano: Julia Richter

Coached by Joseph Caley

and Erina Takahashi

A co-production of English National Ballet

and Queensland Ballet

LA SYLPHIDE

Performed by Ivana Bueno and Victor Prigent

Choreography: August Bournonville

Music: Herman Severin Løvenskiold

Reduced orchestration: Gavin Sutherland

Coached by Pedro Lapetra, Erina Takahashi

and Sarah Kundi

FLAMES OF PARIS

Performed by Shiori Kase and Daniel McCormick

Choreography: Vasily Vainonen

Music: Boris Asafyev

Reduced orchestration: Gavin Sutherland

Coached by Fernanda Oliveira, Pedro Lapetra

and Ken Saruhashi

MEET THE DANCERS



AITOR ARRIETA

Aitor Arrieta was born in Oiartzun, Spain (Basque Country) and undertook his dance training at the Mariemma Royal Conservatory of Professional Dance, Madrid. He previously danced with Compañía Nacional de Danza, Madrid, and joined English National Ballet in 2016. Aitor was promoted to Soloist in 2017, and to First Soloist in 2019. Credits with the Company include leading roles in Akram Khan's *Giselle* (Albrecht), *Swan Lake* (Prince Siegfried), *Manon* (Des Grieux), *Nutcracker* (Nephew/Prince), *Cinderella* (Prince Guillaume) and *Le Corsaire* (Lankendem).

Aitor was the joint winner of the Emerging Dancer Award in 2017.



JULIA CONWAY

Julia Conway was born in London, UK, and undertook her dance training with Olga Semenova and Young Dancers Academy, then with Magaly Suárez, Ayako Yamada, Isabelle Guérin and Royal Ballet Upper School. Julia previously appeared in productions of *The Nutcracker* and *Sleeping Beauty* with The Royal Ballet, and joined English National Ballet in 2017. She was promoted to First Artist in 2019 and to Junior Soloist in 2020. Credits with the Company include leading roles in *Nutcracker* (Clara/Sugar Plum Fairy), *Cinderella* (Stepsister Clementine) and *Le Corsaire* (Gulnare), and notable roles in *The Sleeping Beauty* (Princess Florine) and *Swan Lake* (Pas de Trois).

Julia won the Emerging Dancer Award in 2019.

“

It's so inspiring to see everyone improving and growing.

Seeing that sparkle in their eyes only makes me want to help more.

I am so proud to have been a part of their journey. Seeing and experiencing all they have achieved will stay with me forever.

”

Erina Takahashi, ENB Lead Principal and mentor for *Emerging Dancer: A Celebration*.

MEET THE DANCERS



ALICE BELLINI

Alice Bellini was born in Milan, Italy, and trained at La Scala Ballet School, followed by the Royal Ballet Upper School. Alice appeared in several Royal Ballet productions during her final year at the school, before joining English National Ballet in 2017. Credits with the Company include notable roles in Aszure Barton's *Fantastic Beings* (pas de deux) and *The Cage* by Jerome Robbins (The Novice).

Alice was a finalist in Emerging Dancer 2019, and won the People's Choice Award in 2018.



GEORGIA BOULD

Georgia Bould was born in Wolverhampton, UK and trained at the Royal Ballet School followed by English National Ballet School. Georgia has appeared in the children's roles with both Birmingham Royal Ballet and The Royal Ballet. She joined English National Ballet in 2015.

Credits with the Company include notable roles in *Nutcracker* (Arabian), *Swan Lake* (Pas de douze, Polonaise) and creating Arielle Smith's *Jolly Folly* for English National Ballet's Digital Season.

Georgia won the People's Choice Award in 2017 and the Corps de Ballet Award in 2018.

“ I have absolutely loved working alongside Nikita and the girls for this *Emerging Dancer* gala. It has been a beautifully rewarding experience, where I am proud to have seen these gorgeous artists grow and blossom in this unique tailor-made piece, in such a short span of time. ”

Sarah Kundi, ENB First Artist and mentor for *Emerging Dancer: A Celebration*.

MEET THE DANCERS



RINA KANEHARA

Rina Kanehara was born in Kyoto, Japan, and trained at the Hiroko Mizuno Ballet Academy followed by the Princess Grace Academy. She joined English National Ballet in 2015 and was promoted to Junior Soloist in 2017 and to Soloist in 2018. Credits with the Company include leading roles in *Swan Lake* (Odette/Odile), *Nutcracker* (Clara/Sugar Plum Fairy), *La Sylphide* (The Sylph) and notable roles in *Cinderella* (Princess Florine and the Fairy of the Golden Vine) and *Manon* (Lescaut's Mistress).

Rina was the joint winner of the Emerging Dancer Award in 2017.



RHYS ANTONI YEOMANS

Rhys Antoni Yeomans was born in Manchester, UK, and trained at Centre Pointe, Manchester and English National Ballet School, after which he joined English National Ballet in 2017. Credits with the Company include the Chinese dance in *Nutcracker*. Created works include William Forsythe's *Playlist (Track 1, 2)*, and Arielle Smith's *Jolly Folly* as part of English National Ballet's Digital Season.

Rhys was a finalist in Emerging Dancer 2019 and won the People's Choice Award that same year.

// I loved every minute working with such talented colleagues for *Emerging Dancer*. The trust that was built on the respect between dancers and mentors throughout the process was truly astonishing. //

Ken Saruhashi, ENB First Soloist and mentor for *Emerging Dancer: A Celebration*.

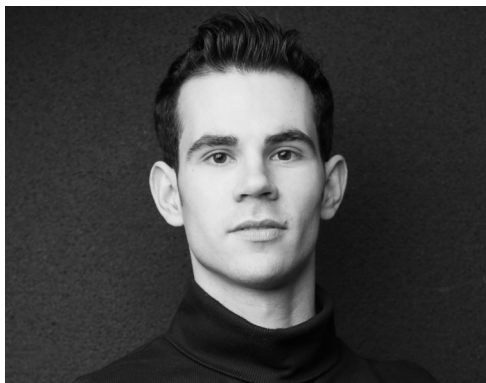
MEET THE DANCERS



IVANA BUENO

Ivana Bueno was born in McAllen, USA (nationality Mexican), and undertook her training at Fomento Artístico Cordobés, in Córdoba, Mexico, followed by the Princess Grace Academy in Monte Carlo. Ivana joined English National Ballet in 2018, and her credits with the Company include the Spanish and Russian dances in *Nutcracker*.

Ivana won the Emerging Dancer award in 2020.



VICTOR PRIGENT

Victor Prigent was born in Poissy, France, and trained at ADACLAM (French Guiana); Paris Opera School; Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris; Joffrey Ballet, Chicago (Trainee); and San Francisco Ballet School. He danced with San Francisco Ballet (Trainee 2015/16) and Atlanta Ballet (Second Company 2016/17) before joining English National Ballet in 2017. Credits with the Company include notable roles in *Nutcracker* (Freddie, Spanish and Chinese dances), *Manon* (Beggar Chief) and *Swan Lake* (Neapolitan).

Victor was a finalist in Emerging Dancer 2020, at which time he won the People's Choice Award.

“ The best part of *Emerging Dancer* for me is the process in the studio. The bond that we create between mentors and mentees, the trust and unity towards a goal, their improvement and overcoming the challenge. I love it! ”

Pedro Lapetra, ENB Artist and mentor for *Emerging Dancer: A Celebration*.

MEET THE DANCERS



ALISON MCWHINNEY

Alison McWhinney was born in Port MacQuarie, Australia, and took up dancing at the age of four. She trained at English National Ballet School and Ecole Ballet Studios before joining English National Ballet in 2005. Alison was promoted to First Artist in 2014, Soloist in 2015, and First Soloist in 2017. Credits with the Company include leading roles in *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet), *La Sylphide* (The Sylph), Mary Skeaping's *Giselle* (Giselle and Myrtha), *Manon* (Manon), *Cinderella* (Cinderella and Stepsister Edwina) and *Nutcracker* (Clara/Sugar Plum Fairy).

Alison was a finalist in Emerging Dancer two years in a row (2013 and 2014) and was joint winner of the Emerging Dancer Award in 2014.



JUNIOR SOUZA

Junior Souza was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and started dancing at age seven. He completed his training at Escola de Danca and English National Ballet School and joined English National Ballet in 2008. Junior was promoted to First Artist in 2010, Junior Soloist in 2011, and to First Soloist in 2014. Credits with the Company include leading roles in *Swan Lake* (Prince Siegfried), *Nutcracker* (Nephew/Prince), *Le Corsaire* (Ali), Mary Skeaping's *Giselle* (Albrecht) and *Nora* (Krogstad, created role).

Junior was joint winner of the Emerging Dancer Award in 2014.

“ I’m absolutely blown away by the dancers that I’ve been mentoring. It’s been so inspiring to work with them and see them grow as artists. ”

Joseph Caley, ENB Lead Principal and mentor for *Emerging Dancer: A Celebration*.

MEET THE DANCERS



SHIORI KASE

Shiori Kase was born in Tokyo, Japan and began dancing at the age of three. She trained at the Hirose Kato Ballet School followed by the Royal Ballet School, and joined English National Ballet in 2009. Shiori was promoted to Soloist in 2013, First Soloist in 2014, and was promoted to Principal in 2016 on-stage at the Palais Garnier theatre in Paris. Her credits with the Company include leading roles in *Swan Lake* (Odette/Odile), *Coppélia* (Swanilda), *Le Corsaire* (Medora and Gulnare), *Cinderella* (Cinderella and Stepsister Clementine), *La Sylphide* (The Sylph), *Nutcracker* (Clara/Sugar Plum Fairy), *The Sleeping Beauty* (Princess Aurora and The Lilac Fairy), *No Man's Land* (Lead Couple) and *Strictly Gershwin*.

Shiori won the Emerging Dancer Award in 2011.



DANIEL MCCORMICK

Daniel McCormick was born in San Francisco, USA, and trained at the Ballet San Jose School, San Francisco Ballet School and Houston Ballet School. He danced with the Houston Ballet in their 2016/17 Season and joined English National Ballet in 2017. Daniel was promoted to First Artist in 2018 and Soloist in 2020. Credits with the Company include leading roles in *Le Corsaire* (Ali), *Nutcracker* (The Nutcracker) and *Manon* (Lescaut), and notable roles in *Cinderella* (The Bluebird), *Swan Lake* (Pas de Trois), *Cinderella* (Four Fates) and *Nutcracker* (Spanish).

Daniel won the Emerging Dancer Award in 2018.

“ Mentoring this amazing group of dancers made me feel very proud. They’re so committed and hardworking, especially in these difficult times. ”

Fernanda Oliveira, ENB Lead Principal and mentor for *Emerging Dancer: A Celebration*.

NEW WORKS

A note on *Lilith's Voice* by Nikita Goile

I was invited to reimagine a classic, and I chose *Le Jeune Homme et la Mort*.

In creating the work, I wondered – do we know why La Mort is feminine? We often see Death as devilish and infernal, but what if, against everyone's expectations, Death Lilith and Ishtar – from those ancient myths – reflect Dark Feminine Power, just like any women? Being portrayed as sensual demons didn't allow them to leave a state of tension and reveal their true nuances, whilst in *Lilith's Voice* they are mighty, fearless, but also touching as they face their own shadows.

NIKITA GOILE

Originally from Reunion Island, Nikita studied at the National Superior Conservatory of Music and Dance of Paris. After spending some time in Israel, she came back to France in order to get her Teaching diploma before joining National Dance Company of Malta, ZfinMalta, where she had the chance to collaborate with Mavin Khoo and discover the work of Jose Agudo and Yvan Perez Aviles. She also started to develop her own work, choreographing and making video dance while freelancing with companies such as Ballet Preljocaj, Ikari before joining the National Dance Company of Wales in December 2017. Shortly after joining the company she choreographed a duet called *Écrit* which premiered in June 2018, and was touring the following autumn as part of NDC Wales Repertoire. After two years in Cardiff, Nikita is now back in Paris and collaborating with artists such as Joy Apluerto Ritter and Viviana Durante Company, Jose Agudo, Feda Wardak and Jean-Yves Phuong and Cie Danse en l'R. Alongside this, she is developing her own choreographic voice with her solo *In the*

palm of your hand which finally premiered last May. Nikita was thrilled to be invited to choreograph for *Emerging Dancer: A Celebration*.

A note on *Self Tape* by Mlindi Kulashe

Self tapes have become vital for our industry, allowing freelance performers to audition and share their creativity whilst under lockdown. What started as a necessity has become something of an outlet for many of us. I love rhythm, and often when I'm performing ballets myself, I find that my body wants to respond in a way that captures the nuanced beats of the music. This is particularly the case in classical music and I find it joyful to dance. The relationship between the dancer and the music, and also the joyfulness and freedom of dance – I hope to capture this in *Self Tape*, and I hope it puts a smile on your face.

MLINDI KULASHE

Mlindi Kulashe is a dancer and choreographer from South Africa. He completed his training at English National Ballet School in 2013. He has guested with Cape Town City Ballet and was awarded a Bronze Medal at the 2011 Genée International Ballet Competition. He joined Northern Ballet in 2013 and is now a Leading Soloist with the company. His choreography has been well received and performed by Northern Ballet at The Royal Opera House.

DANCE LEADERS OF THE FUTURE

Launched in November 2019, Dance Leaders of the Future is a newly curated professional development programme available exclusively to English National Ballet dancers.

This opportunity spans two years and offers the chance to develop skills in leadership, receive bespoke one-on-one coaching, and gain experience and a greater understanding in the running of an arts organisation.

After an application and interview process, James Streeter, First Soloist with the Company, was selected as the first dancer to take part in the programme. Working around his rehearsal and performance commitments, James has attended key organisational meetings and shadowed English National Ballet's Artistic Director, Tamara Rojo; Executive Director, Patrick Harrison; and Chief Operating Officer, Grace Chan in order to learn more about the Company's business model, operations and artistic decision making.



JAMES STREETER

James Streeter was born in Rochford, UK, and started dancing at the age of five. He completed his training at English National Ballet School and joined the Company in 2004. James was promoted to First Artist in 2007, Junior Soloist in 2011, Soloist in 2015 and First Soloist in 2017. Highlights of his time with the Company include his portrayal of Albrecht in Akram Khan's *Giselle* (for which he was nominated at the 2018 Critics' Circle National Dance Award for Outstanding Male Performance); Rothbart in *Swan Lake*; Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet*; and performing the final pas de deux in Akram Khan's *Dust* on numerous occasions, including an appearance on the Glastonbury main stage. James was a finalist in *Emerging Dancer* in 2011 and 2015. Since being selected as the very first dancer to take part in Dance Leaders of the Future, James has produced a highly successful online event for the 2020 *Emerging Dancer* competition and returns in his capacity as producer for *Emerging Dancer: A Celebration*.

SUPPORT TALENT DEVELOPMENT AT ENB

Talent development is an integral part of English National Ballet's work. Programmes such as *Emerging Dancer* and Dance Leaders of the Future provide practical opportunities for Company members to further develop their technique, confidence and artistry, as well as gaining organisational and wider industry experience. They also offer a key opportunity for English National Ballet to commission new work from up-and-coming choreographers. *Emerging Dancer* will return as a live performance event and competition in the Spring of 2022. If you or your company is interested in supporting either of these unique programmes, please get in touch with Development Director Lisa Ramsell via lisa.ramsell@ballet.org.uk or call 020 7590 2939.



ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET PHILHARMONIC

Music Director
Gavin Sutherland

Leader
Matthew Scrivener

Flute
Helen Keen
Lianne Barnard

Oboe
Rachel Harwood White

Clarinet
Peter Cigleris
Paul Allen

Bassoon
Luke Tucker

French Horn
Richard Dilley
Lindsey Kemplay

Trumpet
Chris Evans
Pat Reid

Trombone
Andy Connington

Harp
Isobel Frayling-Cork

Piano
Julia Richter

Timpani
Kate Hext

Percussion
Austin Beattie

Violin 1
Matthew Scrivener
Rachel Allen
Anne Martin
Ruth Knell
Fiona Chesterman

Violin 2
Alain Petitclerc
Susan Croot
Charlotte Howes
Catherine Smart

Viola
Emily Frith
Dave Danford

Cello
Ann Lines
Claire Constable

Double Bass
Jeremy Gordon
Cath Ricketts

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Producer

James Streeter

Executive Producer

Louise Shand-Brown

New works created by

Nikita Goile

Mlindi Kulashe

Lighting Design (all works)

David Richardson

Mentors

Joseph Caley

Sarah Kundi

Pedro Lapetra

Fernanda Oliveira

Ken Saruhashi

Erina Takahashi

Film production services

Jackshoot

Audio visual services

SFL

Pre-stream insight films

and event intro VT

Laurent Liotardo

2021/22 Season Trailer Film

Edited by **Danielle Kummer**

TECHNICAL AND COSTUME

Technical Director

George Thomson

Deputy Technical Director

Todd Baxter

Technical Administrator

Amy Lindsay-Parker

Stage Manager

Fiona Findlater

Deputy Stage Manager

Rachel Harris

Chief Electrician

David Richardson

Chief Mechanist

David Baxter

Touring Mechanists

Ted Kittle

Nick Manning

Augustine Martínez

Sean Kennedy

Brian Rowlands

Production Costume

Manager

Geraldine Tiernan

Dyer/Painter

Symone Frost

Costumier

Federica Romano

Wardrobe Manager

Lola Stott

Senior Wardrobe Assistant

Sam Gilsenan

Wardrobe Assistants

James Kelly

Emma Wright

Shoe Supervisor

Julie Heggie

Hair and Makeup

Amelia Carrington-Lee

Costume refurbishment

Samantha Gilsenan

James Kelly

Emma Wright

Touring Electricians

Paul Hyland

Assistant Stage Manager

Pippa McLauchlan



THANKS

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Generously supported by Sue and Graeme Sloan.

Recorded in the Holloway Production Studio at English National Ballet, the Mulryan Centre for Dance.

Cover image: Alison McWhinney and Junor Souza in Liam Scarlett's *No Man's Land* © Photography by ASH

Back cover: Rhys Antoni Yeomans in the Holloway Production Studio © Photography by ASH

Dancer headshots © Karolina Kuras

Programme design: Gaëlle Löchner



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