

English National Ballet

WORLD PREMIERE of *Raymonda* by Tamara Rojo

London Coliseum

13 - 23 January 2022

ballet.org.uk/raymonda

The eagerly awaited world premiere of *Raymonda* by English National Ballet's Artistic Director **Tamara Rojo CBE**, after Marius Petipa, will take place at the **London Coliseum** from **13 - 23 January 2022**.

Marking her debut in choreography and direction, Rojo adapts this 19th-century classic for today's audiences, revisiting this important but rarely performed work of the ballet canon which is not, in its entirety, in any other UK dance companies' repertoire.

Bringing the story into the setting of the Crimean war and drawing inspiration from the groundbreaking spirit and work of the women supporting the war effort, including Florence Nightingale, *Raymonda* is recast as a young woman with a calling to become a nurse. With a new narrative and developed characterisation bringing women's voices to the fore, Rojo's *Raymonda* introduces a heroine in command of her own destiny.

Tamara Rojo said: *"It continues to be a part of my vision for English National Ballet to look at classics with fresh eyes, to make them relevant, find new contexts, amplify new voices and ultimately evolve the art form. I have truly enjoyed delving into the creative process of adapting and choreographing a large-scale ballet."*

"Raymonda is a beautiful ballet – extraordinary music, exquisite and intricate original choreography – with a female lead who I felt deserved more of a voice, more agency in her own story. Working with my incredible creative team, I have set Raymonda in a new historical context, adapting the narrative in order to bring something unique, relevant and inspiring to our audiences."

"This story is about many themes; duty, war, patriotism, culture, but at its centre are the nurse characters – inspired by Florence Nightingale's vision, drive and passion. Reflecting on the last 18 months, we have seen how nurses, and many others in the medical sector, sacrifice so much to take care of other people and I hope this, in some small way, pays homage to them."

Hear more from Tamara Rojo [here](#).

Rojo brings together a stellar production team for *Raymonda* with costume and set design by Antony McDonald, lighting design by Mark Henderson, dramaturgy by Lucinda Coxon, character dances by Vadim Sirotin, and choreology research and advice on the Sergeyev notation by Doug Fullington. Alexander Glazunov's original score, adapted and edited by Gavin Sutherland and Lars Payne, will be performed live by English National Ballet Philharmonic.

Raymonda is a Co-Production between English National Ballet and Finnish National Opera and Ballet. It will be performed on tour at Southampton's Mayflower Theatre 30 November – 03 December 2022.

-ENDS-

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.

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English National Ballet is an Associate Company of Sadler's Wells.

Raymonda by Tamara Rojo, after Marius Petipa

A Co-Production between English National Ballet and Finnish National Opera and Ballet

Production Partner: Mayflower Theatre, Southampton

UK Production Sponsor: Cunard

Listings:

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www.ballet.org.uk/raymonda

Raymonda

Mayflower Theatre, Southampton

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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

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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