

English National Ballet

Nutcracker

London Coliseum

16 December 2021 – 8 January 2022

www.ballet.org.uk/nutcracker

English National Ballet returns to the iconic **London Coliseum** this Christmas with performances of festive family favourite, *Nutcracker*, from **16 December 2021 – 8 January 2022**.

Following a year in which COVID-19 restrictions meant the Company was unable to present a live version of *Nutcracker* for the first time in its 70-year history, this December sees the show return to the theatre and live audiences once again.

Principal casting for performances is announced today. Lead Principal **Erina Takahashi**, who celebrates 25 years with the Company this season, will perform the role of Clara alongside Lead Principal **Joseph Caley** as Nephew. Marking her first performances since returning to the Company, joining as Lead Principal, **Maria Kochetkova**, will debut in the role with English National Ballet and will perform with Lead Principal **Isaac Hernández**. Principal **Natascha Mair**, who performed in last season's online offering, *Nutcracker Delights*, will debut in the full-length version of the production and will be partnered with Soloist **Daniel McCormick**.

Other pairings in the roles of Clara and Nephew are Lead Principals **Fernanda Oliveira** and **Francesco Gabriele Frola**, Principal **Shiori Kase** and Lead Principal **Jeffrey Cirio**, First Soloists **Katja Khaniukova** and **Ken Saruhashi**, First Soloists **Emma Hawes** and **Aitor Arrieta**, Junior Soloist **Julia Conway** and Lead Principal Francesco Gabriele Frola and First Artist Francesca Velicu and First Soloist Ken Saruhashi.

Also announced today are those dancing the role of Nutcracker in the production. First Soloists **Aitor Arrieta** and **Junor Souza**, Soloists **Daniel McCormick** and **Skyler Martin**, Junior Soloist **Erik Woolhouse**, First Artist **Henry Dowden** and Artists of the Company **Matthew Astley** and **Fernando Carratalá Coloma** will return to the role, while Artist of the Company **Rentaro Nakaaki** will debut as Nutcracker.

In this version by Wayne Eagling, over 100 dancers and musicians bring to life the popular Tchaikovsky score featuring the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy and Waltz of the Flowers, performed live by English National Ballet Philharmonic.

***Nutcracker* Principal Casting:**

In the order of Clara, Nephew and Nutcracker:

Thursday 16th December

Erina Takahashi, Joseph Caley, Aitor Arrieta

Friday 17th December

Shiori Kase, Jeffrey Cirio, Daniel McCormick

Saturday 18th December (matinee)

Fernanda Oliveira, Francesco Gabriele Frola, Skyler Martin

Saturday 18th December

Erina Takahashi, Joseph Caley, Aitor Arrieta

Monday 20th December (matinee)

Katja Khaniukova, Ken Saruhashi, Erik Woolhouse

Monday 20th December

Shiori Kase, Jeffrey Cirio, Daniel McCormick

Tuesday 21st December (matinee)

Erina Takahashi, Joseph Caley, Aitor Arrieta

Tuesday 21st December

Maria Kochetkova*, Isaac Hernández, Fernando Carratalá Coloma

Wednesday 22nd December (matinee)

Katja Khaniukova, Ken Saruhashi, Erik Woolhouse

Wednesday 22nd December

Fernanda Oliveira, Francesco Gabriele Frola, Skyler Martin

Thursday 23rd December (matinee)

Shiori Kase, Jeffrey Cirio, Daniel McCormick

Thursday 23rd December

Erina Takahashi, Joseph Caley, Aitor Arrieta

Friday 24th December (matinee)

Maria Kochetkova, Isaac Hernández, Fernando Carratalá Coloma

Sunday 26th December (matinee)

Shiori Kase, Jeffrey Cirio, Daniel McCormick

Monday 27th December

Maria Kochetkova, Isaac Hernández, Fernando Carratalá Coloma

Tuesday 28th December (matinee)

Fernanda Oliveira, Francesco Gabriele Frola, Skyler Martin

Tuesday 28th December

Katja Khaniukova, Ken Saruhashi, Erik Woolhouse

Wednesday 29th December (matinee)

Natascha Mair*, Daniel McCormick, Henry Dowden

Wednesday 29th December

Maria Kochetkova, Isaac Hernández, Fernando Carratalá Coloma

Thursday 30th December (matinee)

Emma Hawes, Aitor Arrieta, Junor Souza

Thursday 30th December

Fernanda Oliveira, Francesco Gabriele Frola, Skyler Martin

Friday 31st December (matinee)

Francesca Velicu, Ken Saruhashi, Matthew Astley

Sunday 2nd January (matinee)

Natascha Mair, Daniel McCormick, Henry Dowden

Tuesday 4th January (matinee)

Julia Conway, Francesco Gabriele Frola, Rentaro Nakaaki*

Tuesday 4th January

Emma Hawes, Aitor Arrieta, Junor Souza

Wednesday 5th January

Natascha Mair, Daniel McCormick, Henry Dowden

Thursday 6th January

Julia Conway, Francesco Gabriele Frola, Rentaro Nakaaki

Friday 7th January

Francesca Velicu, Ken Saruhashi, Matthew Astley

Saturday 8th January (matinee)

Emma Hawes, Aitor Arrieta, Junor Souza

Saturday 8th January

Julia Conway, Francesco Gabriele Frola, Rentaro Nakaaki

*Debut in the role with English National Ballet

Please note, casting is subject to change. Please see www.ballet.org.uk for up to date casting.

-ENDS-

Listings:

Nutcracker

London Coliseum

Thursday 16 December 2021 – Saturday 8 January 2022

Box Office: 020 7845 9300 or www.ballet.org.uk/nutcracker

Raymonda

London Coliseum

Thursday 13 January – Sunday 23 January 2022

Box Office: 020 7845 9300 or www.ballet.org.uk/raymonda

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.

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