

Picture release: embargoed until 08 December

## English National Ballet FIRST LOOK - *Raymonda* by Tamara Rojo London Coliseum World Premiere: 13 - 23 January 2022 [ballet.org.uk/raymonda](https://ballet.org.uk/raymonda)

Ahead of the eagerly awaited world premiere of *Raymonda* by English National Ballet's Artistic Director, Tamara Rojo CBE, a first look at the production is today revealed.

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, Rojo recasts *Raymonda* as a young woman with a calling to become a nurse in this new version of the classic story ballet.

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 Sirotnin, 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.



English National Ballet in rehearsals for *Raymonda* by Tamara Rojo ahead of the world premiere on 13 January 2022 at the London Coliseum © Laurent Liotardo

1. Maria Kochetkova as Raymonda and Isaac Isaac Hernández as John de Bryan
2. English National Ballet dancers as nurses
3. Maria Kochetkova as Raymonda and Isaac Hernández as John de Bryan
4. Shiori Kase as Henriette

Pictures available to download [here](#) using the login details below:

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Rehearsals took place in the Holloway Production Studio at English National Ballet's east London home, the Mulryan Centre for Dance. This theatre sized space with fully fitted fly tower allows technical rehearsals with costumes and scenery to take place before arrival at a performance venue.

Marking her debut in choreography and direction, Rojo adapts this 19<sup>th</sup>-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. 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.

**English National Ballet's Artistic Director, Tamara Rojo CBE, 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."*

*Raymonda* is a Co-Production between English National Ballet and Finnish National Opera and Ballet. Following its world premiere run at the London Coliseum from 13 - 23 January 2022, it will be performed on tour at Southampton's Mayflower Theatre from 30 November – 03 December 2022.

-ENDS-

**For further information and images, please contact Alice Lawley, Head of Press and Communications, on [alice.lawley@ballet.org.uk](mailto: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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*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

Production Sponsor: Cunard

### Listings:

#### ***Raymonda* WORLD PREMIERE**

**London Coliseum**

13 – 23 January 2022

[www.ballet.org.uk/raymonda](http://www.ballet.org.uk/raymonda)

#### ***Raymonda***

**Mayflower Theatre, Southampton**

30 November – 03 December 2022

[www.ballet.org.uk/raymonda](http://www.ballet.org.uk/raymonda)

### **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](http://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](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

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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](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19)