

3pm, Monday 07 March 2022 - for immediate release

# English National Ballet

## 2022-2023 Season

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

- English National Ballet returns to UK touring in autumn 2022
- *Raymonda* by Tamara Rojo to be performed on tour alongside *Swan Lake*
- Mats Ek to create new work for English National Ballet
- *Nutcracker* returns for the festive season
- *Creature* by Akram Khan returns to Sadler's Wells
- International tours see the Company travel to France and Austria

English National Ballet today announces plans for its 2022-2023 Season.

**Tamara Rojo CBE, English National Ballet's Artistic Director, said:** *"This is a Season that truly celebrates the great tradition of classical ballet alongside the innovation and creativity of contemporary repertoire. English National Ballet is committed to bringing world class ballet to the widest possible audience and so I am particularly delighted to return to UK touring – we can't wait to perform for audiences at our partner venues around the country."*

Having received its world premiere at the London Coliseum in January 2022, ***Raymonda*** by English National Ballet's Artistic Director **Tamara Rojo CBE**, after Marius Petipa, will be performed at the **Bristol Hippodrome** (23 – 26 November 2022) and **Southampton's Mayflower Theatre** (30 November – 03 December 2022).

Updating the ballet's setting to 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. Starring a huge cast of dancers, this critically acclaimed adaptation with UK sponsorship from Cunard, keeps the best of the 19th-century original including Alexander Glazunov's score, adapted and edited by Gavin Sutherland and Lars Payne, which is performed live by English National Ballet Philharmonic.

Also touring this autumn is English National Ballet's hugely successful production of the timeless classic, ***Swan Lake***, which will be performed at the **Liverpool Empire** (28 September – 01 October 2022) and **Manchester's Palace Theatre** (05 – 08 October 2022) followed by the **London Coliseum** (12 – 22 January 2023). Choreographed by Derek Deane, the production features some of the most iconic scenes in ballet and will be performed to Tchaikovsky's glorious score played live by English National Ballet Philharmonic.

November 2022 sees English National Ballet return to **Sadler's Wells, London**, to present a triple bill of contemporary work. Renowned choreographer **Mats Ek will choreograph a new work** for English National Ballet, his first creation for the Company. The piece for 22 dancers will

feature costume and set design by Marie-Louise Ekman, lighting by Linus Fellbom and music played live by English National Ballet Philharmonic.

**Tamara Rojo said:** “*It is a huge honour and a privilege to have Mats Ek create a new work on the Company. He is a master choreographer with a long history of impactful and imaginative works, and I can’t wait to see him create closely with our dancers.*”

The new work will be performed alongside **Take Five Blues** by English National Ballet’s Associate Choreographer, Stina Quagebeur, and William Forsythe’s **Blake Works I**. Originally created for the Company’s 2020 Digital Season and first performed on stage when theatres reopened in spring 2021, *Take Five Blues* is a joyous exploration of contemporary jazz and classical music which will be extended to a longer one act ballet. *Blake Works I* is a soulful piece for 21 dancers set to seven songs from James Blake’s album *The Colour in Anything*, first performed by English National Ballet in spring 2022.

Continuing its annual festive tradition, English National Ballet will present **Nutcracker** at the **London Coliseum** over the Christmas period (15 December 2022 – 07 January 2023). This much-loved version, choreographed by Wayne Eagling, features over 100 dancers and musicians who 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.

Following its debut performances in London and Chicago, **Creature by Akram Khan** returns to the **Sadler’s Wells** stage in spring 2023. *Creature* is an unearthly tale of exploitation and human frontiers inspired by Georg Büchner’s expressionist classic *Woyzeck*, with shadows of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. Drawing on themes of abandonment, isolation and the fragility of the mind, it is the tale of an outsider and the search for belonging.

English National Ballet remains committed to developing and nurturing talent. Recognising the excellence of the Company’s artists, our **Emerging Dancer** competition will be presented in spring 2023. This annual celebration sees six selected finalists mentored by their peers to perform in front of a panel of eminent judges. The winner of Emerging Dancer is announced alongside the People’s Choice Award and the Corps de Ballet Award, introduced to recognise the hard work and dedication of an exceptional member of the corps.

Taking the very best of British ballet to audiences around the world, English National Ballet tours **Akram Khan’s Giselle** to the **Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Paris** (12 – 15 October 2022) as part of TranscenDances in collaboration with Productions Sarfati, and **Festspielhaus St. Pölten, Austria** (24 & 25 February 2023).

Further information on plans for English National Ballet’s spring/ summer 2023 performances will be announced soon.

-ENDS-

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 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.

Ballymore is Principal Building Partner of English National Ballet.

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 Ballet

Production Partner: Mayflower Theatre, Southampton

UK Production Sponsor: Cunard

Lead supporters of *Raymonda*: Doug and Ceri King and Sir Damon and Lady Buffini

#### ***Creature* by Akram Khan**

A Co-Production between English National Ballet and Opera Ballet Vlaanderen (OBV)

Co-Producer: Sadler's Wells, London. Production Partner: The Joan W. and Irving B. Harris Theater

Lead Supporter of *Creature*: Valentina Kislaya

#### ***Take Five Blues* by Stina Quagebeur**

Lead Supporter of *Take Five Blues*: Charles Holloway

#### **Akram Khan's *Giselle***

A Co-Production between English National Ballet, Manchester International Festival and Sadler's Wells, London.

Supported by Arts Council England

### **On-Sale Information:**

Tickets for *Raymonda* at Southampton's Mayflower Theatre are available now.

Priority booking for English National Ballet's Patrons and Friends will open for *Swan Lake*, *Raymonda* (at the Bristol Hippodrome) and *Nutcracker* on Monday 14 March 2022. General booking for these performances will open on Thursday 17 March 2022.

Ek/ Forsythe/ Quagebeur will go on-sale in May 2022.

Booking information for all other performances will be announced shortly.

[Become a Friend today](#) to enjoy priority booking, access to exclusive events throughout the Season, and great discounts. [Sign up to our e-newsletter](#) to find out when booking is announced.

**Performance details are subject to change. Please see [www.ballet.org.uk](http://www.ballet.org.uk) for the latest information.**

**English National Ballet's 2022-2023 Season Listings:**

***Swan Lake***

**Liverpool Empire**

Wednesday 28 September – Saturday 01 October 2022

[www.ballet.org.uk/swan-lake](http://www.ballet.org.uk/swan-lake)

***Swan Lake***

**Manchester Palace Theatre**

Wednesday 05 – Saturday 08 October 2022

[www.ballet.org.uk/swan-lake](http://www.ballet.org.uk/swan-lake)

**Akram Khan's *Giselle***

**Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Paris**

Wednesday 12 – Saturday 15 October 2022

[www.ballet.org.uk/akram-khan-giselle](http://www.ballet.org.uk/akram-khan-giselle)

**Ek/ Forsythe/ Quagebeur**

**Sadler's Wells, London**

Wednesday 09 – Saturday 12 November 2022

[www.ballet.org.uk/ek-forsythe-quagebeur](http://www.ballet.org.uk/ek-forsythe-quagebeur)

***Raymonda***

**Bristol Hippodrome**

Wednesday 23 – Saturday 26 November 2022

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

***Raymonda***

**Mayflower Theatre, Southampton**

Wednesday 30 November – Saturday 03 December 2022

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

***Nutcracker***

**London Coliseum**

Thursday 15 December 2022 – Saturday 07 January 2023

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

***Swan Lake***

**London Coliseum**

Thursday 12 – Sunday 22 January 2023

[www.ballet.org.uk/swan-lake](http://www.ballet.org.uk/swan-lake)

**Akram Khan's *Giselle***

**Festspielhaus St. Pölten, Austria**

Friday 24 & Saturday 25 February 2023

[www.ballet.org.uk/akram-khan-giselle](http://www.ballet.org.uk/akram-khan-giselle)

***Creature* by Akram Khan**

**Sadler's Wells, London**

Spring 2023

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

Further information to follow

**Emerging Dancer**

Spring 2023

Further information to follow

**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; 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)

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

**About Ballymore**

Ballymore: 40 years of forward thinking

Ballymore is a leading property developer with a multi award-winning portfolio of some of Europe's largest and most transformative urban development projects.

Our projects are defined by their vision, originality and commitment to quality and we are driven to set new, lasting standards in design, creativity and architecture.

Every place we create has a unique personality inspired by its location, history, people and culture, nurtured through strong relationships with our expert partners and those we develop with local communities.

We enliven areas well before the first foundations are laid and we remain long after the last brick is in place to ensure our customers are well looked after and the communities continue to thrive.

Our landmark developments in the UK span the breadth of Greater London, from our new riverside communities in Royal Wharf, London City Island and Embassy Gardens, where we have transformed underused land into lively new neighbourhoods, over to Brentford where we are reconnecting the High Street with the waterfront and revitalising the town centre.

In Ireland, we develop homes across a number of counties and have established Dublin Landings as a new commercial centre at North Wall Quay. We are also working in partnership with Diageo and CIE to design and deliver mixed-use developments at the Guinness brewery and Connolly Station in Dublin.

### **About Cunard**

Cunard is a luxury British cruise line, renowned for creating unforgettable experiences around the world. Cunard has been a leading operator of passenger ships on the North Atlantic, since 1840, celebrating an incredible 181 years of operation. A pioneer in transatlantic journeys for generations, Cunard is world class. The Cunard experience is built on fine dining, hand-selected entertainment and outstanding service. From five-star restaurants and in-suite dining to inspiring guest speakers, the library and film screenings, every detail has been meticulously crafted to make the experience unforgettable. There are currently three Cunard ships, Queen Mary 2, Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria with destinations including Europe, the Caribbean, the Far East and Australia. In 2017, Cunard announced plans to add a fourth ship to its fleet. This investment is part of the company's ambitious plans for the future of Cunard globally and will be the first time since 1998 that Cunard will have four ships in simultaneous service. Cunard is based at Carnival House in Southampton and has been owned since 1998 by Carnival Corporation & plc (NYSE/LSE: CCL; NYSE:CUK).