



English National Ballet Emerging Dancer 2022

Livestream

Thursday 19 May, 7.30pm

www.ballet.org.uk/emerging-dancer-2022

English National Ballet's **Emerging Dancer** competition returns to screens around the globe next month, broadcast live from the Company's east London home, the Mulryan Centre for Dance, on **Thursday 19 May**.

The annual competition recognises the excellence of English National Ballet's artists. Selected by their peers, six of the Company's most promising dancers perform in front of an eminent panel of expert judges, before one is named the winner of the Emerging Dancer Award.

Emerging Dancer 2022 is supported by CHANEL, extending the House's 100-year legacy of cultural engagement to imagine the next.

The finalists are:

Matthew Astley
Ashley Coupal
Noam Durand
Chloe Keneally
Eric Snyder
Angela Wood

Tamara Rojo CBE, Artistic Director of English National Ballet, said: *"I am proud that as a Company we come together each year to nominate some of our most talented colleagues and give them a fantastic opportunity to develop, collaborate with choreographers, learn new repertoire, and shine on stage. This event celebrates the bright future of ballet, and it is always a joy and a privilege to watch. I wish all six of the finalists the best of luck and hope they enjoy the process over the coming weeks."*

Hosted by presenter **Jordan Lee**, the acclaimed judging panel for this year's competition comprises: **Dana Fouras**, former dancer with the Royal Ballet and Russell Maliphant Dance Company; **Céline Gittens**, Principal dancer at Birmingham Royal Ballet; **Kamara Gray**, the Founder and Artistic Director of Artistry Youth Dance; **Tamara Rojo CBE**, Artistic Director of English National Ballet; **Sir Alistair Spalding CBE**, Artistic Director and Chief Executive of Sadler's Wells and **Joseph Toonga**, Choreographer and Artistic Director of Just Us Dance Theatre.

The nominees will each perform a contemporary and classical pas de deux. Inspired by the theme of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, three new contemporary works will be created for the event by **Ceyda Tanc**, founder of Ceyda Tanc Dance; **Hamish Longley**, freelance dancer/choreographer and former English National Ballet School student and **Rentaro Nakaaki**, English National Ballet dancer and previous Emerging Dancer finalist.

The recipients of the People's Choice Award, voted for by audiences throughout the Season, and the Corps de Ballet Award, which acknowledges the work on and off-stage of an Artist of the Company, will also be revealed. There will be special performances by the reigning Emerging Dancer winner **Ivana Bueno** and the 2020 People's Choice Award winner **Victor Prigent**. English National Ballet Philharmonic will perform live as part of the evening's proceedings, conducted by Timothy Henty, and ENB First Soloist Fabian Reimair will create a piece of music to accompany one of the contemporary pieces.

The finalists will be mentored by senior Company dancers including Lead Principals Erina Takahashi, Francesco Gabriele Frola and Shiori Kase, First Soloists James Streeter and Junor Souza and First Artist Sarah Kundi.

The livestream of the Emerging Dancer competition will be available to watch for free on YouTube at 7.30pm (GMT) on Thursday 19 May 2022.

Further information on repertoire will be announced shortly.

-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 Senior Press Officer, Laura Nixon, on laura.nixon@ballet.org.uk or 07741659109

Notes to Editors

Emerging Dancer supported by CHANEL.

The People's Choice Award is supported by Alexis and Frances Prenn.

English National Ballet is a National Portfolio Organisation supported by Arts Council England.

Ballymore is Principal Building Partner of English National Ballet.

Listings:

English National Ballet

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www.youtube.com/englishnationalballet

Further information about the Emerging Dancer 2022 finalists:

[Angela Wood](#)

Angela Wood joined English National Ballet in 2010. She trained at the Colorado Ballet Society in the USA before moving to England and studying at the Royal Ballet School. Highlights of her career at ENB to date include dancing a principal couple in Liam Scarlett's *No Man's Land*. She has also performed Lead Flower in Wayne Eagling's *Nutcracker*, been through the creation process for two new works by Stina Quagebeur, *Nora* and *Take Five Blues*, and performed in *Location* as part of William Forsythe's *Playlist (EP)*.

Ashley Coupal

Ashley Coupal joined the Company this Season following training at Goh Ballet Academy in her home city of Vancouver, Canada, and performing with Orlando Ballet Second Company. Since joining the Company Ashley has performed in the World Premiere of Tamara Rojo's *Raymonda* and the international premiere of *Creature* by Akram Khan.

Chloe Keneally

Chloe Keneally joined English National Ballet as an Artist of the Company from English National Ballet School in 2019. That same year she was crowned the winner of the ballet category in the BBC Young Dancer Competition. Before joining the Company she had previously performed with English National Ballet in *Nutcracker* and as Odette in *My First Ballet: Swan Lake* in 2018.

Eric Snyder

Eric Snyder started dancing at the age of nine, training at the Yuma Ballet Academy in his home state of Arizona, USA, before joining English National Ballet School (ENBS) in 2018, the same year that he was a finalist in the Prix de Lausanne. He had previously performed with English National Ballet in *Nutcracker* and as Prince Désiré in *My First Ballet: Sleeping Beauty*. He graduated from ENBS in 2020 and joined the Company that same year.

Matthew Astley

Originally from Wolverhampton, Matthew Astley joined ENB in 2017. He had previously performed in *The Nutcracker* with Birmingham Royal Ballet and danced as Demi Soloist at Ballet du Capitole in Toulouse for five years before joining the Company. Matthew has danced several standout roles in ENB productions in his time with the Company including *Nutcracker* and Freddie in Wayne Eagling's *Nutcracker*, in Christopher Bruce's *Swansong* as part of ENB's 70th anniversary Gala and in Stina Quagebeur's *Take Five Blues*.

Noam Durand

Noam Durand, from Grenoble, France, joined ENB in 2017 following his training in Paris and a trainee program with San Francisco Ballet School. Created roles include William Forsythe's *Playlist (Track 1, 2)* and he was part of the core dancers who took part in the R&D for *Creature* by Akram Khan. Noam has appeared as the Beggar Chief in Kenneth MacMillan's *Manon*, Freddie and Russian in Wayne Eagling's *Nutcracker* and featured in solos in both William Forsythe's *Blake Works I* and *Playlist (EP)* during his time in the Company.

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

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