

Press Release: Under Embargo until noon, Tuesday 9 January 2024

Sir Rupert Gavin announced as Chair of English National Ballet

English National Ballet is delighted to announce Sir Rupert Gavin is to become the Chair of its Board of Trustees.

Sir Rupert Gavin is a highly regarded arts and business leader. He has been managing director of British Telecom, CEO of BBC Worldwide, and CEO of Odeon Cinemas Group. More recently he has been Chair of Historic Royal Palaces for several successive terms, and Chair of the Honours Committee for Arts and Media for seven years. Throughout his life he has been an impresario in the performing arts. He was a board director and then shareholder, until 2013, in Ambassador Theatre Group, on its way to becoming the largest theatre owner/producer group in the world. He has personally produced or co-produced over 200 shows in London, on Broadway and around the world, winning 21 Olivier Awards and 9 Tonys for highly creative, ground-breaking work. He was knighted in the King's first Birthday Honours list, 'for services to drama, to the arts, to heritage and the economy'.

Sir Rupert Gavin said: *"I am deeply honoured to have been asked to chair the Board of English National Ballet. It is a company with an unrivalled commitment to excellence, strong foundations, and an exciting vision for the future. I look forward to helping the Company realise that vision."*

He succeeds Sir Roger Carr who steps down as Chair following a five-year tenure.

Sir Roger Carr commented: *"It has been a great privilege to serve as Chair of English National Ballet's Board of Trustees. I am proud to have overseen the Company's move into its world class, purpose-built facilities in Canning Town, the refreshment of a strong board, and the successful navigation of the impact of the pandemic. As I near the end of my second term and English National Ballet enters a new chapter with the arrival of a new Artistic Director, I felt the time was right for the Executive team to build a long-term future in partnership with a new Chair, and collectively realise Aaron's artistic vision for the Company. Against this background I look forward to seeing this remarkable and talented company flourish long into the future."*

Sir Rupert will work closely with Artistic Director Aaron S. Watkin, Executive Director Patrick Harrison and Chief Operating Officer Grace Chan, to take English National Ballet into its exciting new era.

A rigorous search and appointment process was managed by NuRole and overseen by a Nominations Committee of ENB Trustees. External input and advice was also sought and the process was observed by Arts Council England.

The Trustees sincerely thank Sir Roger for his exceptional contribution to English National Ballet.

-ENDS-

**For further information please contact the English National Ballet Press Office:
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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.

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 performances across the UK and on eminent international stages; its distinguished orchestra, English National Ballet

Philharmonic; its digital platforms Ballet on Demand and BalletActive; being a UK leader in creative learning and engagement practice, building innovative partnerships to deliver flagship programmes such as Dance for Parkinson's; and through talent development initiatives including Ballet Futures which looks to create a more diverse and inclusive future for the artform.

English National Ballet continues to add ground-breaking new works to its repertoire whilst celebrating the tradition of great classical ballet, gaining acclaim for artistic excellence and creativity. 2019 saw the Company enter a new chapter in its history with a move to a purpose-built state-of-the-art home in east London, allowing a renewed commitment to creativity, ambition, and connection to more people, near and far, than ever before.