

PRESS RELEASE
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English National Ballet Autumn 2025

www.ballet.org.uk

English National Ballet announces plans for autumn 2025.

The company's autumn season starts in October at **Sadler's Wells Theatre, London**, with **R:Evolution** - a celebration of four visionary dance innovators.

The programme opens with works from two of the most influential choreographers of the 20th century, both created in 1940's New York: **George Balanchine's** dazzling showcase of virtuosity, ***Theme and Variations***, and **Martha Graham's** visceral ***Errand into the Maze***, a company premiere marking the first performance of her work by English National Ballet.

Audiences will then be treated to the 1990's classic ***Herman Schmerman (Quintet)*** by the legendary choreographer **William Forsythe**, who drew inspiration from both these visionaries and continued to propel ballet into the 21st-Century.

Fast forward to present day and the work of **David Dawson** who is credited with evolving the artform through his physical and emotional choreographic language. This is epitomised by Dawson's ***Four Last Songs***, created in 2023 for English National Ballet.

The music for three of the works – by Tchaikovsky, Menotti and R. Strauss – will be performed live by English National Ballet Philharmonic conducted by Music Director, Maria Seletskaja, with soprano Madeleine Pierard singing R. Strauss's masterwork.

Aaron S. Watkin, Artistic Director of English National Ballet said: *"R:Evolution celebrates the rich lineage of four visionary choreographers, who have revolutionised ballet through decades of innovation. This programme will showcase a dynamic thread of creative evolution with works that have the power to ignite emotions. I can't wait for our wonderful artists to share these."*

Honouring its commitment to the great tradition of classical ballet, the company will present **Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *The Sleeping Beauty*** – a signature production, performed exclusively by English National Ballet, from one of Britain's most celebrated choreographers. This timeless fairytale will tour to venues around the UK including **Liverpool's Empire Theatre** (23-25 October 2025), **Manchester's Palace Theatre** (19-22 November) and **Mayflower Theatre, Southampton** (26-29 November). It features stunning sets and costumes by legendary designers Nicholas Georgiadis and Peter Farmer. Tchaikovsky's breathtaking score is played live by English National Ballet Philharmonic conducted by Maria Seletskaja, Dominic Grier and Kingsley Lin.

With its extensive **Engagement** programme English National Ballet continues to be a leader in creative health, learning and participation practice.

Throughout autumn, our varied events include Ballet Club holiday activities for children and families resident in Newham and Tower Hamlets, east London; Shared Ground, offering a valuable platform for artist development through free studio space and incubator labs; and ENBYouthCo, who welcome a new company of talented young dancers from September.

Alongside this, English National Ballet's Dance for Parkinson's, an evidence-based programme delivered nationally with its hub partners, and Dance for Dementia and Dancing East with Linkage Plus will provide

creative health interventions that contribute to better health and well-being through artistry, creativity and community. The company will also host Centre Stage events in London and open door events on tour.

-ENDS-

English National Ballet's 2025-2026 season will be announced in full in due course.

For further information, interview requests, and images, please contact: Inês Carvalho, Press and Communications Manager (Maternity Cover) - ines.carvalho@ballet.org.uk

On-sale Information:

The Sleeping Beauty in Southampton opens for priority booking to Friends/ Members on Thursday 20 February 2025, with General booking open from Friday 21 February 2025.

The Sleeping Beauty in Liverpool and Manchester opens for priority booking to Friends/ Members on Wednesday 26 February 2025, with General booking open from Thursday 27 February 2025.

Tickets for R:Evolution will be available in spring 2025.

Autumn 2025 Listings:

R:Evolution

Sadler's Wells Theatre, London

01 – 11 October 2025

www.ballet.org.uk/r-evolution

The Sleeping Beauty

Liverpool Empire Theatre

23 – 25 October 2025

www.ballet.org.uk/sleepingbeauty

The Sleeping Beauty

Palace Theatre, Manchester

19 – 22 November 2025

www.ballet.org.uk/sleepingbeauty

The Sleeping Beauty

Mayflower Theatre, Southampton

26 – 29 November 2025

www.ballet.org.uk/sleepingbeauty

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.

Cunard is UK Tour Week Production Sponsor for performances of *The Sleeping Beauty* in Liverpool.

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.

About Ballymore

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 character 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. www.ballymoregroup.com