

PRESS RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO until 2pm, Tuesday 18 March 2025

English National Ballet 2025-2026 Season

www.ballet.org.uk

View the trailer for English National Ballet's 2025-2026 Season [here](#).

- English National Ballet offers a diverse programme of work, opening up the possibilities of ballet
- Company to perform works by Martha Graham and Crystal Pite for the first time
- World premiere from rising choreographic talent, Kameron N. Saunders
- Kenneth MacMillan's *The Sleeping Beauty* revived with national tour and first Royal Albert Hall performances
- Increased national touring as ENB takes innovative, new programme to Theatre Royal Plymouth
- Akram Khan's *Giselle* marks 10th anniversary with first performances at the London Coliseum
- Extensive programme of creative health, learning and participation offered throughout the season

English National Ballet announces its 2025-2026 Season, with a dynamic and diverse programme of activity, opening up the possibilities for audiences of all ages to experience ballet.

English National Ballet's Artistic Director, Aaron S. Watkin, said: *"At English National Ballet, we believe in the boundless emotional power of dance to move more people, in more ways. Alongside works that honour tradition and drive innovation, we offer a wide-ranging programme of creative learning and participation. So however you choose to connect with us, we invite you to 'feel more' with ENB."*

The season opens at **Sadler's Wells Theatre, London** in October, with a new programme **R:Evolution**, celebrating four visionary dance innovators.

It features works from two of the most influential choreographers of the 20th century, both created in 1940's New York: **George Balanchine's** dazzling showcase, ***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.

Body & Soul is the season's second new programme, with performances at **Sadler's Wells Theatre** in March 2026. The bill includes **a world premiere** from rising talent and acclaimed commercial dancer **Kameron N. Saunders**, whose recent work includes performing with Taylor Swift and Chappell Roan. Saunders brings his fresh choreographic voice to the UK stage with a work examining how we find our authentic self in the face of crushing societal pressure and expectation. A new score composed by Brandon Finklea and Harold Walker III will be played by English National Ballet Philharmonic, conducted by Maria Seletskaja.

Completing the bill is the **UK premiere** of ***Body and Soul (Part 1)*** from **Crystal Pite**. Recognised as one of today's most original choreographic talents, Pite uses her distinctive blend of precision and fluidity to create a mesmerising work exploring the human response to bereavement.

Body & Soul then travels to make its national premiere at the **Theatre Royal Plymouth** (30 April – 2 May 2026), demonstrating the Company's commitment to broadening access to new and innovative work.

Aaron S. Watkin said: *"Body & Soul sees the creative synergy of an emerging choreographic talent and one of today's most boundary-pushing dance makers, reimagining the possibilities of ballet. Together, Kameron and Crystal infuse the stage with innovation and creativity in this powerful double bill, promising an unforgettable experience for us all."*

Honouring our commitment to the great tradition of classical ballet, the company presents **Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *The Sleeping Beauty*** – a signature work from one of Britain's most celebrated choreographers, performed exclusively by English National Ballet. MacMillan's timeless fairy tale ballet will tour to venues around the UK including **Liverpool's Empire Theatre** (23-25 October 2025), **Manchester's Palace Theatre** (19-22 November 2025), **Mayflower Theatre, Southampton** (26-29 November 2025) and, for the first time, the **Royal Albert Hall, London** (18-23 June 2026). It features stunning costumes and sets 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.

Following 2024's sell-out performances, English National Ballet's acclaimed ***Nutcracker***, choreographed by Artistic Director **Aaron S. Watkin** and Olivier Award-winner **Arielle Smith**, returns this Christmas. With performances at the London Coliseum (11 December 2025 - 11 January 2026), audiences will join Clara on her fantastical adventure, from Edwardian London to the magical Land of Sweets & Delights. *Nutcracker* is brought to life by exquisite dancing, spectacular costumes and sets by Dick Bird and Tchaikovsky's instantly recognisable score, played live by English National Ballet Philharmonic. Music Director Maria Seletskaja, Principal Guest Conductor Gavin Sutherland, Martin West, Judith Yan and Alec Frank Gemmill conduct.

Akram Khan's *Giselle* celebrates its 10th anniversary with its first performances in the West End, at the **London Coliseum** (15 - 18 January 2026). The phenomenal success of this production, which was created on the Company, has seen it tour to 11 countries and 17 cities around the world since its 2016 premiere. Khan's iconic take on the tragic tale of love, betrayal, and redemption features an imposing set from Academy Award-winner Tim Yip and powerful score by Vincenzo Lamagna.

For younger audiences, English National Ballet and English National Ballet School present **My First Ballet** at Sadler's Wells' West End venue, the **Peacock Theatre**, in April 2026, as well as embarking on a national tour for the first time since 2019 (further detail to be announced). The perfect introduction to ballet, this series sees a narrator guide the audience along, making ballet accessible to audiences as young as three. The run also includes a Relaxed performance and a BSL Interpreted performance as part of the My First Inclusive Ballet programme, as well as a series of family workshops to extend the audience experience.

Returning in spring, **Emerging Dancer** shines a light on rising talent throughout the Company, with finalists showcasing their dedication and artistry. The event will be streamed to digital audiences and also includes The People's Choice Award, as chosen by audience members, and the Corps de Ballet Award, for an Artist of the Company who has gone above and beyond, both on stage and off.

With its extensive **Engagement programme**, English National Ballet continues to be a leader in creative health, learning and participation, designing inspiring experiences to engage with our productions as a participant, audience member, creator and performer. Across the year, we connect with tens of thousands of adults, children and young people through this work.

Our industry-leading Dance Health programmes, Dance for Parkinson's and Dance for Dementia, will be delivered at our studios in East London, nationally and online. Our inclusive work with schools, children and young people will offer unique opportunities to inspire the imagination and explore our productions. At our home, the Mulryan Centre for Dance, wide-ranging activity will include: youth dance talent development programmes ENBYouthCo-nect and ENBYouthCo; artist support initiatives to nurture creative development; our annual dance talent showcase *Re-Play*, and Dance Classes for All.

English National Ballet will continue to grow its **digital** reach in 2025-2026, bringing ballet to more people in the UK and beyond. The company's online platforms, BalletActive and Ballet on Demand will be further developed with additional productions, including the recently premiered *Nutcracker*, made available for audiences to enjoy from home.

Ballet Futures, English National Ballet's talent pipeline project to incentivise children from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds (African Diaspora, Caribbean, South Asian and South East Asian heritage) to participate in professional training, continues throughout 2025-2026. Ballet Futures has grown to include 35 students across five schools nationally. Following the success of selected students performing in ENB's *Nutcracker* in 2024, next season will see further performance opportunities within the Ballet Futures programme.

-ENDS-

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:

Booking is open for *The Sleeping Beauty* in Liverpool, Manchester and Southampton.

Booking will open for *R:Evolution* on 16 May for Friends/Members with general booking on 19 May.

Booking will open for *Body & Soul* (Sadler's Wells) and *My First Ballet* in autumn 2025.

Booking for *Nutcracker* and Akram Khan's *Giselle* opens on 20 May for Friends/Members, and on 25 March for general booking.

Booking for *Body & Soul* (Theatre Royal Plymouth) opens soon.

Booking for *The Sleeping Beauty* at the Royal Albert Hall opens in June 2025.

2025-2026 Season Listings:

(URLs live for R:Evolution and Sleeping Beauty in Liverpool, Manchester and Southampton. Remaining URLs will be live from 2pm, Tuesday 18 March)

R:Evolution

Sadler's Wells Theatre, London

1 – 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

Nutcracker
London Coliseum
11 December 2025 – 11 January 2026
www.ballet.org.uk/nutcracker

Akram Khan's *Giselle*
London Coliseum
15 – 18 January 2026
www.ballet.org.uk/khan-giselle

Body & Soul
Sadler's Wells Theatre, London
19 – 28 March 2026
www.ballet.org.uk/body-and-soul

My First Ballet
The Peacock, London
2 – 11 April 2026

Body & Soul
Theatre Royal Plymouth
30 April – 2 May 2026
www.ballet.org.uk/body-and-soul

Emerging Dancer
English National Ballet's Mulryan Centre for Dance
Spring 2026
Also streamed for digital audiences
www.ballet.org.uk/emerging-dancer-2026

The Sleeping Beauty
Royal Albert Hall, London
25 – 28 June 2026
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.

Charles Holloway OBE is the Lead Supporter of *Nutcracker*.

Emerging Dancer 2026 is supported by CHANEL.

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