

**UNDER EMBARGO until 2pm, Wednesday 25 June 2025**

## **English National Ballet announces promotions and new joiners for 2025/2026**

Aaron S. Watkin, Artistic Director of English National Ballet, has today announced promotions within the Company, new joiners for the 2025/2026 season, and those leaving.

*He said: "As our 75<sup>th</sup> Season draws to a close, I feel immensely proud of all we have delivered. Our company of wonderful artists came together to create a year of exceptional experiences for our audiences, both on stage and beyond. From world premieres to audience favourites, our work on stage, on screen and online, and across all our learning and participation activity, it's been a season to celebrate.*

*It is a real pleasure to be able to acknowledge our dancers' hard work and development through promotions within the Company. I'm thrilled to be welcoming the superb dancers and world-renowned guest répétiteurs who join us next season, as well as sharing my sincere thanks and appreciation to those who are departing.*

*As we look ahead, I know our 2025/26 has much to offer. So however you choose to connect with us, we can't wait to share more with you next season."*

### **Promotions**

The following promotions have been made within the Company, with effect from the start of the 2025/2026 season.

**Gareth Haw** is promoted to Lead Principal.

**Rentaro Nakaaki, Anna Nevzorova, Haruhi Otani, Emily Suzuki and Angela Wood** are promoted to First Soloist.

**Swanice Luong and Miguel Angel Maidana** are promoted to Soloist.

**Ashley Coupal, Carolyn Galvao, Jose María Lorca Menchón, Thiago Silva, Anri Sugiura, and Anna-Babette Winkler,** are promoted to First Artist.

**Martinho Santos** is promoted to 6th year Artist.

### **Joiners**

**Paulo Rodrigues**, formerly with the Joffrey Ballet, joins as a Soloist.

**Hatice Çağla Ertürk and Elvis Nudo** join as Soloists from Finnish National Ballet.

**Rodrigo Pinto** joins as a Soloist and **Taela Graff** joins as an Artist, both from Houston Ballet.

**Tara Millard**, formerly with the Norwegian National Ballet, joins as an Artist.

**Zai Calliste and Lois Fraiz** join as Artists, having completed their training with English National Ballet School.

**Sacha Venkatasawmy** from Dutch National Ballet Academy joins as an Artist, and joining the Company as Prix de Lausanne Dancer is **Jakob Wheway Hughes**, from Tring Park Ballet School.

We welcome a series of world-renowned répétiteurs to the Company to support our artists throughout the season. **Cynthia Harvey** returns as Associate Guest Répétiteur, alongside **Stephanie Arndt**, **Yannick Boquin**, **Christina Johnson**, **Manuel Legris**, and **Alejandro Parente** as Guest Répétiteurs.

### **Departures**

Lead Principal **Francesco Gabriele Frola** leaves to become Principal with San Francisco Ballet.

Lead Principal **Erina Takahashi** becomes full-time Répétiteur with the Company.

First Artist **Breanna Foad** leaves to join Zurich Ballet as Group with Solo.

First Artist **Edvinas Jakonis** has left to join Lithuanian National Ballet as a Soloist.

Soloist **Vsevolod Maievskiy**, and Artists **Paulo Gonzalez**, **Marta Monesi**, **Vincent Philp**, **Alexandra Terry**, and **Madison Whiteley** also leave the Company this season.

Répétiteur **Laurent Guilbaud** leaves to join The Munich State Ballet, after six years with English National Ballet.

-ENDS-

For further information, interview requests, and images, please contact **Caroline Ansdell** or **Inês Carvalho**, on [contractor\\_cansdell@ballet.org.uk](mailto:contractor_cansdell@ballet.org.uk) or [ines.carvalho@ballet.org.uk](mailto:ines.carvalho@ballet.org.uk)

### **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.



