

## English National Ballet

# ***R:Evolution***

Sadler's Wells Theatre

1 – 11 October 2025

[ballet.org.uk/production/revolution/](https://ballet.org.uk/production/revolution/)

English National Ballet opens the 2025/2026 season with ***R:Evolution***, a mixed bill celebrating four visionary creators and showcasing the versatility of the company.



*Sangeun Lee and Gareth Haw in David Dawson's Four Last Songs © Altin Kaftira*

The programme features works from two of the most influential choreographers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, both created in 1940s New York. George Balanchine's *Theme and Variations* is a dazzling display of virtuosity, while Martha Graham's visceral *Errand into the Maze* marks the first time her work has been performed by English National Ballet.

*R:Evolution* continues with the 1990's classic *Herman Schmerman (Quintet)* by the legendary choreographer **William Forsythe**, who drew inspiration from both Balanchine and Graham and continued pushing the boundaries of ballet into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The programme closes with **David Dawson's** ethereal ***Four Last Songs***, created in 2023 for English National Ballet. The work explores the beauty of humanity and the circle of life, set to the final score by Richard Strauss.

**Aaron S. Watkin, Artistic Director of English National Ballet said:** “*R:Evolution celebrates the rich legacy of four visionary choreographers who pushed the boundaries of ballet. This programme showcases the vibrant evolution of this artform and invites audiences to ‘feel more’ through the energy and creativity of these exceptional works. I can’t wait for our wonderful artists to present this mixed bill.*”

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.

English National Ballet is thrilled to welcome two Principal Guest Artists to open the 2025/2026 Season. **Alice Mariani**, Prima Ballerina at La Scala, and **Ricardo Castellanos**, Principal Dancer at Norwegian National Ballet, will dance the principal roles in George Balanchine’s *Theme and Variations* on the opening night of *R:Evolution* on Wednesday, 1 October.

-ENDS-

For further information, interview requests, and images, please contact Inês Carvalho, Press and Communications Manager, on [ines.carvalho@ballet.org.uk](mailto:ines.carvalho@ballet.org.uk)

### Listings:

#### ***R:Evolution***

#### **Sadler’s Wells Theatre, London**

Wednesday 1 – Saturday 11 October 2025

[ballet.org.uk/production/revolution/](https://ballet.org.uk/production/revolution/)

**Press night: Wednesday 1 October 2025**

### About Guest Artists

#### **Alice Mariani**

Alice Mariani completed her training at Ballet School of Teatro alla Scala in Milan before joining the Semperoper Ballet in Dresden, where she was promoted to Principal Dancer in 2019. She has also performed as a guest artist on some of the world’s most prestigious stages, including the Opéra Garnier in Paris, the New York City Center, and Sadler’s Wells in London. In 2021, Mariani joined Teatro alla Scala as a Soloist, and was promoted to Principal Dancer less than a year later.

#### **Ricardo Castellanos**

Spanish-Cuban dancer Ricardo Castellanos began dancing at the age of 9 in Barcelona under the guidance of his father, Rodolfo Castellanos. He graduated from the Royal Ballet School in London before joining the Norwegian National Ballet in 2016. One year later, Castellanos went on to the main company and was promoted to Principal Dancer in 2022.

### 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.