

English National Ballet and English National Ballet School

A magical first step into ballet - My First Ballet: Cinderella

National Tour

Spring 2026

ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

English National Ballet opens up the world of ballet to young audiences with a magical new production of *My First Ballet: Cinderella* – a specially adapted version of the classic fairytale for children as young as three.

This spring, *My First Ballet* returns with a national tour, bringing the wonder of ballet to families across the country. The production tours to New Victoria Theatre, Woking (28-29 March), the Peacock Theatre, Sadler's Wells' home in the West End, London (2-11 April), Lighthouse Poole (18-19 April), Grand Opera House, York (9-10 May), Wyvern Theatre, Swindon (23-24 May), and Newcastle Theatre Royal (30-31 May).

The story follows nature-loving Cinderella, who lives on the edge of an enchanted forest where she once gardened and sang with her mother. But, when loss and silence settle over her home, she's left in the care of a sharp-tongued stepmother and two noisy stepsisters. Everything changes when an invitation to the Garden Ball arrives, setting Cinderella on a journey of self-discovery - guided by the spirit of her mother and the magic of the forest.

My First Ballet: Cinderella is choreographed by George Williamson and performed by English National Ballet School students and participants of the Graduate Artists Programme. With a narrator to help young audiences follow the story, beautiful costumes and a shortened version of Prokofiev's famous score, this charming reimaging is the perfect introduction to ballet for children and families.

English National Ballet's Artistic Director, Aaron S. Watkin, said: *"The My First Ballet series opens the doors of ballet to young audiences in such an exciting and accessible way. I'm thrilled that English National Ballet are taking this ballet on a national tour, inspiring a new generation of dance lovers across the country".*

English National Ballet School's Artistic Director, Lynne Charles, said: *"Performing in My First Ballet is more than just dancing - it's a chance for students to step into the spotlight and bring magical stories to life. They gain invaluable experience, get a taste of professional touring life while sharing their passion with young audiences. That's a truly special experience".*

Since its creation in 2012, over 370,000 people have enjoyed English National Ballet's *My First Ballet* series.

-ENDS-

For further information, interview requests, and images, please contact Inês Carvalho, Press and Communications Manager, on ines.carvalho@ballet.org.uk

On-sale Information:

Booking opens for New Victoria Theatre Woking, Grand Opera House York, Wyvern Theatre Swindon and Newcastle Theatre Royal on 25 September.

Booking opens for Lighthouse Poole on 26 September.

Booking opens for Peacock Theatre, London from November.

Listings:

My First Ballet: Cinderella
National Tour

New Victoria Theatre, Woking
Saturday 28 - Sunday 29 March 2026
ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

Peacock Theatre, London
Thursday 2 – Saturday 11 April 2026
ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

Lighthouse, Poole
Saturday 18 – Sunday 19 April 2026
ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

Grand Opera House, York
Saturday 9 – Sunday 10 May 2026
ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

Wyvern Theatre, Swindon
Saturday 23 – Sunday 24 May 2026
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Newcastle Theatre Royal
Saturday 30 – Sunday 31 May 2026
ballet.org.uk/myfirstballet

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.