

English National Ballet presents  
**Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *The Sleeping Beauty***

The spellbinding ballet returns to the stage

23 October 2025 – 28 June 2026

[ballet.org.uk /sleeping-beauty](https://ballet.org.uk/sleeping-beauty)

English National Ballet brings the magic, wonder and timeless beauty of Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *The Sleeping Beauty* to audiences across the country.

This stunning version of the beloved fairy tale begins its tour at the Liverpool Empire (23 – 25 October), before enchanting audiences at the Palace Theatre, Manchester (19 – 22 November) and Mayflower Theatre, Southampton (26 – 29 November), and culminating with performances at the iconic Royal Albert Hall, London (25 – 28 June 2026).

Celebrated for its exquisite beauty and expressive storytelling, MacMillan's *The Sleeping Beauty* is a rarely performed treasure. This revival features a refined narrative and shorter running time, opening up the ballet to seasoned ballet-goers and newcomers alike.

**English National Ballet's Artistic Director, Aaron S. Watkin, said:** "*The Sleeping Beauty is one of the most cherished works in our repertoire – a majestic retelling of a classic story, brought to life through the vision of Sir Kenneth MacMillan. We've thoughtfully refreshed this production to welcome more people into the magic of ballet - no matter their background or experience.*"

At the heart of this enchanting tale is Princess Aurora, cursed at birth by the wicked fairy Carabosse: on her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, she will prick her finger and die. But her godmother, the Lilac Fairy, softens the spell so Aurora will not die, but sleep for 100 years. Only the power of true love can awaken her.

With sumptuous set and costumes by legendary designers Nicholas Georgiadis and Peter Farmer, and Tchaikovsky's magnificent score performed live by English National Ballet Philharmonic, *The Sleeping Beauty* is a feast for the senses.

Beyond the stage, English National Ballet offers a range of opportunities for audiences, including behind-the-scenes talks, repertoire-inspired dance workshops, dynamic drawing, and a Dance for Parkinson's in-theatre session. For more information see [ballet.org.uk/whats-on](https://ballet.org.uk/whats-on).

Cunard is the UK Tour Sponsor for Sleeping Beauty.

**-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:**

***The Sleeping Beauty***

**Liverpool Empire, Liverpool**

Thursday 23 – Saturday 25 October 2025

[ballet.org.uk /sleeping-beauty](https://ballet.org.uk/sleeping-beauty)

***The Sleeping Beauty***

**Palace Theatre, Manchester**

Wednesday 19 – Saturday 22 November 2025  
[ballet.org.uk /sleeping-beauty](http://ballet.org.uk/sleeping-beauty)

***The Sleeping Beauty***

**Mayflower Theatre, Southampton**

Wednesday 26 – Saturday 29 November 2025  
[ballet.org.uk /sleeping-beauty](http://ballet.org.uk/sleeping-beauty)

***The Sleeping Beauty***

**Royal Albert Hall, London**

Thursday 25 – Sunday 28 June 2026  
Tickets go on sale this summer

**Press night: Royal Albert Hall, London, Thursday 25 June 2026**

**Full Principal Casting:**

***The Sleeping Beauty*, Sir Kenneth MacMillan**

(Aurora / Prince Désiré / Lilac Fairy / Carabosse)

**Liverpool Empire**

**Emma Hawes\* / Aitor Arrieta / Anna Nevzorova\* / James Streeter**  
23 October 7pm, 25 October 7pm

**Sangeun Lee\* / Gareth Haw\* / Anri Sugiura\* / Fabian Reimair**  
24 October 7pm

**Julia Conway\* / Lorenzo Trossello\* / Angela Wood\* / Eireen Evrard\***  
25 October 1.30pm

**Palace Theatre, Manchester:**

**Emma Hawes / Aitor Arrieta / Angela Wood / James Streeter**  
19 November 7.30pm, 21 November 7.30pm

**Ivana Bueno\* / Paulo Rodrigues\* / Emily Suzuki\* / Junor Souza\***  
20 November 1.30pm, 22 November 1.30pm

**Sangeun Lee / Gareth Haw / Anri Sugiura / Fabian Reimair**  
20 November 7.30pm, 22 November 7.30pm

**Mayflower Theatre, Southampton**

**Ivana Bueno / Paulo Rodrigues / Emily Suzuki / Junor Souza**  
26 November 7pm

**Anna Nevzorova\* / Elvis Nudo\* / Taela Graff\* / Junor Souza**  
27 November 1.30pm, 29 November 7pm

**Julia Conway / Lorenzo Trossello / Angela Wood / Eireen Evrard**  
27 November 7pm, 29 November 1.30pm

**Sangeun Lee / Gareth Haw / Anri Sugiura / Fabian Reimair**  
28 November 7pm

Principal casting for *The Sleeping Beauty* at the Royal Albert Hall will be announced in due course.

**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.