

English National Ballet presents Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *The Sleeping Beauty* at the iconic Royal Albert Hall

Thursday 25 – Sunday 28 June 2026

<https://www.ballet.org.uk/production/sleeping-beauty/>



@ Photography by Emily Nuttall

Following a successful national tour, English National Ballet brings the magic, wonder and timeless appeal of Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *The Sleeping Beauty* to the Royal Albert Hall, for the tour's grand finale.

Celebrated for its spellbinding beauty and expressive storytelling, MacMillan's production is a rarely performed treasure. This revival features a refined narrative and shorter running time, opening up the ballet to seasoned audiences and newcomers alike.

With opulent costumes by legendary designer Nicholas Georgiadis and vibrant new projections by Charlotte MacMillan, this production is visually stunning. Combined with Tchaikovsky's magnificent score, performed live by English National Ballet Philharmonic, *The Sleeping Beauty* is a sparkling version of one of the world's favourite stories.

English National Ballet's Artistic Director, Aaron S. Watkin, said: *"The Sleeping Beauty is one of the most cherished works in our repertoire – an enchanting 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 world of ballet and we're delighted to bring it to the Royal Albert Hall".*

At the heart of this magical tale is Princess Aurora, cursed at birth by the wicked fairy Carabosse: on her 16th birthday, she will prick her finger and die. Her godmother, the Lilac Fairy, alters the spell so Aurora will instead fall into a deep sleep for 100 years. Only the power of true love can awaken her.

Principal Casting:

***The Sleeping Beauty*, Sir Kenneth MacMillan**
(Aurora / Prince Désiré / Lilac Fairy / Carabosse)

Emma Hawes / Aitor Arrieta / Anri Sugiura / James Streeter
25 June 7:30pm

Anna Nevzorova / Davi Ramos* ** / Anri Sugiura / Eireen Evrard
26 June 2:30pm, 28 June 2pm

Sangeun Lee / Gareth Haw / Taela Graff / Fabian Reimair
26 June 7:30pm, 28 June 7pm

Ivana Bueno / Lorenzo Trossello / Emily Suzuki / Junor Souza
27 June 2:30pm

Emma Hawes / Aitor Arrieta / Emily Suzuki / James Streeter
27 June 7:30pm

* Debut

** Guest Artist

-ENDS-

For further information, interview requests, and images, please contact Caroline Ansdell, Communications Consultant, on contractor_cansdell@ballet.org.uk or Lydia Bell, Press Officer, on lydia.bell@ballet.org.uk

Press Performance at Royal Albert Hall: Thursday 25 June 7:30pm

Listings:

The Sleeping Beauty
Royal Albert Hall
Thursday 25 – Sunday 28 June 2026
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Credits:

Choreography: Kenneth MacMillan
Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Set Design: Charlotte MacMillan
Costumes: Nicholas Georgiadis
Lighting Design: Richard Thomas

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

We are English National Ballet. And for over 75 years, we've been opening doors, curtains and minds. Creating moving, meaningful experiences that take ballet to new places – creatively, emotionally, and physically.

Whether we're on stage, on screen or online, we are here to open up the possibilities of ballet for everyone, everywhere. In towns, cities, studios and schools – across England and around the world – we connect with more people, in more places, in more ways.

Because the beauty of ballet is you can simply feel it. And whatever you feel, you're free to feel it here.

Feel more with English National Ballet.