

# English National Ballet and English National Ballet School launch national tour of *My First Ballet: Cinderella*

## National Tour

Saturday 28 March – Sunday 31 May 2026

<https://www.ballet.org.uk/production/my-first-ballet-cinderella/>

English National Ballet and English National Ballet School open 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 more families across the country and providing the perfect day out this spring. The new production of *My First Ballet: Cinderella* travels to **New Victoria Theatre, Woking** (28-29 March), **Sadler's Wells East, London** (1-12 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, two noisy stepsisters, and a house full of chores and shadows. 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 running time of one hour and 20 minutes (including an interval), a narrator to help young audiences follow the story, and a shortened version of Prokofiev's famous score, this charming reimagining is the perfect introduction to ballet for children and families.

Award-winning designer Rachael Canning brings the world of Cinderella to life through enchanting costumes, sets and puppetry, creating a colourful, imaginative landscape where animals, nature and magic make the story tangible for young audiences.

**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.

Performances at the Peacock Theatre, London also include Relaxed and BSL Interpreted performances as part of the *My First Inclusive Ballet* programme, as well as a series of family workshops for audiences to connect with ballet in more ways.

-ENDS-

For further information, interview requests, and images, please contact Caroline Ansdell, Communications Consultant, on [contractor\\_cansdell@ballet.org.uk](mailto:contractor_cansdell@ballet.org.uk) or Lydia Bell, Press Officer, on [lydia.bell@ballet.org.uk](mailto:lydia.bell@ballet.org.uk)

**Press Performance at Sadler's Wells East: Wednesday 1 April 5:30pm** (*press tickets available across other venues and dates*)

#### Listings:

#### ***My First Ballet: Cinderella*** **National Tour**

##### **New Victoria Theatre, Woking**

Saturday 28 - Sunday 29 March 2026

[My First Ballet: Cinderella - English National Ballet](#)

##### **Sadler's Wells East, London**

Wednesday 1 – Sunday 12 April 2026

*Relaxed Performance: Wednesday 8 April 2:30pm*

*BSL Interpreted Performance: Thursday 9 April 3pm*

*Audio Described Performance and Touch Tour: Saturday 11 April 10:30am (Touch Tour at 9am)*

[My First Ballet: Cinderella - English National Ballet](#)

##### **Lighthouse, Poole**

Saturday 18 – Sunday 19 April 2026

[My First Ballet: Cinderella - English National Ballet](#)

##### **Grand Opera House, York**

Saturday 9 – Sunday 10 May 2026

[My First Ballet: Cinderella - English National Ballet](#)

##### **Wyvern Theatre, Swindon**

Saturday 23 – Sunday 24 May 2026

[My First Ballet: Cinderella - English National Ballet](#)

##### **Newcastle Theatre Royal**

Saturday 30 – Sunday 31 May 2026

[My First Ballet: Cinderella - English National Ballet](#)

#### **Credits:**

**Choreography: George Williamson**

**Music: Sergei Prokofiev**

**Designer: Rachael Canning**

**Dramaturg: Adam Peck**

**Lighting Design: Stevie Mackie**

**Narrator: Kate Donnachie**

#### **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.

### **About English National Ballet School**

English National Ballet School is a world-renowned specialist training centre for aspiring and highly talented young ballet dancers aged 16 to 19.

Founded in 1988 by English National Ballet and Peter Schaufuss, the school is the company's Primary Partner school, sharing a commitment to excellence and access. Its mission is to nurture and develop the next generation of world-class dance artists; artists who are confident and versatile, able to push boundaries and bring their creativity to the fore.

Students participate in a three-year programme, validated by Trinity College London, with graduates joining prestigious dance companies worldwide. Currently a third of the dancers at English National Ballet are graduates of the School. The School also offer weekly children's ballet classes, ENBS Juniors, for 3 – 10 year olds.



