

UNDER EMBARGO until 2pm, Friday 7 August 2026

English National Ballet Announces Principal Casting for its 2026-2027 Season

English National Ballet has today announced Principal Casting for its 2026-2027 season.

Continuing English National Ballet's commitment to honouring tradition, Rudolf Nureyev's *Romeo & Juliet* tours to the Liverpool Empire Theatre (15 - 17 October 2026), Palace Theatre, Manchester (21 - 25 October 2026), Mayflower Theatre, Southampton (3 - 5 December 2026) and concludes where it first premiered in 1977 at the London Coliseum (14 - 24 January) as the production celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Debuts in the principal roles include Lead Principals Aitor Arrieta and Gareth Haw, First Soloists Rentaro Nakaaki, Daniel McCormick, Lorenzo Trossello and Gustavo Carvalho as Romeo. Lead Principal Emma Hawes, newly promoted Principal Julia Conway, newly promoted First Soloist Minju Kang, and First Soloists Katja Khaniukova, Ivana Bueno, Emily Suzuki and Haruhi Otani make their debuts as Juliet. Additionally, Guest Artist Hugo Marchand will perform Romeo, while Associate Guest Artist Ksenia Ovsyanick will debut as Juliet.

Festive family favourite, *Nutcracker*, choreographed by Artistic Director Aaron S. Watkin and Arielle Smith, returns to the London Coliseum from 17 December 2026 - 10 January 2027. Making their debuts as Clara are recently promoted First Artist Anna Ciriano, Soloist Hatice Çağla Ertürk and Artist of the Company Yihan Qin, while Gustavo Carvalho and Artist of the Company Martinho Santos take on the role of Nutcracker Prince for the first time. Associate Guest Artist Davi Ramos and First Soloist Rentaro Nakaaki will debut as Sugar Plum Cavalier, while First Soloist Minju Kang makes her debut as Sugar Plum Fairy.

In spring 2027, Johan Inger's award-winning *Carmen* returns with performances at Sadler's Wells Theatre (7 - 17 April) before touring for the first time to Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury (22 - 24 April). Fusing classical and contemporary movement to striking effect, the performances see First Soloists Minju Kang, Emily Suzuki, Ivana Bueno perform as Carmen, alongside Soloist Alice Bellini, who makes her debut in the role. Lead Principal Aitor Arrieta and First Soloist Rentaro Nakaaki perform Don José, with additional casting to be announced.

Closing the 2026-2027 season is Derek Deane's *Swan Lake in-the-round* at the Royal Albert Hall (16 - 27 June 2027). Marking its 30th anniversary, this spectacular production features 60 swans, stunning designs by Peter Farmer and Tchaikovsky's unforgettable score. Performing the dual role of Odette/Odile are Lead Principals Sangeun Lee and Emma Hawes, First Soloists Ivana Bueno, and Anna Nevzorova, who makes her debut in the role; Lead Principals Gareth Haw and Aitor Arrieta, together with First Soloist Lorenzo Trossello, perform Prince Siegfried, while First Soloists James Streeter, Fabian Reimair, Junor Souza are cast as the evil sorcerer Rothbart. Additional casting will be announced.

Principal Casting for *Rhythm Riot* at Sadler's Wells will be announced shortly.

Full Principal Casting:

Please note, casting is subject to change. Please see www.ballet.org.uk for up-to-date casting.

Romeo & Juliet, Rudolf Nureyev

Autumn Tour

(Romeo / Juliet)

Visit our website for additional casting for the roles of Tybalt, Mercutio, Benvolio, Lord and Lady Capulet, Paris and Rosaline.

Liverpool Empire:

Aitor Arrieta* / Emma Hawes*

15 October 7pm, 17 October 2pm

Gareth Haw* / Minju Kang*

16 October 2pm, 17 October 7pm

Rentaro Nakaaki* / Julia Conway*

16 October 7pm

Manchester Palace Theatre:

Rentaro Nakaaki / Julia Conway

21 October 7pm, 24 October 7pm

Daniel McCormick* / Katja Khaniukova*

22 October 7pm, 24 October 2pm

Lorenzo Trossello* / Ivana Bueno*

23 October 7pm, 25 October 2pm

Mayflower Theatre, Southampton:

Aitor Arrieta / Emma Hawes

3 December 7pm, 5 December 1:30pm

Gareth Haw / Emily Suzuki*

4 December 1:30pm, 5 December 6:30pm

Gustavo Carvalho* / Haruhi Otani*

4 December 7pm

Nutcracker, Aaron S. Watkin and Arielle Smith

London Coliseum

(Clara / Drosselmeyer / Nutcracker Prince / Nutcracker Doll / Sugar Plum Fairy / Sugar Plum Cavalier / Ice Queen / Rat King)

Chloe Keneally / Junor Souza / Gustavo Carvalho* / Rhys Antoni / Sangeun Lee / Gareth Haw / Anna Nevzorova / James Streeter

17 December 7.30pm, 19 December 7.30pm, 22 December 6:30pm

Carolyn Galvao / James Streeter / Noam Durand / Eric Snyder / Julia Conway /

Rentaro Nakaaki* / Anri Sugiura / Junor Souza

18 December 7:30pm, 20 December 6:30pm, 22 December 1:30pm

Swanice Luong / Fabian Reimair / Shunhei Fuchiyama / Thiago Silva / Emily Suzuki / Erik Woolhouse / Minju Kang / Jose María Lorca Menchón

19 December 2:30pm

Ashley Coupal / Fabian Reimair / Miguel Angel Maidana / Rodrigo Pinto / Haruhi Otani / Ken Saruhashi / Minju Kang / Jose María Lorca Menchón

20 December 1:30pm

Ashley Coupal / Fabian Reimair / Miguel Angel Maidana / Rodrigo Pinto / Haruhi Otani / Ken Saruhashi / Minju Kang / Jakob Wheway Hughes*

23 December 2:30pm

Swanice Luong / Fabian Reimair / Shunhei Fuchiyama / Thiago Silva / Emily Suzuki / Erik Woolhouse / Anri Sugiura / Jose María Lorca Menchón

23 December 7:30pm

Carolyn Galvao / Junor Souza / Noam Durand / Eric Snyder / Emma Hawes / Aitor Arrieta / Anna Nevzorova / James Streeter

24 December 1:30pm

Swanice Luong / Fabian Reimair / Shunhei Fuchiyama / Thiago Silva / Emily Suzuki / Erik Woolhouse / Yihan Qin* / Jose María Lorca Menchón

27 December 1:30pm

Georgia Bould / James Streeter / Rhys Antoni / Martinho Santos / Emma Hawes / Aitor Arrieta / Hatice Çağla Ertürk / Junor Souza

27 December 6:30pm

Chloe Keneally / Junor Souza / Gustavo Carvalho / Rhys Antoni / Sangeun Lee / Gareth Haw / Hatice Çağla Ertürk / James Streeter

28 December 7:30pm

Ashley Coupal / Fabian Reimair / Miguel Angel Maidana / Rodrigo Pinto / Ivana Bueno / Lorenzo Trossello / Yihan Qin / Jose María Lorca Menchón

29 December 2:30pm

Georgia Bould / James Streeter / Rhys Antoni / Martinho Santos / Emma Hawes / Aitor Arrieta / Emily Suzuki / Jakob Wheway Hughes

29 December 7:30pm

Anna Ciriano* / Henry Dowden / Thiago Silva / Miguel Angel Maidana / Katja Khaniukova / Daniel McCormick / Hatice Çağla Ertürk / Giorgio Garrett

30 December 2:30pm

Swanice Luong / Henry Dowden / Shunhei Fuchiyama / Sacha Venkatasawmy / Haruhi Otani / Ken Saruhashi / Yihan Qin / Junor Souza

30 December 7:30pm

Georgia Bould / James Streeter / Rhys Antoni / Martinho Santos / Ivana Bueno / Lorenzo Trossello / Emily Suzuki / Jakob Wheway Hughes

31 December 1:30pm

Anna Ciriano / Jose María Lorca Menchón / Thiago Silva / Sacha Venkatasawmy / Minju Kang* / Eric Snyder / Angela Wood Nakaaki / Giorgio Garrett

2 January 2:30pm

Ashley Coupal / Fabian Reimair / Miguel Angel Maidana / Rodrigo Pinto / Ivana Bueno / Lorenzo Trossello / Emily Suzuki / Jakob Wheway Hughes

2 January 7:30pm

Hatice Çağla Ertürk* / Henry Dowden / Rodrigo Pinto / Noam Durand / Katja Khaniukova / Daniel McCormick / Taela Graff / Junor Souza

3 January 1:30pm

Georgia Bould / James Streeter / Rhys Antoni / Sacha Venkatasawmy / Haruhi Otani / Ken Saruhashi / Angela Wood Nakaaki / Zai Calliste

3 January 6:30pm

Hatice Çağla Ertürk / Henry Dowden / Rodrigo Pinto / Noam Durand / Katja Khaniukova / Daniel McCormick / Taela Graff / Giorgio Garrett

5 January 7:30pm

Yihan Qin* / Jose María Lorca Menchón / Martinho Santos* / Shunhei Fuchiyama / Anna Nevzorova / Davi Ramos++* / Angela Wood Nakaaki / Zai Calliste

6 January 7:30pm

Anna Ciriano / Ken Saruhashi / Thiago Silva / Miguel Angel Maidana / Minju Kang / Eric Snyder / Taela Graff / Giorgio Garrett

7 January 1:30pm

Hatice Çağla Ertürk / Ken Saruhashi / Rodrigo Pinto / Noam Durand / Ivana Bueno / Lorenzo Trossello / Angela Wood Nakaaki / Zai Calliste

7 January 6:30pm

Yihan Qin / Jose María Lorca Menchón / Martinho Santos / Shunhei Fuchiyama / Anna Nevzorova / Davi Ramos++ / Taela Graff / Zai Calliste

8 January 7:30pm, 10 January 1pm

Anna Ciriano / Henry Dowden / Thiago Silva / Miguel Angel Maidana / Minju Kang / Eric Snyder / Angela Wood Nakaaki / Giorgio Garrett

9 January 2pm

Hatice Çağla Ertürk / Ken Saruhashi / Rodrigo Pinto / Noam Durand / Katja Khaniukova / Daniel McCormick / Angela Wood Nakaaki / Zai Calliste

9 January 7pm

Romeo & Juliet, Rudolf Nureyev

London Coliseum

(Romeo / Juliet)

Hugo Marchand+ / Emma Hawes

14 January 7pm, 17 January 2pm, 20 January 7pm

Gareth Haw / Emily Suzuki

15 January 7pm, 22 January 7pm, 24 January 1pm

Gustavo Carvalho / Fernanda Oliveira

16 January 2pm, 19 January 7pm

Aitor Arrieta / Ksenia Ovsyanick++*

16 January 7pm, 21 January 7pm, 23 January 7pm

Rentaro Nakaaki / Julia Conway

21 January 2pm, 23 January 2pm

Carmen, Johan Inger

Sadler's Wells Theatre

(Carmen / Don José)

Minju Kang / Rentaro Nakaaki

7 April 7:30pm, 9 April 7:30pm, 15 April 7:30pm

Emily Suzuki / Aitor Arrieta

8 April 7:30pm, 10 April 7:30pm, 16 April 7:30pm

Ivana Bueno / TBA

10 April 2:30pm, 14 April 7:30pm, 17 April 7:30pm

Alice Bellini* / TBA

13 April 7:30pm, 17 April 2:30pm

Carmen, Johan Inger

The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

(Carmen / Don José)

Minju Kang / Rentaro Nakaaki

22 April 7:30pm, 24 April 7:30pm

Emily Suzuki / Aitor Arrieta

23 April 7:30pm

Ivana Bueno / TBA

24 April 2:30pm

Swan Lake in-the-round, Derek Deane

Royal Albert Hall

(Odette-Odile / Prince Siegfried / Rothbart)

Sangeun Lee / Gareth Haw / James Streeter

16 June 7:30pm, 19 June 7:30pm, 25 June 7:30pm

Emma Hawes / Aitor Arrieta / Fabian Reimair

17 June 7:30pm, 20 June 2:30pm, 26 June 7:30pm

Ivana Bueno / Lorenzo Trossello / TBA

18 June 7:30pm, 23 June 7:30pm, 26 June 2:30pm

TBA

19 June 2:30pm, 24 June 2:30pm

Anna Nevzorova* / TBA / Junor Souza

22 June 7:30pm, 24 June 7:30pm, 27 June 2:30pm

*Debut

+ Guest Artist

++ Associate Guest Artist

-ENDS-

For further information, interview requests, and images, please contact Press Officer Lydia Bell on lydia.bell@ballet.org.uk or Head of Press and Communications Robert James on robert.james@ballet.org.uk

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.
English National Ballet is an Associate Company of Sadler's Wells.**

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.