

15 July 2024

English National Ballet announces principal casting for *Giselle*

In its **75th Season**, English National Ballet offers audiences the opportunity to see two versions of one of the great Romantic ballets, *Giselle*. Principal casting for both productions is announced today.

Having been seen by over 156,000 people in 11 countries and 17 cities around the world, **Akram Khan's *Giselle*** opens English National Ballet's season with a return to London (Sadler's Wells) for the first time since 2019. In this acclaimed reimagining of the iconic ballet, Khan tells a story of love, betrayal, and redemption. The production features an imposing set designed by Academy Award-winner Tim Yip and a powerful score by Vincenzo Lamagna.

Principal casting for these performances sees debuts from Soloist Francesca Velicu in the role of Giselle; Soloist Rentaro Nakaaki in the role of Albrecht; First Artist Giorgio Garrett and Artist of the Company Jose María Lorca Menchón in the role of Hilarion; and Lead Principal Sangeun Lee and Junior Soloist Alice Bellini in the role of Myrtha.

Mary Skeaping's *Giselle* will tour to the Liverpool Empire and Manchester's Palace Theatre in the autumn, before returning to the London Coliseum in January 2025. With its beautiful classical language and thoughtful staging, this *Giselle* features some of ballet's most dramatic scenes and otherworldly images.

First Soloist Ivana Beuno will make her debut in the role of Giselle in Liverpool whilst First Soloist Lorenzo Trossello makes his debut as Albrecht in London. Also making debuts during this tour are First Soloist Julia Conway, First Artist Eireen Evrard and Junior Soloist Anna Nevzorova, who will perform as Myrtha for the first time.

Full Principal Casting:

Akram Khan's *Giselle*

(Giselle / Albrecht / Hilarion / Myrtha)

Sadler's Wells, London:

Erina Takahashi / James Streeter / Ken Saruhashi / Emma Hawes

18th September 19:30, 21st September 19:30, 24th September 19:30

Fernanda Oliveira / Aitor Arrieta / Erik Woolhouse / Sangeun Lee*

19th September 19:30, 23rd September 19:30, 26th September 19:30

Emily Suzuki / Henry Dowden / TBA / Isabelle Brouwers

20th September 19:30, 25th September 19:30, 28th September 19:30

Francesca Velicu* / Rentaro Nakaaki* / Jose María Lorca Menchón* / Angela Wood

21st September 14:30, 27th September 19:30

TBA / TBA / Giorgio Garrett* / Alice Bellini*

26th September 14:30, 28th September 14:30

Giselle by Mary Skeaping

(Giselle / Albrecht / Hilarion / Myrtha / Peasant Pas de Deux)

Liverpool Empire:

Katja Khaniukova / Aitor Arrieta / Fabian Reimair / Precious Adams / Adriana Lizardi / Miguel Angel Maidana

23rd October 19:30, 25th October 19:30

Shiori Kase / Ken Saruhashi / Erik Woolhouse / Emily Suzuki / Chloe Keneally / Noam Durand

24th October 19:30 / 26th October 19:30

Ivana Bueno* / Daniel McCormick / Giorgio Garrett / Jung ah Choi / Haruhi Otani* / Edvinas Jakonis*

26th October 14:30

Palace Theatre, Manchester:

Fernanda Oliveira / Francesco Gabriele Frola / Henry Dowden / Julia Conway* / Ivana Bueno / Erik Woolhouse*

30th October 19:30, 1st November 19:30

Emma Hawes / Vsevolod Maievskiy / James Streeter / Angela Wood / Francesca Velicu / Shunhei Fuchiyama

31st October 19:30, 2nd November 14:30

Sangeun Lee / Gareth Haw / Junor Souza / Eireen Evrard* / Haruhi Otani / Edvinas Jakonis

2nd November 19:30

London Coliseum:

Erina Takahashi / Francesco Gabriele Frola / James Streeter / Precious Adams / Ivana Bueno / Erik Woolhouse

15th January 19:30, 18th January 19:30

Katja Khaniukova / Aitor Arrieta / Fabian Reimair / Emily Suzuki / Adriana Lizardi / Miguel Angel Maidana

16th January 19:30, 18th January 14:30

Fernanda Oliveira / Lorenzo Trossello* / Henry Dowden / Anna Nevzorova* / Chloe Keneally / Noam Durand

17th January 14:30

Sangeun Lee / Gareth Haw / Junor Souza / Angela Wood / Francesca Velicu / Shunhei Fuchiyama

17th January 19:30

*Debut

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

-ENDS-

For further information, interview requests, and images, please contact Alice Lawley, Head of Press and Communications, on alice.lawley@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.

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.

