

English National Ballet

Nutcracker WORLD PREMIERE

Mayflower Theatre, Southampton: 28 - 30 November 2024

London Coliseum: 12 December 2024 - 12 January 2025

www.ballet.org.uk/nutcracker

As part of its 75th Season, English National Ballet presents the **world premiere of a new production of the classic festive ballet, *Nutcracker***, choreographed by the Company's own Artistic Director Aaron S. Watkin and Olivier Award-winning choreographer Arielle Smith.

English National Ballet's Artistic Director and joint choreographer of *Nutcracker*, Aaron S.

Watkin, said: "*Nutcracker holds a special place in English National Ballet's history and in the hearts of our audiences. The Company has performed a version of it every year since it was founded in 1950 and it is an honour to be working with Arielle and Dick to bring new magic and wonder to this much-loved ballet.*"

A celebration of classical ballet, this new version of *Nutcracker* will feature exquisite dancing, spectacular costumes and sets by Dick Bird, lighting by Paul Pyant, and Tchaikovsky's iconic score played live by English National Ballet Philharmonic under the baton of the Company's new Music Director, Maria Seletskaja.

Nutcracker will take audiences on a fantastical Christmas adventure as they join Clara on her journey of discovery. Starting on the streets of Edwardian London and Drosselymeyer's Sweets & Delights Emporium, audiences follow Clara to a dazzling ice realm before a grand celebration arranged by the Sugar Plum Fairy in the Land of Sweets and Delights.

Continuing the Company's commitment to UK touring and sharing world-class ballet with the widest possible audience, *Nutcracker* will receive its world premiere at Southampton's Mayflower Theatre (28 - 30 November 2024) before performances at the London Coliseum (12 December 2024 - 12 January 2025).

For the first time, English National Ballet will present a relaxed performance of *Nutcracker*, at the London Coliseum on 9 January 2025.

The creation of this new production has been made possible by Charles Holloway OBE, Lead Supporter of *Nutcracker*.

-ENDS-

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

Listings:

***Nutcracker* WORLD PREMIERE**

Mayflower Theatre, Southampton

Thursday 28 November – Saturday 30 November 2024

www.ballet.org.uk/nutcracker

Nutcracker

London Coliseum

Thursday 12 December 2024 – Sunday 12 January 2025
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Press night: London Coliseum, Thursday 12 December 2024

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. Charles Holloway OBE is the Lead Supporter of *Nutcracker*

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.

