

Her Majesty The Queen visits English National Ballet

On **Thursday 5 September 2024**, Her Majesty The Queen visited English National Ballet at their east London home, the Mulryan Centre for Dance. This marked The Queen's first official visit to English National Ballet since becoming Royal Patron earlier this year.



Her Majesty The Queen visits English National Ballet, September 2024 © Photography by ASH

On arrival at the Mulryan Centre for Dance, Her Majesty was met by Sir Rupert Gavin (Chair, English National Ballet) and Aaron S. Watkin (Artistic Director, English National Ballet).

Aaron S Watkin, said: *"It was an honour to have our Royal Patron, Her Majesty The Queen, visit us today. Our dancers and staff were delighted to meet Her Majesty and it was a joy to be able to share a day in the life of English National Ballet as we prepare for our 75th Season. We look forward to this exciting new chapter for the organisation with Her Majesty's support."*

The Queen watched rehearsals of English National Ballet's new *Nutcracker* and Akram Khan's reimagined version of *Giselle* which the Company will perform later this month. Her Majesty then observed ENBEldersCo, the Company's performance group for over 55's, in rehearsal, before proceeding to the CHANEL Costume Atelier, where costumes for English National Ballet are made. The Queen met atelier staff and observed some of the work being undertaken.

Finally, The Queen joined a reception in the Holloway Production Studio with the Company's staff and dancers.

-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.

