

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. Principal casting is today announced.

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 Drosselmeyer'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.

English National Ballet will also host a series of in-theatre workshops and events, offering a unique insight into the world of ballet. Activities include onstage workshops and classes, a behind-the-scenes tour, a Dynamic Drawing workshop, as well as a relaxed performance.

Alongside stage performances, the Company have partnered with Sky Arts to take audiences behind the curtain with a new series airing weekly from 9 December, *Nutcracker: Backstage with English National Ballet*. Two documentaries follow preparations and rehearsals in the build-up to opening night and audiences can then tune in for the full performance, captured at the London Coliseum.

English National Ballet has also partnered with Raffles London at The OWO to host a display of previous *Nutcracker* costumes designed by the renowned Peter Farmer. They will be showcased throughout the hotel from 15 November - 6 January, accompanied by a *Nutcracker*-inspired hospitality offering in the rooms, suites, restaurants and bars at Raffles London at The OWO.

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

Principal Casting for *Nutcracker*:

(In the roles of: Clara / Drosselmeyer / Nutcracker Prince / Nutcracker Doll / Sugar Plum Fairy / Sugar Plum Cavalier / Ice Queen / Rat King)

Mayflower Theatre, Southampton

Katja Khaniukova* / Ken Saruhashi* / Miguel Angel Maidana* / Rhys Antoni Yeomans* / Sangeun Lee* / Gareth Haw* / Anna Nevzorova* / James Streeter*

28 November 19:30

Ivana Bueno* / Junor Souza* / Francesco Gabriele Frola* / Rhys Antoni Yeomans / Emma Hawes* / Aitor Arrieta* / Anna Nevzorova / James Streeter
29 November 19:30, 30 November 19:30

Katja Khaniukova / Ken Saruhashi / Miguel Angel Maidana / Noam Durand* / Sangeun Lee / Gareth Haw / Precious Adams* / Erik Woolhouse*
30 November 14:00

London Coliseum

Ivana Bueno / Junor Souza / Francesco Gabriele Frola / Rhys Antoni Yeomans / Emma Hawes / Aitor Arrieta / Anna Nevzorova / James Streeter
12 December 19:30, 15 December 14:30, 17 December 18:30, 19 December 19:30, 21 December 19:30

Katja Khaniukova / Ken Saruhashi / Miguel Angel Maidana / Noam Durand / Sangeun Lee / Gareth Haw / Precious Adams / Erik Woolhouse
13 December 19:30, 14 December 19:30, 18 December 19:30

Francesca Velicu* / James Streeter* / Noam Durand* / Miguel Angel Maidana* / Shiori Kase* / Daniel McCormick* / Anna Nevzorova / Junor Souza*
14 December 14:30, 18 December 14:30

Haruhi Otani* / Fabian Reimair* / Rentaro Nakaaki* / Edvinas Jakonis* / Julia Conway* / Erik Woolhouse* / Madison Whiteley* / Junor Souza
19 December 14:30, 21 December 14:30, 23 December 14:30, 24 December 14:00

Francesca Velicu / James Streeter / Noam Durand / Miguel Angel Maidana / Shiori Kase / Daniel McCormick / Anna Nevzorova / Jose María Lorca Menchón*
20 December 14:30

Katja Khaniukova / Ken Saruhashi / Miguel Angel Maidana / Noam Durand / Sangeun Lee / Gareth Haw / Precious Adams / Junor Souza
20 December 19:30

Francesca Velicu / James Streeter / Noam Durand / Miguel Angel Maidana / Shiori Kase / Daniel McCormick / Precious Adams / Jose María Lorca Menchón
23 December 19:30, 27 December 14:30

Georgia Bould* / Vsevolod Maievskiy* / Rhys Antoni Yeomans* / Thiago Pereira* / Fernanda Oliveira* / Francesco Gabriele Frola* / Emily Suzuki* / Giorgio Garrett*
26 December 16:00

Haruhi Otani / Fabian Reimair / Rentaro Nakaaki / Edvinas Jakonis / Julia Conway / Erik Woolhouse / Madison Whiteley / Jose María Lorca Menchón
27 December 19:30

Chloe Keneally* / Henry Dowden* / Edvinas Jakonis* / Rentaro Nakaaki* / Katja Khaniukova* / Ken Saruhashi* / Minju Kang* / Giorgio Garrett
28 December 14:30, 30 December 14:30, 31 December 14:00, 3 January 19:30, 8 January 19:30

Georgia Bould / Vsevolod Maievskiy / Rhys Antoni Yeomans / Thiago Pereira / Fernanda Oliveira / Francesco Gabriele Frola / Emily Suzuki / Jose María Lorca Menchón
28 December 19:30, 30 December 19:30, 3 January 14:30, 5 January 14:30

Carolyn Galvao* / James Streeter / Shunhei Fuchiyama* / Martinho Santos* / Precious Adams* / Vsevolod Maievskiy* / Eireen Evrard* / Nathaniel Ritter-Magot*

2 January 19:30, 4 January 14:30, 9 January 18:30, 11 January 14:30, 12 January 14:00

Swanice Luong* / Fabian Reimair / Thiago Pereira* / Shunhei Fuchiyama* / Ivana Bueno* / Lorenzo Trossello* / Anri Sugiura* / Rentaro Nakaaki*

4 January 19:30, 7 January 19:30, 9 January 13:30, 10 January 19:30, 11 January 19:30

*Debut in the role in this production

Please note casting is subject to change. See www.ballet.org.uk for the latest casting updates.

-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

www.ballet.org.uk/nutcracker

Press night: London Coliseum, Thursday 12 December 2024

For more information on English National Ballet's offstage activity at the London Coliseum, see ballet.org.uk/whats-on/events-and-workshops/

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*

Raffles at The OWO are English National Ballet's 2024 Festive Season Partner: www.raffles.com/london

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.

