

# English National Ballet Mary Skeaping's *Giselle* National Tour

Wednesday 23 October 2024 – Saturday 18 January 2025

[www.ballet.org.uk/mary-skeaping-giselle](http://www.ballet.org.uk/mary-skeaping-giselle)



*English National Ballet dancers in Mary Skeaping's Giselle © Emily Nuttall*

As part of its 75th season, English National Ballet returns to the London Coliseum with performances of Mary Skeaping's *Giselle* from 15-18 January 2025, following a tour to the Liverpool Empire (23 – 26 October) and Manchester's Palace Theatre (30 October – 2 November).

One of the greatest Romantic ballets, *Giselle* features some of ballet's most dramatic scenes and otherworldly images. Choreographer Mary Skeaping spent years researching the original 1841 ballet and her thoughtfully staged version was premiered by London Festival Ballet (now English National Ballet) in 1971.

A much-treasured production in the Company's repertoire to this day, Skeaping's traditional take with its beautiful classical language uses Adolphe Adam's score almost entirely, performed live by English National Ballet Philharmonic.

The 2024-2025 season marks Erina Takahashi's last as Lead Principal at English National Ballet before she steps into a full-time role as Repetiteur with the Company, whilst also exploring other artistic opportunities as a dancer. Erina opens the Manchester and London runs of *Giselle*, reprising the title role. These mark Erina's last performances in this role and her last UK performances as a Lead Principal at English National Ballet.

**Erina Takahashi said:** *"These will be very special performances for me as I say goodbye and thank you to English National Ballet's audiences that have watched me dance over the years. I want to dedicate my last few shows to every person that has helped me so far on my journey - I will be forever grateful for your support, thank you for giving me the chance to do what I love."*

*After over 29 years performing, I'm now excited to embark on my next chapter with the Company as Repetiteur where I'll be able to pass on my knowledge to the next generation of dancers."*

***Giselle* by Mary Skeaping Principal Casting – updated:**  
(*Giselle* / Albrecht / Hilarion / Myrtha / Peasant Pas de Deux)

**Palace Theatre, Manchester:**

**Erina Takahashi / Francesco Gabriele Frola / Henry Dowden / Julia Conway / Ivana Bueno / Lorenzo Trossello\***  
30th October 19:30, 1st November 19:30

**Emma Hawes / Vsevolod Maievskiy / James Streeter / Eireen Evrard\* / Swanice Luong / Shunhei Fuchiyama**  
31st October 19:30

**Emma Hawes / Vsevolod Maievskiy / James Streeter / Jung ah Choi / Swanice Luong / Shunhei Fuchiyama**  
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 / Precious Adams / Chloe Keneally / Noam Durand**  
17th January 14:30

**Sangeun Lee / Gareth Haw / Junor Souza / Anna Nevzorova\* / Francesca Velicu / Shunhei Fuchiyama**  
17th January 19:30

\*Debut

Casting is subject to change. See [www.ballet.org.uk](http://www.ballet.org.uk) for up to date casting.

Alongside performances, English National Ballet will host a series of in-theatre workshops, including a Live Dynamic Drawing workshop for visual artists at the London Coliseum offering a unique insight into the world of ballet. For more information see [ballet.org.uk/whats-on/events-and-workshops/](http://ballet.org.uk/whats-on/events-and-workshops/)

Mary Skeaping's *Giselle* closes English National Ballet's winter season at the London Coliseum, which also includes the world premiere of *Nutcracker* by the Company's Artistic Director Aaron S. Watkin, and Olivier Award-winning choreographer Arielle Smith.

-ENDS-

For further information, interview requests, and images, please contact Inês Carvalho, Senior Press Officer, on [ines.carvalho@ballet.org.uk](mailto:ines.carvalho@ballet.org.uk) or 020 7581 1245

**Listings:**

**English National Ballet**  
***Giselle* by Mary Skeaping**  
[www.ballet.org.uk/production/mary-skeaping-giselle](http://www.ballet.org.uk/production/mary-skeaping-giselle)

Palace Theatre, Manchester  
30 October – 2 November 2024

London Coliseum  
15 – 18 January 2025

Production images are available to download from English National Ballet's media gallery:

[www.ballet.org.uk/press-image-gallery](http://www.ballet.org.uk/press-image-gallery)

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### **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.