

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

PRESS RELEASE

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BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET'S *THE SLEEPING BEAUTY* TO TOUR THE UK IN SPRING 2024



SIR PETER WRIGHT'S CLASSIC STAGING TO TOUR TO SOUTHAMPTON, BIRMINGHAM, SALFORD, SUNDERLAND, PLYMOUTH, BRISTOL AND LONDON

2024 MARKS 40 YEARS OF SIR PETER WRIGHT'S BELOVED PRODUCTION

ALINA COJOCARU TO GUEST STAR IN SELECT PERFORMANCES AT LONDON'S SADLER'S WELLS

TICKETS FOR ALL VENUES NOW ON SALE - BRB.ORG.UK

Following a sell-out success and one of the most talked about theatrical events of 2023 with *Black Sabbath - The Ballet*, **Birmingham Royal Ballet** returns to the beloved classics with a 2024 UK tour of Sir Peter Wright's sumptuous staging of **The Sleeping Beauty** in the production's 40th anniversary year.

The UK tour will visit the Mayflower Theatre, Southampton (8-10 Feb), Birmingham Hippodrome (21 Feb-2 Mar), The Lowry, Salford (7-9 Mar), Sunderland Empire (14-16 Mar), Theatre Royal, Plymouth (20-23 Mar), Bristol Hippodrome (18-20 Apr) and London's Sadler's Wells (24-27 Apr).

The acclaimed Royal Ballet and English National Ballet Principal, **Alina Cojocaru** will return to the London stage for special guest star performances at Sadler's Wells at evening performances on both Thursday 25 April and Saturday 27 April 2023. Throughout her illustrious career, Alina Cojocaru has received acclaim for her performances in classic roles such as Odette/Odile in *Swan Lake*, Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Giselle and, perhaps most famously, Princess Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty* - for which she won the Critics' Circle Dance Award for Outstanding Female Classical Performance in 2017. Alina is a regular

guest artist with the Hamburg Ballet as well as appearing with companies across the globe. In 2020, she presented her own programme "Alina at the Wells" at Sadler's Wells.

The 2024 tour of *The Sleeping Beauty* follows on from the 2023 UK tour of Sir Peter Wright's *Swan Lake* - BRB's most successful spring tour to date, having been seen by over 53,000 people.

Last seen on UK stages over six years ago, *The Sleeping Beauty* continues Birmingham Royal Ballet's legacy of presenting the acclaimed heritage classics and celebrating the beloved work of its founder, Sir Peter Wright. *The Sleeping Beauty* is the fourth of Sir Peter Wright's productions to be presented by the company since autumn 2022, following *Coppélia*, *The Nutcracker* and *Swan Lake*. The acclaimed Royal Ballet Sinfonia performs Tchaikovsky's glorious score live, with designs by Philip Prowse and lighting design by Mark Jonathan.

Sir Peter Wright said: *"I find it hard to believe that this tour marks the 40th Anniversary of The Sleeping Beauty. This has always been the most opulent of ballets, but Philip Prowse's incredible design created a unique fairy tale world (with almost 30 fairy character tutus alone!) that allows dancers to really inhabit some of classical ballet's most famous roles."*

Director of Birmingham Royal Ballet **Carlos Acosta** said *"I am thrilled to be reviving Sir Peter Wright's production of The Sleeping Beauty in the Spring of 2024. The Company is excited to be delighting audiences once more with this definitive version of one of the great classical ballets, welcoming people of all ages to our performances throughout the UK."*

"I am also honoured that the acclaimed Principal Ballerina, Alina Cojocaru, will be joining the Company for selected performances at London's Sadler's Wells, sharing her celebrated interpretation of the role of Princess Aurora."

ENDS

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Listings:

Southampton Mayflower Theatre
8–10 February 2024

Birmingham Hippodrome
21 February–2 March 2024

The Lowry, Salford
7–9 March 2024

Sunderland Empire
14–16 March 2024

Theatre Royal Plymouth
20–23 March 2024

Bristol Hippodrome

18 - 20 April 2024

Sadler's Wells, London

24 - 27 April 2024

Choreography: Peter Wright, Lev Ivanov, Marius Petipa

Music: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Production: Peter Wright

Designs: Philip Prowse

Lighting: Mark Jonathan

Notes to Editors:

Birmingham Royal Ballet

Based at Birmingham Hippodrome, Birmingham Royal Ballet is the United Kingdom's leading touring ballet company performing a range of traditional, classical and heritage ballets as well as ground-breaking new works with the aim of encouraging choreographers of the future.

The Company's Director since January 2020 is the internationally renowned Carlos Acosta.

Birmingham Royal Ballet standardly performs at Birmingham Hippodrome for approximately ten weeks of the year and the remainder of the year tours throughout the United Kingdom and overseas. On average, the Company performs 100 shows a year nationally and internationally.

The Royal Ballet Sinfonia

The Royal Ballet Sinfonia is Birmingham Royal Ballet's permanent orchestra, it is also Britain's busiest ballet orchestra. The Sinfonia also plays frequently for The Royal Ballet and other leading ballet companies, including performances with Paris Opéra Ballet, New York City Ballet, Australian Ballet, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, the Kirov, Norwegian Ballet, Atlanta Ballet, San Francisco Ballet and La Scala Ballet.

Alina Cojocaru

Born in Bucharest, Alina trained in Kiev for seven years before joining the Royal Ballet School in 1997. Upon completion of her training, six months later, she returned to Kiev, to join the company as a principal dancer. A year later she joined the Royal Ballet Company (November 1999) and at the end of the season she was promoted to Soloist. On 17 April 2001 Sir Anthony Dowell promoted Alina to the rank of principal dancer after her performance of Giselle. Alina performed as a Leading Principal Dancer with the English National Ballet from 2013 until 2020. She continues to perform as a guest artist with companies worldwide, and is a regular guest with the Hamburg Ballet. Alina has organized Gala's in Romania and in London (Hospice of Hope) over the last few years. In February 2012 Alina premiered her Alina Cojocaru - Dream Project, in Tokyo, Japan, which she directed and staged, while performing along side friends and colleagues from the Tokyo Ballet, Hamburg Ballet, ENB and Royal Ballet. Alina's second Dream Project took place in July 2014 and 3rd in February 2020. In 2015 Alina presented a charity Gala at the Lincoln Center NY. In 2020 she presented her own programme "Alina at the Wells" at the Sadler's Wells Theatre in London.

Repertory includes:

Odette/Odile in Swan Lake, Juliet in Romeo and Juliet, Giselle, Princess Aurora and Princess Florine in Sleeping Beauty, Julie in Liliom, Marguerite Gautier in Lady of the Camellias, Vera and Natalya in A Month in the Country, Kitri in Don Quixote, Olga and Tatiana in Onegin, Cinderella, The Sugar Plum Fairy and Clara in Nutcracker, Titania in Dream, Titania and Hippolyta in A Midsummer Night's Dream, Ballerina in Etudes, Nikiya in Bayadere, Diamonds in Jewels, Marguerite in Marguerite and Armand, Symphonic Variations, Mary Vetsera in Mayerling, Manon, La Sylphide, In the Night, Les Hermines, Swanilda in Coppelia, Nina in Seagull, Scenes de Ballet, Gong, Masquerade, Polyphonia, Symphony in C, Chloe in Daphnis and Chloe, Lise in Fille Mal Gardée, Student in The Lesson, Duo Concertant, The Leaves Are Fading, Other Dances, Voices of Spring, Beyond Bach, Tombeaux, Ondine, Virtiginous Thrill Of Exaltitude, Fest Polonaise, Stars and Stripes, Raymonda act 3, Flames of Paris, Medora in Le Corsaire, Flower Festival, Napoli act 3, Grand Pas Classique, Tjakovski Pas de Deux. Musorgski Waltz, Dances at a Gathering, Dying Swan, Rushes, Two Footnotes, Chroma, Bird as a Prophet, No Man's Land, Sylvie in In the Middle somewhat Elevated, Spring and Fall, Approximate Sonata, Des Knaben Wunderhorn and Mahler 5th and many more.

Created Roles includes:

Musketeer and Valse (Rubina Alla Davidovna), Swanilda (Anatolyi Shekera's Coppelia), Ad infinites (Vanessa Fenton), There where she loves (Christopher Wheeldon), This House will Burn (Ashley Page), Les Saisons (David Bintley), Two Footnotes, Bird as a Prophet, Rushes (Kim Brandstrup), Engram and Chroma (Wayne McGregor), Les Lutins and La Sylphide (Johan Kobborg), Julie in John Neumeier's Liliom, Laura in John Neumeier's Glass Menagerie, 24 Preludes (Alexei Ratmansky), Solveig in John Neumeier's Peer Gynt, Giselle in Akram Khan's Giselle, Second Breath (Russell Maliphant) and others.

As a Guest Artist:

She appears with the Kirov Ballet, Paris Opera, Bolshoi Ballet, American Ballet Theater, Hamburg Ballet, Royal Danish Ballet, Hungarian National Ballet, Viena State Opera, Zurich Ballet, National Ballet of Portugal, La Scala, Nacional Ballet Of Cuba, Teatro Colon, National Ballet of Romania, South African Ballet Theater, Kremlin Ballet, Sarasota Ballet, Zagreb Ballet, NBS, The Tokyo Ballet, New National Ballet Company, Zurich Ballet Company. Galas with Hamburg Ballet, La Scala Ballet, National Ballet Of China, Ballet Basel, National Ballet of Latvia, Munich Ballet, Dortmund Ballet, National Ballet of Finland, Morphoses Company, The 10/11/12/13 and 14th World Ballet Festival (Tokyo), Fall for Dance Festival 2016 and 2018 as well as galas in South Korea, Portugal, Italy, Sweden, USA and Denmark.

Prizes and awards includes:

Critics' Circle Dance Award (2002 Best female dancer, 2018 outstanding female classical performance Aurora in Sleeping Beauty , 2017 Giselle in Akram Khan)

Dance for You Magazine (2014 Best dancer (Juliet and Giselle / Ch. Neumeier)), Taglioni-European Ballet Award (2014 Best female dancer), German Dance critics award (2012 Dancer of the year), Benois De la Dance (2012 Best female dancer, (Liliom)), "Ballerina of the Decade" Award (Moscow 2010), VIP Romanian music and performing arts Award (2010). The Nijinsky Award (2004 Best female Dancer). Benois De la Dance (2004 Best female dancer, (Giselle)), 1 Internationaler Movimentos Tanz Preis (2004 Best female dancer), Nagoya International Ballet Competition (Gold Medal), Prix De Lausanne (1997 Winner), April 2002 she was given by the president of Romania Ion Iliescu, the medal of Cavalier of Romania (Ordinul national "Pentru Merit" in gradul de cavalier).

Video, TV and live relays include:

Kennedy Center Awards 2012, Swan Lake, Cinderella, Nutcracker, Onegin, Daphnis and Chloe, Sleeping Beauty, Giselle, The South Bank Show, The Dream, Manon, Cinderella, Romeo and Juliet, Mime Matters, Don Quixote and pas de deux in various galas.