

EXCLUSIVE
AUSTRALIAN
SEASON

JUNE 2012
THE CONCOURSE
CHATSWOOD

ENGLISH
NATIONAL
BALLET

MEDIA RELEASE

13 DECEMBER 2011

One of the greatest classical ballet companies of all time

English National Ballet

Exclusive 2012 Australian Season

Friday 8 June – Sunday 17 June

14 performances only

The Concourse, Chatswood

- Apollo – choreography George Balanchine
- Beyond the Ballets Russes - Manon, Don Quixote & Trois Gnessiennes pas de deux
- Suite en Blanc – choreography Serge Lifar

Register now for Priority Booking www.theconcourse.com.au/enb

“The Company to watch” – The Guardian

“The most outstanding Company” – The Stage

The world-renowned English National Ballet will tour to Australia for an exclusive season in Sydney at The Concourse, Chatswood, from Friday 8 June to Sunday 17 June, 2012.

Under the leadership of Artistic Director, Wayne Eagling, this highly respected European company will present a programme ideally suited to young and old in the intimate 500 seat theatre at The Concourse. The English National Ballet was established in the 1950s and has since emerged as one of the foremost touring companies in Europe. This internationally acclaimed classical ballet company tours both nationally and worldwide.

The programme, accompanied by a live orchestra, will open with George Balanchine’s heartstoppingly beautiful Apollo and close with Serge Lifar’s spectacular bravura piece, Suite en Blanc. These two great classics will frame a selection of favourite pas de deux, Manon, Don Quixote & Trois Gnessiennes, featuring the company’s stars.

Suite en Blanc was described by its choreographer, Serge Lifar, as “a real parade of stars”. A plotless display of classical technique, with strict emphasis on the perfection of line, the ballet was created in 1943 to showcase the virtuosity and elegance of the Paris Opera Ballet. With its white costumes against an inky black setting, the ballet remains a stunning showcase of dance, as glittering and exhilarating as its first performance nearly seven decades ago.

*Suite en Blanc - “most supremely elegant of crowd-pleasers” –
The Guardian, Judith Mackrell*

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Beyond the Ballets Russes - Manon, Don Quixote & Trois Gnessiennes pas de deux. English National Ballet celebrates the legacy of the inspirational company The Ballets Russes with three pas de deux inspired by some of the troupe's great works. Ballets Russes productions were collaborations with major choreographers, composers, artists and dancers of the time including Pavlova, Picasso, Debussy, Chanel, Matisse, Nijinsky and Stravinsky.

"The English National Ballet is the British ballet company with the greatest claim to a Ballets Russes heritage" – The Sunday Times

Apollo - A ballet by George Balanchine, himself a dancer with The Ballets Russes, became a neo-classical masterpiece which marked the young Balanchine's first collaboration with Stravinsky. Its innovative and ambitious choreography pushes the boundaries of the traditional classical technique. The story is of Apollo, the god of music visited by three muses; Terpsichore, muse of dance and song; Polyhymnia, muse of mime; and Calliope, the muse of poetry. This is a ballet that shows stunning footwork, clean lines and beautiful tableaux. Pure and simple elegance combined with a refined instrumental force.

Apollo - "dazzling choreography..." - The Financial Times, Clement Crisp

Founded by two British ballet greats Alicia Markova and Anton Dolin, the English National Ballet grew out of a series of gala performances. Today with 67 dancers from 20 different countries, they provide a group of dancers who enrich each repertoire they perform. The original 1950s aspiration for the Company, to take popular ballet to the widest geographical audience at a price they can afford, remains as valid today as when first expressed by the Company's founders.

Recently the subject of the popular BBC reality series "The Agony and the Ecstasy" the English National Ballet is enjoying an international recognition unheard of in classical dance circles. And it is not only the public who are supporters of the English National Ballet. The prestigious company has enjoyed the patronage of HRH Diana, Princess of Wales and currently HRH Andrew, The Duke of York.

The Century Group is proud to present the English National Ballet in their exclusive only Australian appearance from the 8 to the 17 June 2012 at The Concourse, Chatswood.

**Don't miss this unique opportunity to see the English National Ballet
Register Now - www.theconcourse.com.au/enb**

For further media enquiries only –

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