

# ENGLISH YOUTH BALLET

DANCE | PERFORMANCE | EXPERIENCE

## **Swan Lake Performances - Norwich Theatre Royal from Fri 21 – Sat 22 July.**

There will be 3 performances of EYB's acclaimed ballet - Swan Lake. The lavish production will star 8 international principal dancers and showcase the talents of 92 young dancers from Norfolk and Suffolk.

EYB's emotionally charged production of Swan Lake is set in 1895 Imperial Russia and tells of love, rivalry, greed and murder. The action takes place in the Mariinsky Theatre - where the Mariinsky Ballet are preparing for a production of Swan Lake - and the sumptuous Royal Palace of the Tsar. Two unlikely lovers meet Odette, a dancer with the Mariinsky Ballet and Prince Sergei, son to the Tsar. The Tsar must ensure that Prince Sergei does not marry beneath his station. Equally, the tyrannical Baron Von Rothbart would do anything to secure a royal patronage for his ballet company. He would even manipulate his own daughter – Odile – to compete for the affections of the Prince.

Tickets can be bought at the [Box Office on 01603 630 0000](http://www.norwichtheatre.org) or at [www.norwichtheatre.org](http://www.norwichtheatre.org)

### **The Audition**

The cast were selected in big audition back in March. There were over 180 young hopeful dancers at the audition. The dancers participated in a full ballet class at Hewett Academy. It was very exciting – as successful auditionees were informed on the day of the audition.

### **The Rehearsals**

There are 92 young dancers from across Norfolk and Suffolk in the production. The cast will have rehearsed for 60 hours over 10 days of rehearsals at weekends. The rehearsals take place at Sewell Park Academy. At rehearsals, the dancers experience the working life of a professional dancer. EYB take over 3 large rehearsal spaces in the school that are used simultaneously. Rehearsals always start with 3 company classes for the dancers to warm-up. The dancers need to keep an eye on the complex rehearsal timetable throughout the day. Each rehearsal day finishes with the whole company coming together to put together and show everything they have learnt that day.

### **Quote from Janet Lewis OBE (EYB Director)**

“The cast have shown great enthusiasm and excitement in their Swan Lake rehearsals. The children are obviously so pleased to be back dancing again and taking part in a ballet that they love. Since the past year of Lockdowns with the many restrictions, they are displaying a sense of freedom that is boosting their self-confidence and wellbeing. The cast are working hard not only on their ballet technique but on their performance quality that expresses the part they are dancing. The incentive is to be back performing again in the theatre.”

### **Award-winning English Youth Ballet**

EYB previously won The Stage Award for special achievement in regional theatre. The opportunity to watch EYB is a unique experience. Sell-out audiences are treated to beautiful international principal artists sharing the stage with the top up-and-coming young talent from the local area. EYB's large cast ensures the ballet is performed with the scale and grandeur which was originally intended. EYB principal dancers are of the highest calibre and have joined EYB from companies such as English National Ballet, Northern Ballet and K-Ballet. The young dancers are some of the top talents from the local area. There are now ex-EYB young performers in some of the world's best companies – including the Royal Ballet.