

# EVOLVING VISIONS

## National Youth Ballet Annual Showcase Performances

Crescent Theatre, Birmingham 21 & 22 August

Sadler's Wells, London 8 September

**3rd June 2024:** Tickets are now on sale for National Youth Ballet's *Evolving Visions*, a series of performances by its 2024 [Residential Performance Company](#), formed each year with promising young dancers aged 9-19 from all over the country.

The culmination of their creativity and collaboration in NYB programmes during the year is these public performances, which give them the invaluable opportunity to showcase their achievements and talent, as well as experience the thrill of putting on a show in two of the UK's most prestigious metropolitan theatres.

The repertoire for *Evolving Visions* features revivals and new works, including premieres of dance works by young choreographers in NYB's [Beyond Ballet](#)<sup>®</sup> programme, an unparalleled initiative that supports emerging creative artists from all areas of the theatre industry. As part of the Sadler's Wells programme NYB's [All In!](#) project, which brings together young dancers with and without disabilities, is given a spotlight for their highly successful studio creation inspired by *Romeo and Juliet*. Of the three shows in Birmingham, a relaxed matinee showcases NYB's commitment to making ballet accessible to all. A relaxed performance is where the ambiance of the auditorium and theatre 'rules' are relaxed, ideal for people with learning disabilities or autism.

On announcing the Residential Performance Company's performances, Artistic Director Louise Bennett said: *"I am delighted to present National Youth Ballet's 2024 public performance season, titled 'Evolving Visions', celebrating innovation, progress and learning.*

*"NYB's fantastic Junior and Senior Companies, selected through auditions across the whole country, will perform new works and revive NYB repertoire spanning a variety of dance and music languages and showcasing their dynamism and range as young artists."*

Building on ideas researched in 2023, *Evolving Visions* will showcase the work of an inspirational creative team. **Miguel Altunaga**'s 'BLANK' imagines the sudden absence of the choreographer, **Richard Bermange**'s 'Ephemeral Blueprint' takes us on a journey through diverse forms of architecture, and **Neus Gil Cortes** explores how we may learn to confront our inhibitions in 'Out Loud'.

**Daniel Davidson** takes us deep into the sea and into universal feelings of loss in '*Open Water (Just What You Wanted)*', and for NYB's Junior Company, **Tierney Lawlor's** '*Learning The Ropes*' tells a heartwarming story of support, compassion, kindness and fun.

Two of NYB's Beyond Ballet® choreographers will present new work, reflecting NYB's ongoing commitment to supporting early-career artists. **Amy Groves'** '*Ready And...*' takes us through some unexpected twists and turns in the ballet studio, and **Rosie Mackley's** '*What You've (Already) Got*' focuses on sustainability through the ages and into the future.

The company will also perform a revival of Artistic Director **Louise Bennett's** choreography, '*Ada*', made for NYB in 2018. The piece celebrates the life and work of mathematician Ada Lovelace and was warmly reviewed when it first premiered\*.

The performance of *Evolving Visions* at Sadler's Wells will also feature the NYB All In! Company, featuring dancers with and without disabilities from both National Youth Ballet and Parable Dance. They will perform a short inclusive work inspired by '*Romeo and Juliet*' choreographed by NYB Beyond Ballet® choreographers **Ross Black** and **Hannah George**.

*Evolving Visions* captures NYB's mission to bring young people together through creative, joyful and inclusive ballet activities that nurture confidence, skills and positive values. National Youth Ballet's vision is to empower young artists to thrive, shaping the future of ballet and the world around them.

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

Crescent Theatre

21 and 22 August 2024

Tickets from £16.50

[Tickets available here](#)

Sadler's Wells

8 September 2024

Tickets from £15

[Tickets available here](#)

Choreographers:

### **Miguel Altunaga**

Born in Havana, Cuba, Miguel trained at the National School of Art in Havana. After six years with the Cuban National Contemporary Dance Company where he performed as a principal dancer, Altunaga moved to the UK and joined Rambert in 2007. <https://miguelaltunaga.com/>

### **Richard Bermange**

Richard is a London based choreographer and director. He has had work commissioned both in the UK and internationally. Notably working on series 5 of The Crown, creating a production of 'Swan Lake' for The National Ballet of Ireland, 'La Belle Époque' for Ballet Central, 'Silk: The Eternal Road', an original musical production in Beijing, and '...Of What's to Come' for English National Ballet's 70th Anniversary Gala. <https://richardbermange.com/>

### **Neus Gil Cortes**

Neus Gil Cortes is a Spanish choreographer and dramaturg based in UK. With more than fifteen years of experience as a dance artist, Neus has danced in companies such as Hofesh Shechter Company, National Dance Company Wales and Dance Works Rotterdam, amongst others. She is currently the Artistic Director of Nua Dance Company.

<https://www.nuadance.com/>

### **Daniel Davidson**

Daniel was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and trained at The Dance School of Scotland and Millennium Performing Arts. He joined Scottish Ballet in 2005 where he performed works by renowned choreographers such as Richard Alston, George Balanchine, Matthew Bourne, Trisha Brown, Christopher Bruce, Jorma Elo, William Forsythe, Christopher Hampson, Kenneth MacMillan, Hans van Manen, Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, Ashley Page, Krzysztof Pastor, Stephen Petronio & Twyla Tharp amongst others. He recently joined the artistic team of Jean Paul Gaultier's Fashion Freak Show as Assistant Choreographer to Marion Motin and is currently studying an MA in Choreography at Central School of Ballet. <https://www.danieldavidson.co/>

### **Tierney Lawlor**

Tierney started dancing from a very young age, studying ballet primarily and attending her mums school, Lawlor School of Dance. At the age of 16, she joined CAT at The Place and after two years of training there, she was accepted onto the degree course at Rambert School. During her time at school, Tierney choreographed and performed in many student pieces and worked with choreographers Monique Jonas, Julie Cunningham and Connor Scott. She was also the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama student governor during her final year.

Since graduating, Tierney has been teaching ballet and contemporary alongside studying for the Royal Ballet School Diploma of Dance Teaching. She has also worked closely with National

Youth Ballet, directing their Dancers Development Program in August 2022 and as a Beyond Ballet young artist. <https://theplace.org.uk/profile/tierney-lawlor>

## **Louise Bennett**

After dancing with the Norwegian National Ballet, the Royal Swedish Ballet and English National Ballet, Louise became an international guest teacher, rehearsal director and choreographer. She has taught ballet classes for companies including Ballett Zürich, The Royal Ballet, Matthew Bourne's New Adventures, Ballett Basel, Company Wayne McGregor, Ballet Black and Rambert, and at educational institutions including Trinity Laban, London Studio Centre, Balettakademien Stockholm and Zürich University of the Arts.

She spent two years working as a Ballet Master at Ballett am Rhein in Düsseldorf, training and rehearsing the dancers and working on creations/repertoire by choreographers including Demis Volpi, Andrey Kaydanovskiy, Hélène Blackburn, Sharon Eyal and Aszure Barton. In 2018 she worked as a personal coach for Francesca Hayward during the filming of the movie Cats, as well as teaching early morning ballet classes on set.

As a choreographer, Louise has created work for companies and schools including Ballet Central, Outside Edge Theatre Company, The Royal Ballet School, Tivoli Ballet and Encore Dance Company. She made three ballets for National Youth Ballet: A Frosty Fable (2017), Ada (2018) and Flora (2019), before taking on the role of Artistic Director of the Performance Company in 2022. <https://www.louisebennett.info/>

*\* "Neo-classical in outlook, the choreography is busy but well-structured as it connects mathematics and art through some impressive patterning. Young choreographers often struggle to handle a large ensemble but Bennett does so most adeptly, small groups emerging from and rejoining the crowd with ease. With not much place to hide mistakes, the dancing needed to be clean and together and was. I liked Tessa Balls' clean, simple costumes too. I wanted more!" David Mead, Seeing Dance 1 September 2018*