

# THE BEAUTY OF BRITISH BALLET: *Enchanting a Nation*

Ballet is not only one of the most sophisticated forms of art but it also tells magical and beautiful stories, captivating audiences year after year, says *NATALIE BOLLU*

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FOR MORE THAN 60 YEARS, the English National Ballet has been one of the world's greatest dance companies. Founded by the famous dance couple Alicia Markova and Anton Dolin in 1950, the British public has long enjoyed the magic which each show brings. Timeless classics include the legendary *Swan Lake* and *The Nutcracker*, which are performed in front of audiences every year. Both shows feature wonderful choreography by the likes of Kenneth MacMillan along with the world's best-loved classical music.

Lois Greenfield has been photographing ballet dancers for 25 years, capturing the purity and exhilaration of the movement of each performer. Her inspiration behind "shooting the still movement of the ballerinas" lies in the photographer's ability to

seemingly stop time and capture the beautiful pose which is seen only fleetingly by the eye. Award-winning dancer Tamara Rojo, who has appeared in Lois Greenfield's photographs, continued her outstanding career from 1997 with the English National Ballet and there she then became a lead dancer in *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker* and *Coppelia*. Tamara was named the Dance Revelation of the Year in 2007 and has now been appointed as director and principal dancer of the English National Ballet. ■

*English National Ballet's The Sleeping Beauty, in London until 19 January 2013; ENB's The Nutcracker, until 5 January 2013*  
For ticket information and prices please visit [www.ballet.org.uk](http://www.ballet.org.uk)

