



ROYAL
BALLET

12 AUGUST 2015

Principal Dancer Rupert Pennefather to leave The Royal Ballet

Principal dancer, **Rupert Pennefather**, has announced his decision to leave The Royal Ballet after 16 years. During his time with the Company he has danced all of the major classical repertory including Beliaev in *A Month in the Country*, Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, Des Grieux in *Manon*, Prince Siegfried in *Swan Lake* and Count Albrecht in *Giselle*. He also danced many contemporary roles including **Christopher Wheeldon's** *DGV: Danse à grande vitesse* and **Wayne McGregor's** *Chroma* as well as creating roles in **Alexei Ratmansky's** *24 Preludes* and **Alastair Marriott's** *Sensorium*.

Rupert Pennefather said 'I am so grateful for my time with The Royal Ballet. I will always treasure having danced with so many wonderful partners in such incredible productions. I feel it's time to see what other opportunities the future holds.'

Kevin O'Hare, Director of The Royal Ballet, comments 'Rupert has been a wonderful dancer with The Royal Ballet, particularly excelling in the dramatic works of Frederick Ashton and Kenneth MacMillan and the fine danseur noble roles of the 19th century classics. We wish him every future success.'

Replacement casting for Rupert's scheduled performances in the 2015/16 season will be announced shortly.

- Ends -

Notes to Editors

Rupert Pennefather was born in Maidenhead and joined The Royal Ballet School as a Junior Associate, training at Tring Park School and privately with Julie Rose. He subsequently trained at The Royal Ballet Upper School and joined The Royal Ballet in 1999. He was promoted to Principal by Monica Mason, then Director of The Royal Ballet, in 2008 following his debut performance as Romeo.

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