

The Wallis Presents the American Premiere of *Matthew Bourne's Early Adventures* For an Exclusive U.S. Engagement

Multi-Olivier Award-winning choreographer presents three early foundational works, including his first ever Olivier-nominated work *Town and Country*, on May 17 – 21, 2017

(Beverly Hills, CA April 19) The nascent wit and wondrous early flair of celebrated British choreographer and multi-award winner Matthew Bourne will be on full display at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts when ***Matthew Bourne's Early Adventures*** makes its debut in the dance company's only U.S. appearance this spring. Three works comprise ***Matthew Bourne's Early Adventures***—*Watch with Mother*, *Town and Country* and *The Infernal Gallop*—all from the beginning of the choreographer's career. Bourne, who just this month garnered two Olivier Awards for *The Red Shoes*, making him a seven-time Olivier Award winner, received his first Olivier nomination for *Town and Country* in 1992. Bourne is also the creator of the world's longest running ballet production, *Swan Lake*, and the only British director to have won the Tony Award for both Best Choreographer and Best Director of a Musical. Performances for ***Matthew Bourne's Early Adventures*** are Wednesday, May 17 through Saturday, May 20 at 8pm, with matinees at 2pm on Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21.

"Matthew is among the most inventive and dynamic working internationally in dance today," said the organization's Artistic Director Paul Crewes. "I couldn't be more delighted to welcome him to The Wallis for this premiere, and to present the only U.S. engagement of this work. These pieces were created at the beginning of Matthew's career as a choreographer, but still look as fresh today as they did then."

Single tickets are now available for \$39 – \$99. Dance series subscriptions are available for purchase starting at \$117. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit TheWallis.org/Bourne, call 310.746.4000, or stop by in person at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Services located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90210. Ticket prices subject to change.

About *Matthew Bourne's Early Adventures* Program:

As part of the company's 30th Anniversary celebration, ***Matthew Bourne's Early Adventures*** returns to his roots providing audiences the singular opportunity to experience the foundational work that launched his career and saw the birth of the specific style, wit and sheer entertainment that have become hallmarks for his company [New Adventures](http://NewAdventures).

Matthew Bourne's Early Adventures program includes:

- **Watch with Mother – *Seen but not heard?*** (1991): Conkers, Hopscotch, Doctors & Nurses; Children's games can be all-consuming, competitive and sometimes cruel. Based on Joyce Grenfell's famous "Nursery School" sketches ("George ... Don't do that") and set to Percy Grainger's own piano compositions and arrangements of Bach and Faure, this piece has not been seen for over 25 years.
- **Town and Country – *Lie back and think of England*** (1991): Moving and hilarious, this heartfelt pastiche explores notions of national character from a bygone era through the evocative music of Edward Elgar, Noël Coward and Percy Grainger, amongst others.
- **The Infernal Galop – *A French dance with English subtitles*** (1989): This is France as seen by the uptight English imagination, with all the traditional clichés joyously paraded for our entertainment and climaxing in Offenbach's inevitable *Can-Can!*

Matthew Bourne's Early Adventures has gained critical acclaim during its international tour:

***** (five stars) 'Matthew Bourne's Early Adventures shows all his trademark wit, originality and eye for detail. Unmissable' – *Observer*

**** (four stars) 'Matthew Bourne's early works are a witty delight' – *Sunday Times*

**** (four stars) 'An utterly delightful retrospective of Bourne's witty and whimsical early works' – *The Times*

**** (four stars) 'Bourne at his saucy, satirical best' – *The Times*

**** (four stars) 'Witty and unexpectedly touching' – *The Independent*

**** (four stars) 'Plenty of charm and mischief' – *The Daily Telegraph*

This production is supported using public funds through Arts Council England. Running time: 2 hours and 10 minutes including two 15-minute intermissions.

About Matthew Bourne

Sir Matthew Bourne OBE is widely hailed as the UK's most popular and successful choreographer and director.

Matthew is the creator of the world's longest running ballet production, a seven-time Olivier Award winner, and the only British director to have won the Tony Award for both Best Choreographer and Best Director of a Musical. He has been recognized by over 40 international awards. He is also the proud recipient of the Evening Standard Award, South Bank Show Award, Time Out Special Award, Drama Desk Award, six Los Angeles Drama Critic Awards and the Astaire Award for Dance on Broadway. In 2007 he received a Special Theatre Managers Association Award for services to dance touring and audience development and was awarded the OBE for Services to Dance in 2001.

Matthew started his dance training at the comparatively late age of 22. He danced professionally for 14 years creating many roles in his own work. As Artistic Director of his first company, Adventures in Motion Pictures (1987-2002) Matthew created many award winning works. Further hit productions were created when New Adventures was launched in 2002, becoming the UK's busiest and most successful dance company.

Matthew is also a West End and Broadway choreographer; his relationship with producer, Cameron Mackintosh has resulted in the globally successful musicals *Mary Poppins*, *My Fair Lady* and *Oliver!*

His film work includes television productions of his stage work including being the subject of a South Bank Show in 1997, a BBC Imagine documentary in 2012 and a Channel 4 documentary, "Bourne to Dance," which was broadcast on Christmas Day 2001. In 2015 his recent revival of *The Car Man* was broadcast on SKY TV and screened in cinemas worldwide throughout 2016.

In addition to being a prolific choreographer, Matthew supports the wider dance industry and its future. He is proud to be an Associate Artist and Resident Company at Sadler's Wells where New Adventures have played record-breaking Christmas seasons since 2002. In 2008 he established Re:Bourne to increase opportunities to inspire young people with a passion for dance.

In 1997 Matthew was made an Honorary Fellow of his former college, The Laban Centre, becoming a Companion of Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in 2012. He has six Honorary Doctorates from The Open University, and the De Montfort, Plymouth, Kingston and Roehampton Universities, as well as the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. He is also a Companion of Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts and a proud patron of many organisations including The Arts Educational School, Laine Theatre Arts, CREATE and Shoreditch Youth Dance.

In 2014 Matthew Bourne was awarded the De Valois Award for Outstanding Achievement at the National Dance Awards. In 2015 he became the first dance figure to be given The Stage Award for Outstanding Contribution to British Theatre presented by the UK Theatre Awards. He was knighted in the Queen's New Year Honours 2016 for services to dance and the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award in recognition of his outstanding services to ballet.

In 2016, New Adventures presented the World Premiere of Matthew Bourne's latest work, *The Red Shoes*. It has since been performed to sell out audiences across the UK and won two Olivier Awards in 2017 for Best Entertainment and Matthew Bourne for Best Theatre Choreographer.

For more information about The Wallis, please visit: TheWallis.org.

For downloadable photos, please visit TheWallis.org/Press.

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TICKET INFORMATION:

What: *Matthew Bourne's Early Adventures*
Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
Bram Goldsmith Theater
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA, 90210

When: May 17 – 21, 2017
Performance Schedule: Wed – Fri at 8pm; Sat at 2pm & 8pm; Sun at 2pm

Tickets: Single tickets: \$39 – \$99 (prices subject to change)
Online – TheWallis.org
By Phone – 310.746.4000
Box Office – Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Ticket Service
9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills, CA, 90210

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