

NEW/ADVENTURES RE;BOURNE



**SPOTLIGHT – Cordelia Braithwaite, Vicky Page in *The Red Shoes*
Tues 25 April 2017**

Tell us a bit about your role in Matthew Bourne's production of *The Red Shoes*:

I play two roles in *The Red Shoes*, Nadia, who is a dancer in *The Ballet Lermontov*, and Vicky Page.

What is your favourite moment in *The Red Shoes* for your character?

My favourite part of the show for Vicky is the nightmare scene, when she returns to *The Ballet Lermontov* and the audience gets another glimpse of her unstable state of mind. The scene is incredibly dramatic with the revolving curtain and distorted references to previous moments. I really

respond to the beautiful music which builds up to the final tragedy. I'm always excited to do this scene as I use it to draw the audience in for the final moment.

What has inspired how you created and play your character?

Creating a character is very personal to me, I use the music and the story to inspire me.

If you've been in a New Adventures show other than *The Red Shoes*, how does this new work differ in terms of what may have been asked from you thematically?

All the roles I've played so far in Matthew's shows have been very different. In *Swan Lake* I was a flirty Italian Princess which was so much fun to play, dancing on tables and teasing the men! Aurora, in *Sleeping Beauty*, another princess who is 21 and carefree until events take a darker turn. Then there was Frankie, a car mechanic, tomboy, who hangs out with the guys in *The Car Man*. And I had the privilege of playing Lana, an older, seductive, yet vulnerable and dangerous woman. In contrast, *The Girlfriend* in *Swan Lake* was a ditzzy blonde, way out of her league and unfortunately pays the ultimate price. Vicky Page is the least sane character that I have played, and the first time having to play someone who essentially goes mad, which is quite a challenge.

These characters have really allowed me to explore and delve deep into making them become a real person on stage. I feel that there is truth from my own life put into each and every one of them.

If your role is played by someone else also how has this informed how you develop/play the character yourself?

It's great sharing roles because we support each other. Every now and then I watch the show from the auditorium to get an audience perspective, and to see my partner's interpretation. We can always learn from each other and we work as a team, continually refining our characters and their relationships.

How do you reflect on your performance after the show other than receiving notes from other company members/resident director etc.

After the show, it takes a long time to wind down, my brain is racing, I'm self-noting and everything is on replay. I'm hyper critical about my performance and never let myself off the hook. My soul aim, as a performer, is to make sure the audience has become completely lost in a magical experience.

You can follow Cordelia on Twitter and Instagram: @cordeliabraith1 for a further insight into her world.