

# NEW/ADVENTURES RE;BOURNE



Daisy as Joyce (the auditionee)

## SPOTLIGHT – Daisy May Kemp in *The Red Shoes* Mon 8 May 2017

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

I play a multitude of roles within the show. First up is Lady Neston - Vicky Page's aunt, who holds an after-show soirée for distinguished guests of the arts, with high hopes of Boris Lermontov attending. The next role is Joyce, an auditionee with Vicky who sadly, despite her best efforts, does not get the job. Then there's Edith Head, a real-life character who dressed many of Hollywood's leading ladies during the 1940s-60s. I also play one of the showgirls in the music hall section of Act Two, whose movements came from the icon Bettie Page.

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

I enjoy moments of all the characters, playing Joyce is a thrill for me from beginning to end - I love her! However, if I were to pick one it would be Edith in the Lermontov mansion scene (pictured below) when they're discussing *The Red Shoes* ballet. I enjoy the journey the whole team makes, from struggling with ideas, to it all coming together - something I can relate to and feels very real in the process of creating a show.



Daisy as Edith with Vicky Page (Ashley Shaw), Sergei Ratov (Dominic Lamb) and Grischa Ljubov (Glenn Graham)  
Photo: Johan Persson

**What has inspired how you created and play your character?**

For Lady Neston, I took inspiration from the film *Rebecca* and the role of Mrs Van Hopper. Joyce is based on Joyce Grenfell, a wonderful British comedian of the time, I watched many of her sketches including 'George, don't do that' and her appearance in the film *St Trinian's*. Edith Head was a fascinating person to research, she achieved an amazing amount during her career receiving eight academy awards out of a total of 35 nominations. She worked closely with Hitchcock, dressing stars such as Grace Kelly and Audrey Hepburn and often was instructed in assisting the stars with their wardrobes off stage as well as on.

**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?**

In terms of theme, *The Red Shoes* is obviously very close to home with it being centred around a ballet company. I think the struggle that Vicky experiences in the story is a very real one and is something we can all relate to in differing degrees. For me, this show requires me to see many sides of the same story, first as Vicky's aunt, then

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her audition partner and then her confidant and dresser. Switching among these within the first 10 minutes of the show was a first for me and something that pushed me in new ways.

I was also fortunate enough to be part of the creative team as Dance Captain on this show which was an amazing experience. Working closely with the rest of the team and seeing ideas materialise was a real joy and I learnt an enormous amount.

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

Watching your peers is a great way to learn. Different people bring out different sides of the same character and it can be really exciting bouncing ideas off each other. Seeing how the show develops and likewise how individuals develop really helps in keeping the shows alive. Having a dialogue between each other is really important too, it helps to keep things fresh, as one night something new may happen which is great to hold on to and talk about.

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

Acknowledging when it's been a good show or now I think is important and to recognise why. Maybe certain lifts didn't go right or the audience didn't react as much. I think about it, rehearse moments if necessary and take those improvements in to the next show. I always think a lot about moments of the show that I feel need to be improved beforehand, then when I'm up there they don't creep up on me and I don't miss the opportunity to set them right. We are lucky in theatre and especially in New Adventures that we get the chance to go out night after night to tell the same story, but for the majority of the audience they only have that one chance to take it all in, so my motto is, make it count!



***Backstage at Newcastle Theatre Royal – the calm before the storm! Can you spot the showgirl's tails?***

**You can follow Daisy on Twitter (@DaisyMayKemp) for a further insight into her world.**