

# NEW/ADVENTURES RE;BOURNE



## **SPOTLIGHT – Lucy Hare, Double Bass Player, The Red Shoes Mon 23 January 2017**

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

I play the double bass and am the only bass in the orchestra of 16 people. In *Swan Lake* and *Nutcracker!* there are two basses, but this is a smaller band. It's really exciting rehearsing a new show, especially one with brand new music like *The Red Shoes*, or even *Edward Scissorhands*. Terry Davies (New Adventures Associate Artist and *The Red Shoes* Orchestrator) writes such great parts for all of us. There are two pianos in the pit for *The Red Shoes*, an upright and a grand representing the two pianos on stage. There are virtuosic parts for our two pianists.

### ***Have there been any highlights in your career so far, if so what are they?***

I am lucky enough to have performed at some wonderful concerts and events. These include several *Last Night of the Proms* and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee concert outside

Buckingham Palace, with Stevie Wonder, Grace Jones and Paul McCartney. I have played opera in Barbados, contemporary music in Tromsø under the northern lights, and pop music on a frozen lake in St Moritz, all things that no other job would involve. I have also played in my own Argentinean tango quintet, and with our Irish and Baroque sextet we go into stately homes and high security prisons. You can also hear me on the theme music for *Black Adder* and *Red Dwarf*. It has been such a varied career - although there have also been many unglamorous hours spent driving up the M1 to distant gigs.

### ***What advice would you give to someone looking to do something like your role in the show? How did you get to where you are today?***

I'm lucky, I have a full and busy career playing the bass in all sorts of performances and places. If you're someone starting out now I would say get your playing skills as high as you can, then always do a good job, be easy to work with and cheerful and positive in your approach. Just keep moving in the direction you want to go. Some people get there in impressive jumps, but others, like me, just do it step by step. You get to the same place in the end!

### ***What is your favourite point in The Red Shoes?***

Well, this is a funny question because I have done about 70 performances so far, but haven't been able to see the show. My favourite number in the pit is the Sand Dance. It's such fun to play and so well written. We're all smiling as we play it each night.

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## ***Are there any fun facts or figures that you can share with us regarding your role in the show:***

I have worked with New Adventures since the first time Matthew employed live musicians, so I was there at the start of *Nutcracker!*, *Swan Lake* and all the other shows since. It's been an amazing journey and I'm so proud to have been part of it - the live shows and the recordings.

There are a few stories that give our unique orchestra pit's-eye view.

- Sadler's Wells has a very deep pit so we can't see any of the show at all, but in the Piccadilly Theatre and the Old Vic we used to be able to see what was going on onstage. It was wonderful to watch the shows gradually settle and grow. I was completely bewitched by *Cinderella* which I think is a beautiful and subtle setting, and gets richer the more you watch it.
- We also get a good view of the front row of the audience and we watch them sink under the spell of whatever ballet they are watching. It's very moving to see them at the end of the shows, totally entranced, lost in the story.
- In Sadler's Wells the audience seating is raked so we often get smarties, Maltesers and other round objects rolling forwards into the pit covered in fluff. We also sometimes get earrings or bits of costumes flying from the stage. The beach ball came over a few nights ago. There is a net to catch bigger items, but the small ones clatter down. We gather them up and take them back to the costume department so they can sew them back on, or return them to their owner.
- The sound in the pit can sometimes be very loud as we play in a contained space. What you can't see is that there are perspex screens round the loudest instruments - in *The Red Shoes* the two pianos and the percussion. Those of us close to Rob, our percussionist, still have to wear our earplugs when he blows the whistle in act 2!
- On the opening night of *The Red Shoes* all the ladies in the band wore red shoes (see picture below)! Ben Pope, one of our two conductors sometimes wear some very stylish red shoes too - which you might see at the end when he takes his bow!

