

## **DANCER OF THE WEEK – Adam Maskell** *Wed 23 March*

Matthew Bourne's *Sleeping Beauty* returns to London this week for one last time on the tour, casting its spell on the New Wimbledon Theatre. Just around the corner, in Earlsfield, is where cast member Adam Maskell, who is playing Carabosse/Caradoc this week, grew up. Nick Kyprianou, our Audience Engagement Coordinator spoke to Adam about the many different roles he has played with the Company.



Adam is excited to perform to a home crowd and has lots of family and friends coming along to see him! A New Adventures regular since *Play Without Words* in 2009, Adam is also featured in the 2013 film recording of *Sleeping Beauty*, which is available to buy online.

### ***When did you start taking dance classes?***

I started when I was about 12. I liked musicals so went to a dance class at Laine Theatre Arts after school. I actually wasn't that keen to begin with, as I wasn't confident, but Mum had paid for 10 lessons so I had to do them. I slowly found myself enjoying it and doing more and more and more! Eventually I'd be there everyday after school from 4pm-9pm.

### ***Where did your formal training take place?***

Laine Theatre Arts – where I went full-time from the age of 16 to 19.

### ***What drew you to the Company?***

I started with the Company in 2009 with *Dorian Gray*. I had heard about the audition for the show and a friend told me I should go. I did and loved it. I had a good feeling about the audition and Matt had contacted me the same day, saying that he wanted me to come back and workshop a few things in the show. I was then offered the role of Doppelganger and Adrian and I loved both roles.

### ***Do you have any hobbies/interests outside of dance?***

Playing/watching any sport. Golf, football, tennis and basketball are my main sports but I will pretty much watch anything! I love competition! I also run my own agency for creatives and actors/dancers – it's growing steadily and when I finish dancing it'll be my full-time job. I love helping other creative people find the right route for them within the industry. Talent really excites me.

### ***What's it like being on tour and in a different place every week?***

Fine! I'm used to it as have done it for 7 years. Sometimes grinding through the UK can be tough but we are lucky and get perks like travelling to Asia and America as well.

### ***Do you have a favourite venue to perform at?***

Wimbledon... it's home! (Los Angeles and New York are pretty cool too though!)

### **In many of Matthew Bourne's shows the dancers have to learn more than one role, performing several tracks in one show and *Sleeping Beauty* is no exception. How do you remember more than one role?**

Well currently I only play the one role. Having done two roles before though it isn't that tough. Dancers' brains are trained to be able to remember steps! People remember at different speeds but it's the guys that have 3, 4 or even 5 roles that could potentially have more stress about multiple roles.

# NEW/ADVENTURES RE;BOURNE

***What's your favourite role that you have performed as so far, in the Company, and is there another New Adventures production that you would love to take part in?***

My favourite role – I don't have one. I have been lucky and played a lot of different roles, including Angel in *Cinderella*, Tony in *Play Without Words* and Knickerbocker Glory in *Nutcracker*. All of them are really cool roles in different ways, so I couldn't pick. *Cinderella* is a great show though, it has a great setting, plot and the Prokofiev score is incredible. That has to be my favourite show as a whole.

If I could, I would want to be in *Late Flowering Lust*, which Matt choreographed for BBC TV in 1993. It was a dance piece inspired by the poetry of John Betjeman, voiced by Nigel Hawthorne. It was set in a country house and the dancers were cool and had great humour, Nigel Hawthorne is also an actor I really love. I never got to see him live but have looked at a lot of his work as I have got older. It would have been great to work with him.

**You are able to follow Adam on Twitter (@maskell\_adam) and Instagram (@adam\_maskell) for a further insight into his world!**