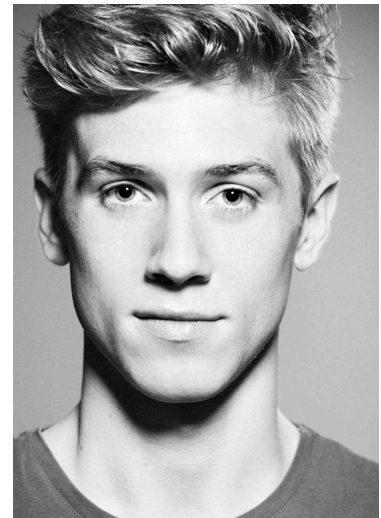


## **DANCER OF THE WEEK – Andrew Monaghan** *Fri 12 August*

**Matthew Bourne's *Sleeping Beauty* opens in Shanghai, China at the Culture Square on Tuesday 16 August and will be there until the end of the month. Before flying to Shanghai Nick Kyprianou, our Audience Engagement Coordinator got the chance to speak to Andrew.**

Andrew has now been with the Company for three years and has had an amazing start to his career with New Adventures already, first seen in *Swan Lake* as part of the ensemble and *The Prince*. Andrew is currently performing as Tantrum and Archie in *Sleeping Beauty* and has also played Leo at previous performances.

You can also catch Andrew in cinemas worldwide in the 2015 film recording of *The Car Man*. Later this year, Andrew will also be playing the role of Julian Craster, who leading lady Victoria Page falls in love with, in the World Premiere of Matthew's production of *The Red Shoes*, inspired by the Powell and Pressburger film.



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

I first started dancing when I was around three years old. My sister used to dance and I would go with my parents to pick her up and one day wanted to join in and loved it. 22 years later I'm enjoying it more than ever.

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

I trained at Central School of Ballet, graduating in 2012.

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

Like a lot of guys, *Swan Lake* was and continues to be a huge inspiration and reason why I pursued dance as a career. I was around seven and my Dad took me to see it at the Piccadilly Theatre in the late 90s. Ever since then it became the one show that I knew I wanted to do - I even went to the barbers and tried to convince them to cut my fringe into a beak shape! Luckily they said no, but I did get to shave my head many years later, as my first job with the Company was *Swan Lake* in 2013.

It's the narrative side of Matt's work that I really love and it was a huge draw to want to work with the Company. For me it's all about the story and how much depth you can give a character, and the content that we get to work with is so rich it gives you a lot of scope to develop something that feels real.

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

I really love to travel, and we're very fortunate that we get to see so much of the world with what we do. We hiked up a mountain a few weeks ago in Bukhansan National Park, just outside Seoul, and it was such an incredible experience.

I also play the piano, it used to be classical stuff but now I love a good musical theatre score – definitely my guilty pleasure. I'm also very fond of my food; some of my friends in the Company know if I get grumpy it's normally always because I'm hungry.

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

It's great touring and moving around, but I think because of our residencies at Sadler's Wells for eight weeks at Christmas we get the best of both worlds – the time at home and then time on the road. We get to visit some brilliant cities; Edinburgh, Bristol and Nottingham are ones I always look forward to. You find places that you love to keep going back to in each city - where does the best coffee, where's good for a night out etc. It's a lot of fun revisiting old favourites and discovering new ones.

# NEW/ADVENTURES RE;BOURNE

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

In the UK Birmingham is a big one for me as it's closest to where I grew up, so I have a lot of friends still there and it's always great to catch up. Plymouth is also a special venue for me as I had my first Prince show in *Swan Lake* there when I first joined the Company. It was a such a whirlwind but I had proper New Adventures royalty supporting me: Etta, Kerry, Sam, Maddy, Simon and of course Jon. He was my first Swan and he was incredibly patient and generous, it was fantastic to play opposite him. That first show will stay with me forever.

Internationally Tokyo and Sydney were huge highlights, it was my first tour and I couldn't believe how lucky I was! I'd never been to either of them before and it was such a wonderful way to visit them. I think Tel Aviv was the most surprising venue, as in I really didn't know what to expect and it turned out to be an awesome two weeks. Everything about it was stunning, we used to go to the beach in between shows on a two show day!

## ***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?***

It's great learning more than one role as it keeps the show fresh and gives you constant variation and partner swaps during the tour. I've always learnt three roles from the start, which can be stressful in rehearsals as you don't get as much time to watch run-throughs, but I love the challenge and would always rather be busy.

## ***Do you have a favourite costume you've worn during your time with New Adventures so far?***

The Swan legs were a big one for me - they're so iconic! But my Quentin Crisp costume for the Soho scene in *Swan Lake* was definitely a love-hate relationship! It's a flared purple velvet suit, floral blouse, matching scarf, Jesus sandals, a blue rinse wig and a full face of make-up. When I first saw it I couldn't believe that I was meant to go on stage wearing it, but by the end of the tour I absolutely loved it and grew very fond and protective of him!

## ***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?***

As I mentioned before the Prince was such an incredible role to play, but I was also very lucky to play Angelo in *The Car Man* a couple of times. Both of those roles go on such huge journeys and I loved getting into their heads and seeing where the characters could go. One of my favourite moments ever on stage was with the super-talented Katrina Lyndon performing the Act 2 duet between Angelo and Rita, which is nicknamed 'Creepy Duet'. You see this massive change in their relationship which is really uncomfortable to watch but totally exhilarating to perform. Getting to explore Angelo's madness and trying to show how much prison has changed him was very rewarding.

Like many people in the Company, I would love to be a part of *Play Without Words*. Everything about it is just so appealing to me: the era, the characters, the story, the style...there's so much good stuff in there!



Andrew Monaghan as a Swan with Tom Broderick (Photo: Ian Gavan)

**You are able to follow Andrew on Twitter (@AndyMonaghan91) and Instagram (@andy.monaghan) for a further insight into his world!**