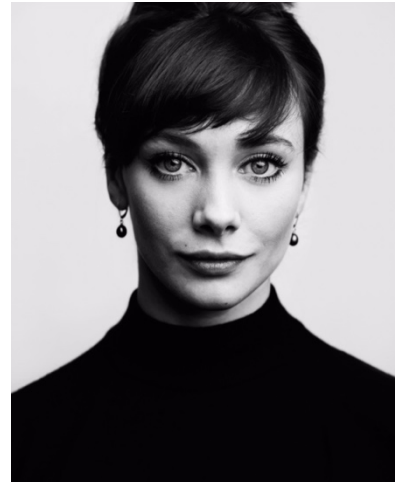


DANCER OF THE WEEK – Cordelia Braithwaite *Fri 15 April*

Next week Matthew Bourne's *Sleeping Beauty* will be heading to Theatre Royal, Nottingham with four weeks left in the UK. Amongst these last UK dates the show will be visiting Milan and then jetting off to Asia! This week Nick Kyprianou, our Audience Engagement Coordinator spoke to Cordelia Braithwaite. Cordelia plays the Principal role of Aurora and fairy, Hibernia.

Cordelia has been a part of the Company since 2012 after being spotted in company class and invited to audition for *Swan Lake*. As well as performing in *Sleeping Beauty* at the moment you may catch her in cinema screenings of the 2015 film recording of *The Car Man*.



When did you start taking dance classes?

I started dance when I was about 7 years old, I enjoyed it, but felt I couldn't quite get it. At my first ever competition, performing a solo, I did it entirely in reverse order, however I still managed to get placed 1st. I didn't even realise that I had done it backwards!

Where did your formal training take place?

My training took place at Laine Theatre Arts.

What drew you to the Company?

My mum took me to see *Swan Lake* in Milton Keynes when I was about 14, I didn't really know much about the Company, but I was absolutely memorised. I was really taken by the production as it told a story through dance so well. I said to myself I have to work for this company one day! I felt like it was where I belonged and ended up dancing in *Swan Lake* during my first contract with New Adventures!

Do you have any hobbies/interests outside of dance?

I'm actually really interested in doing a project out in Africa (later on down the line), rearing cubs back into the wild, and also studying psychology.

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

I love being on tour, I've never liked staying in one place and it's amazing to see all these different cities. We get to see so much!

Do you have a favourite venue to perform at?

I don't have a favourite venue, but I do like performing up north, in the UK, as the audiences are so friendly!

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?

For me to know two roles and follow two different tracks is not at all that difficult, I guess you completely immerse yourself in that character that it becomes muscle memory when you get on to playing that track. I don't think I've ever had an identity crisis on stage.

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

I would have to say Aurora's costume in *Sleeping Beauty*, it's just so exquisite.

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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?

I loved performing as Lana in *The Car Man*, she was a real character to me, strong and sexy and the story let alone the character was so much fun to play. Such an amazing show. I would love to take part in *Cinderella*, I've heard some wonderful things about the show and it's most definitely an ambition of mine to be in it.

You are able to follow Cordelia on Twitter and Instagram (@CordeliaBraith1) for a further insight into her world!