

## DANCER OF THE WEEK – Daisy May Kemp *Fri 29 April*

This week Matthew Bourne's *Sleeping Beauty* is at Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff and then it's off to Milan in Italy before returning to the UK for two more weeks! Nick, our Audience Engagement Coordinator, had the chance to speak to Daisy who plays the roles of Queen Eleanor and Miss Maddox.

Daisy has been a part of the Company since 2004, first performing in the 10-year anniversary tour of *Swan Lake*.

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

I started dancing at around 3 yrs old with Elizabeth Harrison FISTD. I think that was mainly because my mum took my older brothers to classes and I wanted to join in and not be sat outside!



An early performance picture of Daisy

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

The Young Place and Bird College of Performing Arts.

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

I literally grew up watching the company as my eldest brother, Will Kemp, joined the company in the original cast of *Swan Lake* when I was 10 years old. I saw that production so many times and wished there was a role of the Young Girlfriend as there is for the Young Prince! I continued to watch further productions and later joined the company for the 10-year anniversary tour of *Swan Lake*.

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

I am also a qualified massage and reflexology therapist, which comes in handy for breaks in between contracts and dancers who need a treatment for tired bodies on tour!

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

It's brilliant and hard all at the same time. I love the variety of seeing different cities and taking the shows to people who may not otherwise get the opportunity to come to London. It can be hard packing up and leaving home each week on UK tour but when you get to international touring and you get to go to amazing places it's definitely worth it.

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

Performing at The New York City Centre in New York has to be one of my favourite venues. I have toured there with *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty*. To live and work as a dancer in New York City is pretty amazing. Back home in London, Sadler's Wells is a very special venue to perform in too. I also enjoy the more intimate venues such as Norwich and Newcastle Theatre Royal. I love feeling the audiences' responses and how they can differ from city to city.

### ***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?***

We learn them as 'tracks' and it really helps my brain to think that each role has a through line throughout the show. I find it really interesting performing the show from different characters' perspectives. It helps to give me a rounded sense of the show and a sensitivity to the other characters on stage.

# NEW/ADVENTURES RE;BOURNE

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

There are too many great Lez Brotherston designs to choose from. My highlights would have to be, Hungarian Princess (*Swan Lake*), Queen Candy (*Nutracker!*) and Queen Eleanor's bejeweled dress in act two of *Sleeping Beauty*, which this year has an added sparkly tiara!

***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 would have to be Glenda in *Play Without Words*. She is such a wonderful complex character. I covered the three Glenda's and got to perform each one, an amazing experience and challenge for the brain! *Cinderella* is a show I would love to do and I think the Step Mother would be a lot of fun to play.

**You are able to follow Daisy on Twitter (@DaisyMayKemp) for a further insight into her world!**