

## DANCER OF THE WEEK – Danny Reubens Fri 10 June

In less than two weeks Matthew Bourne's *Sleeping Beauty* opens at the LG Arts Center in Seoul, South Korea on 22 June. Nick Kyprianou, our Audience Engagement Coordinator spoke to Danny this week about his time with the Company so far.

Danny joined the Company in 2008, first seen in *Edward Scissorhands* and is currently playing Viscount Aubrey, Archie and King Benedict in *Sleeping Beauty*, he also recently played the role of Carabosse/Caradoc for the first time in Sheffield and High Wycombe. Plus, be sure not to miss him in cinemas worldwide in the 2015 film recording of *The Car Man*.



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

I started dancing when I was 15, when I changed schools during my GCSEs. There were approximately 230 pupils in my year and only two boys danced, including myself. One of the funniest moments was putting on a pair of tights and a dance support for the first time, no one ever told me how to wear them properly.

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

I started my training at Rambert School and then transferred to Central School of Ballet.



Danny 'swanned up' in New York City (2010)

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

I remember watching Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake* for the first time at senior school and just straight away knew I had to be in it. From then on it was my goal to be in the Company. I looked to see where the dancers had trained as I knew it would help. I love the realness of the work, or as Matthew says "keeping truthful", which pushes your abilities as an actor as well as a dancer. I joined *Edward Scissorhands* whilst still in my 3rd year of training in 2008.

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

Traveling. I'm addicted to it. I think because the Company tours internationally it's fueled my passion to seeing the world more. If I have two days spare then I usually try to go somewhere new. I also love going to the gym and watching sports, especially NBA.

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

I really love touring, especially the international venues! I've got used to being on the road and found some home comforts along the way and met some amazing people. I've got to a point now where I know where most Nandos are in the UK (usually go on a Friday because I make the most of my Tastecard during the week). I like to go home as much as I can if there's time, putting in the driving hours can be hard but worth it.

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

Sadler's Wells is home for the Company and I've performed there the most out of any venue. You get to know everyone front and back of house as you're there longer, plus you have the studios for class and discount in the cafe. Being in Islington allows you to see people you may not have seen for a while as well. It's also always nice to perform in Canterbury as it's closest to my home. Internationally Ravenna, Italy is always good fun to do and usually comes at a good time in the tour schedule.

# NEW/ADVENTURES RE;BOURNE

**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?**

Yeah it's fine, it takes a bit of getting used to and keeps you on your toes for sure. Always, for the first couple of months, you go to bed still counting the music. Partner swapping is probably something you have to concentrate on as everyone has their own way with storytelling, or feels the music slightly different. I've definitely had a few mind blanks when you think you're supposed to be in one spot but you're in another. But, having different characters help as it allows you to have two or three different versions of the same show in your head.

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

Being 'swanned up' for the first time was a pretty amazing feeling. The costumes all offer something different which really helps get into character. King Benedict's Act 2 costume in *Sleeping Beauty* makes you feel very Regal and straight away changes your physicality. I think Carabosse has been the most extravagant costume to date! But favourite? I would have to say Gabriel Evercreech's in *Edward Scissorhands* probably, with the long black hair and leather jacket.

**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 so far would have to be Hot Rod in *The Car Man*. I think that me and Hot Rod probably would be mates in real life. He is one of the lads that always takes it too far and thinks that he is the top dog amongst the group. I loosely based him on Jax Teller from *Sons of Anarchy* (my favourite TV series of all time). Another *New Adventures* production that I would love to take part in? All of them to be honest! I was really gutted to miss out performing *Play Without Words* due to injury in 2012 and I would particularly love to play the Swan/Stranger in *Swan Lake*.

**You are able to follow Danny on Twitter (@danreubysmith) and Instagram (@dannyreubens) for a further insight into his world!**



*Danny rehearsing with Kate Lyons for *Sleeping Beauty* in 2012*