

DANCER OF THE WEEK – Dominic Lamb *Fri 15 July*

Only a couple weeks until Matthew Bourne's *Sleeping Beauty* arrives in Singapore at The Esplanade from 4 – 7 August! Nick, our Audience Engagement Coordinator, spoke to Dominic this week, who plays the roles of Lord Rupert, Bertie and Viscount Aubrey.

Dominic has been with the Company since 2008 and was first seen in the international tour of *Edward Scissorhands*.



When did you start taking dance classes?

My mum just asked me if I felt like doing ballet one day, and it didn't occur to me that I wouldn't. Only boy surrounded by girls... I think I was six at the time. We'd just been to watch a local competitive dance festival and she wanted to start teaching. She'd gone away to train at Bush Davies at 16, and had subsequently danced all over the world throughout the 70s and 80s. Mum also danced on TV, including being a part of Dougie Squires' Second Generation dance troupe and in music videos for Falco. She's probably... definitely, got more interesting stories to tell than I have yet! Anyway, she started Insteps Dance Studios, in Ludlow and that was that.



Where did your formal training take place?

I went to Laine Theatre Arts - a really well established, dynamic and enterprising vocational college in Surrey. It specialised in Musical Theatre and dance and seemed to offer diverse training. The selling point was that at the time, you could go to see any West End musical and be certain there'd be a couple of Laineys in it.

What drew you to the Company?

Two days before an audition for New Adventures, my name appeared in biro at the end of a list of the most balletic guys in my year. I knew the name from mum, who'd seen and raved (and rightly so) about *A Play Without Words* and *The Car Man*, but as far as I knew, I was suddenly auditioning for a ballet company. Which was NOT my forté. Turns out I had an amazing first audition experience, fell in love with the choreography we were given, and didn't look back.

Do you have any hobbies/interests outside of dance?

I've always been a massive geek - I really didn't fit in at Musical Theatre college. I used to (always have and still do) love things often considered sad, a waste of time, highly antisocial or morally questionable. Airsoft (dressing up as a soldier and running round secluded places shooting at people), Games Workshop (glueing together, painting and playing with little toy soldiers), and all things computer and video games. On a productive note, I love singing, writing (lyrics and stories), drawing, snorkeling, climbing and driving.

NEW/ADVENTURES RE;BOURNE

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

International tours are absolutely incredible. They make the hard work seem less like hard work (DEFINITELY not a holiday, though). But then my first taste of touring was 12 weeks in Australia and a month in Paris, with *Edward Scissorhands*... the thought did occur that I'd peaked too soon. And there are certain venues in the UK that are definitely less exciting to pile your life onto a train to get to every week. I've been driving for a few years now though, which makes things a lot easier. The freedom to go anywhere at any time is a great feeling.

Do you have a favourite venue to perform at?

Sadler's Wells - it's always great being in London. Or the Birmingham Hippodrome, as it's the closest I can get to my hometown of Ludlow.

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 second nature now! A lot of us have trained for this for all of our adult lives. You get used to it, you have to get used to it, pretty quickly. Plus, I'm getting off lightly... in musicals you'd have to remember words and harmonies, too!

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

My Act 2 suitor costume in *Sleeping Beauty* as either Lord Rupert or Viscount Aubrey is just fantastic. Hideous to dance in as I sweat in t-shirts on a cold day, let alone shirt, cravat, waistcoat, overcoat, hat and glued on moustache in stage lights. Looks great if you can look past the glistening forehead though.

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?

Jim Upton and Gerald Munroe from *Edward Scissorhands* - they're both so different from me and so much fun to play. You have to invest in two entirely opposite characters and it's always fun to be a bad guy.

Carabosse's Attendants in *Sleeping Beauty* have great choreography too, and a real animalistic quality I love getting into. I would kill to be in *The Car Man*, although was able to perform a bit of it in *Matthew Bourne's Christmas* (2011) – pictured below.



Dominic, centre, with Richard Windsor, Pia Driver, Michela Meazza and Gemma Payne