

DANCER OF THE WEEK – Glenn Graham *Fri 22 April*

This week Matthew Bourne's *Sleeping Beauty* visited the home of long-standing New Adventures Company member, Glenn Graham, in Nottingham. It has been a fantastic week for the show at Nottingham Theatre Royal with yet more wonderfully warm audiences and reviews. Nick, our Audience Engagement Coordinator, had the chance to speak to Glenn who plays the roles of King Benedict and Viscount Aubrey.



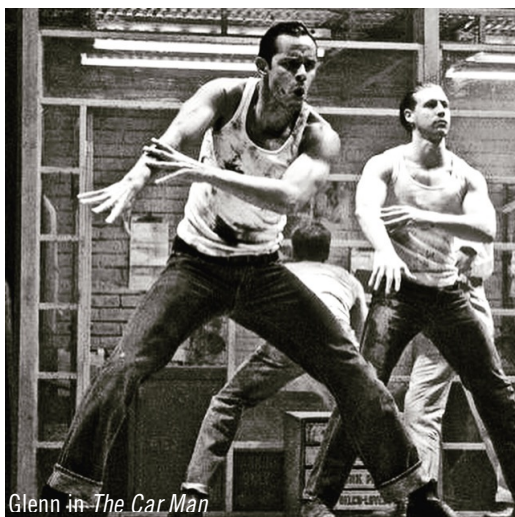
Glenn has been a part of the Company since 2003, first performing in *Nutcracker!* As well as performing in *Sleeping Beauty* at the moment you may catch him in cinema screenings of the 2015 film recording of *The Car Man*.

When did you start taking dance classes?

I was first introduced to dance through a music diploma course, at college, which I was studying in Nottingham. In the final year we had to compose a piece of music to three different videos. The first was from Star Trek, the opening credits when the ship first enters, the second was to a TV advert, and the last one was Christopher Bruce's *Swan Song*. I remember being captivated by the way the three male dancers moved. The next day had a look at some dance classes that were happening near me, I enrolled on a one night a week course and hated it. To cut a long story short, I ended up going to see Matthew Bourne's *The Car Man* and it was then that I truly realised that I wanted to become a professional dancer. I waited around stage door to see Matthew and said to him, "I'm going to dance for you one day" and three years later I got my first job with the company in *Nutcracker!* When I first joined the Company I asked Matthew if he remembered me and reminded him about that night, he told me that he thought that I was going to beat him up! Looking back at it, it was such a funny time.

Where did your formal training take place?

I studied for three years at Rambert School of Ballet & Contemporary Dance.



Glenn in *The Car Man*

What drew you to the Company?

All the way through my training I had vivid memories of when I went to see *The Car Man*. It was those memories that got me through my training and drew me to the Company.

Do you have any hobbies/interests outside of dance?

I love playing the trumpet and am currently learning to play the guitar! I also love history.

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

Touring is a funny one for me now, I remember when I first started out and it was the most exciting time ever, travelling to all the different cities in the UK, performing and seeing how audiences differ from each other. Now I have to admit that excitement has gone a little bit, don't get me wrong, I'm still having an amazing time and feel very blessed, but when you occasionally have to miss out on important moments with family and friends it does sometimes make it difficult. International touring on the other hand is just the most satisfying thing in the world.

NEW/ADVENTURES RE;BOURNE

Do you have a favourite venue to perform at?

Without a doubt Sadler's Wells, London is my favourite venue to perform in, just because I never thought in my wildest dreams that I would get to dance on such an iconic stage. Abroad - I'd have to say The Joyce Theatre in New York City, which is such a quaint beautiful stage down in Chelsea.

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?

One of the amazing things about New Adventures is the rehearsal period before a show goes on tour. You are expected to learn two or sometimes three roles in one rehearsal period, which is definitely a great challenge. Performing different roles keeps it fresh and helps you grow into a versatile artist.

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

I'd have to say The Angel costume in *Cinderella*, it's such a slick silver/white tailored suit, along with a white wig. I felt very dapper!

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 was lucky enough to perform the role of the Swan/Stranger in *Swan Lake* at Sadler's Wells. Coming into this profession aged 23, after starting training at 19 and performing such an iconic role was so surreal for me. To top that off performing alongside the prince who was my partner at the time felt very overwhelming.

You are able to follow Glenn on Twitter (@creative80) and Instagram (@glenngraham) for a further insight into his world!

