

## DANCER OF THE WEEK – Jack Jones Fri 17 June

Matthew Bourne's *Sleeping Beauty* opens at the LG Arts Center in Seoul, South Korea next week on 22 June. Nick Kyprianou, our Audience Engagement Coordinator spoke to Jack this week about his time with the Company so far, he will also be blogging about his experiences during the Asia Tour.

Jack joined the Company in 2008, first seen in *Edward Scissorhands* and is currently playing Autumnus and Bertie in *Sleeping Beauty*, also covering the role of Count Lilac.



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

I first started dancing back when I was four years old at a local dance school in Cheltenham. I don't actually have any memory of it as I was so young but apparently my mum just sent me along with my older brother as she thought we might enjoy it.

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

I started my professional training at 11 when I went to The Royal Ballet School. I boarded there for five years before going on to the English National Ballet School. After seven years of training in ballet I decided that I didn't actually want to join a ballet company so went to a contemporary dance company instead!

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

I had just moved back to England from working in Portugal for a few years and had been doing more theatrical work than abstract dance, which was something I wanted to pursue more. I knew that the New Adventures style was very theatrical and involved acting as well as dancing. So I went along to the Company auditions in 2008 and joined the Company the same year for *Edward Scissorhands* tour, playing Rev. Judas Evercreech, Bill Boggs and was also the dance captain.



*Jack still does some work outside of the Company. In 2013 he was in a dance film, called *The Keeper* (2013) by Morgann Runacre-Temple and Jessica Wright, which you can see [here](#).*

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

I really enjoy writing and am pursuing that as another potential career. I'm in a writer's mentoring program at the moment that is being funded by Dancers' Career Development (DCD), they provide help both with the money but also with practical and emotional support, as dancers transition from performing into other areas. I'm very fortunate that they decided to help me out as the mentoring program was about the price of an MA!

# NEW/ADVENTURES RE;BOURNE

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

I much prefer being on tour than being in the same venue for too long. I do really enjoy being at Sadler's Wells but by the end of our eight week season I am itching to get back on tour. Being in a new and different venue helps to keep the show fresh, it adds a bit more variety to your working week and keeps you a bit more alert on stage. Otherwise there is a tendency to fall into complacency with familiarity, or maybe I just get bored too easily.

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

I really enjoy performing in Cardiff at the Wales Millennium Centre. The theatre is really big, the town is lively and there's always good places to stay. Bristol is another favourite, mainly for the town itself, though the Bristol Hippodrome is also nice. They have a great market, which sells foods from all over the world.

## ***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?***

At first it is a little confusing, if your parts are similar or they do the same material but on opposite legs then you can sometimes forget which is which. But it's not all that bad really. I play two roles and cover a third, and they generally get everyone on for all their roles in the first few weeks of performances if not earlier. I somehow managed to get all three of my roles into the first week of performances! It might seem like a lot but once you know the show it all makes more sense and it's not so daunting.

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

That depends on what aspect of it you mean... in terms of how easy they are to dance in then the Swan legs in *Swan Lake* are by far the best. You hardly notice them and dancing in them is effortless. However, I quite enjoy wearing quite characterful costumes, like the ones in *Edward Scissorhands* where your character is quite clear from what they wear. The fairy costumes in *Sleeping Beauty* are also beautiful.

## ***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 Prentice in *Play Without Words*. I was the swing on that show, which means that I covered a few parts and went on if somebody was sick or injured. I only went on twice for that role in the end, but both times were my favourite experiences on stage. It's a very special and unique show, one that isn't as well-known publicly as Matthew's other works unfortunately. It deserves a lot more attention than it has gotten so far.



*Jack in Lord of the Flies as Maurice*

**Be sure not to miss Jack's blog posts about the *Sleeping Beauty* Asia tour, starting next week!**