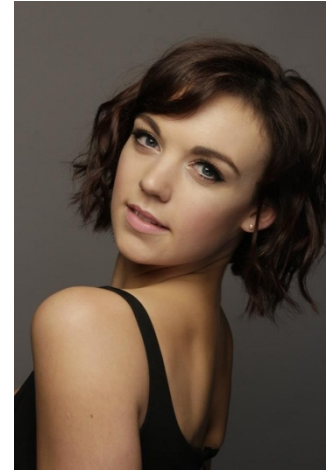


DANCER OF THE WEEK – Katrina Lyndon *Fri 2 June*

Matthew Bourne's *Sleeping Beauty* is in slumber until 22 June, when it awakens again at the LG Arts Center in Seoul, South Korea. Nick Kyprianou, our Audience Engagement Coordinator spoke to Katrina this week about her time with the Company so far.

Katrina joined the Company in 2011 first seen in the *Nutcracker!* and is currently playing Feral and Miss Maddox in *Sleeping Beauty*. You can also catch her in cinemas worldwide in the 2015 film recording of *The Car Man*.



An early performance picture of Katrina

When did you start taking dance classes?

I first started taking dance lessons around 5 years old. I remember it very clearly and I'm afraid to say it was not love at first dance class! My mum took me along to a tap lesson, and looking back now I realise how fortunate we were to have a live pianist accompanying us. She was a very kind lady who must have been in her 70-80s. The problem was, for some reason at this age and I have no idea why... I was absolutely petrified of 'old people'. So not long into the lesson I burst uncontrollably into tears, to which the lovely pianist came over, took my hand and said I could 'help' her play the piano. Which of course, little did she know only made matters worse!! I didn't return again for quite some months after my ordeal. But thankfully I got over my 'phobia' and decided to try again, and loved every minute!

Where did your formal training take place?

I trained at The Royal Ballet Lower and Upper schools from the age of 13-19. I feel very privileged to have trained at such a prestigious school and I couldn't have asked for a better learning platform. I completely thank them for making me the dancer I am today.

What drew you to the Company?

What drew me to New Adventures was that it struck me as a company where you could individually be quite different and unique. When I watched Matthew's shows, every performer had a different strength which altogether made such an interesting and diverse group to watch. Although I had trained classically, I knew that I wanted to push myself in a different direction and my strength at school was always performing. I wanted to dance for a company where I could give a lot to audiences and although still important, worry less about technique. I love more than anything the real and naturalistic storytelling in all of New Adventures' shows. The deeper, rawer emotion is the most satisfying feeling as a performer and I have never seen another company combine acting and dancing like New Adventures.

Do you have any hobbies/interests outside of dance?

Outside of the dance world I love anything to do with fashion and interior design. I'd love to learn how to draw fashion sketches. I also love playing tennis (even though I'm not great at it!) My grandad at 81 still plays nearly every day and I've got no chance playing against him. I just end up running around the court the entire game!

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

Sometimes touring around the country can be quite difficult and tiring. Getting organised well in advance with travel and good accommodation makes life much easier however! It's great once you discover the best restaurants, bars or sights each city has to offer and we get into quite a routine of visiting our favourite brunch spots etc. It's a great way of seeing the country.

Do you have a favourite venue to perform at?

My favourite venue to perform at would probably have to be in my home town, at Plymouth Theatre Royal, not only because I get to sleep in my own bed for a week but, because it's also so nice to have people you know in the audience supporting you.

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 can sometimes be quite difficult remembering several different parts in one show but actually that is one of my favourite things about the company. I like to be challenged with lots of different characters and you can end up playing quite diverse roles. The show can feel completely different playing one character to another and that always helps to keep things fresh and alive. This also means your partners are constantly changing. Everyone has a slightly different way of acting or doing things, so that means you have to always be open and receptive to the people around you.



Katrina as Ruby Liquorice in Nutcracker!

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

I've got lots of favourite costumes that I've had the pleasure of wearing. But, one that stands out to me is my very first role as Ruby Liquorice, in *Nutcracker!* This role was so much fun! I wore a PVC corset, satin bolero, a skirt covered in liquorice allsorts and an amazing rubber wig and huge pink hoop earrings. It was quite a look!

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 I've performed so far with New Adventures is Monica from *The Car Man*. It's also my favourite show I've done so far, and I feel so lucky that I got to play Monica in the most recent filming of the show. It was a dream role to dance and I miss her a little bit every day! Another equally favourite, was my first principal performance as Rita also in *The Car Man*. There's a duet near the end called 'the creepy duet', which will always remain a very special moment in time for me.

A New Adventures show that I haven't done before which I'd love to perform in is *Cinderella*. The whole era it's set in, costumes, story, everything about it I feel drawn to, that would be a dream show for me.

You are able to follow Katrina on Twitter and Instagram (@KatrinaLyndon) for a further insight into her world!