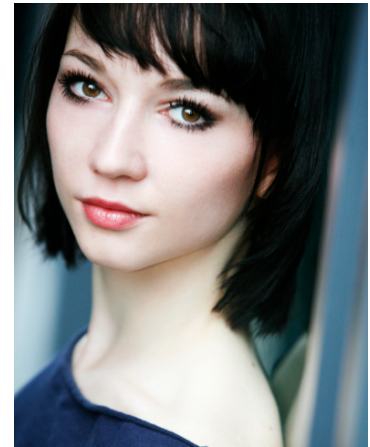


DANCER OF THE WEEK – Katy Lowenhoff *Fri 29 July*

Matthew Bourne's *Sleeping Beauty* arrives in Singapore this week and will be at the Esplanade Theatre from 4-7 August. Nick Kyprianou, our Audience Engagement Coordinator got the chance to speak to Katy this week.

Katy has been with New Adventures since 2007, first seen in the *Nutcracker!* as a Marshmallow and Cupid. She has been in many of our productions since and is currently performing as Hibernia and Miss Maddox in *Sleeping Beauty*.



When did you start taking dance classes?

I began taking ballet classes around the age of 3 years old. My best friend at the time had started classes so I begged my Mum to go too. Apparently for the first term I just watched but once I felt I knew what to do I absolutely loved it!



A young Katy, pictured with sisters and cousins, who all performed a group dance to Wannabe by the Spice Girls

Where did your formal training take place?

I went to the Arts Educational School, Tring (currently known as Tring Park) at the age of 14. I was desperate to dance every day as much as possible. I was really lucky as I trained with a terrifically driven, supportive and talented peer group, which was probably the best thing I could've asked for.

What drew you to the Company?

I watched *Edward Scissorhands* at Christmas time, before I joined the Company, which was so magical, as well as seeing *Swan Lake* and *The Car Man*. I particularly remember *The Car Man* and watching Shelby Williams perform a solo excerpt and being blown away by her ease of movement and storytelling. I was also fortunate enough to join company class with the cast of *Highland Fling*, whilst I was still training.

I got my lucky break with the company to perform in the UK tour of the *Nutcracker!* in 2007-08, as a Marshmallow and Cupid. It was a dream come true and incredible to work with a company of dancers of whom I really admired and looked up to.

Do you have any hobbies/interests outside of dance?

I usually have some form of craft on the go to keep me entertained and relaxed, it could be cross-stitch, knitting, art/colouring in and friendship braiding! I also enjoy yoga and would love to have more time to learn French properly.

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

Being on tour is quite incredible, I feel very proud and fortunate to have had the opportunity to see so much of the UK and then to go further afield to Asia, the USA and Europe. When I was first sent on an international tour I thought it felt like winning the lottery.

Leaving loved ones and friends doesn't get easier though, but a positive to touring is that I've finally learnt how to pack light(ish)!

NEW/ADVENTURES RE;BOURNE

Do you have a favourite venue to perform at?

For me, Sadler's Wells will probably always feel like home, everyone in the building is so friendly. It's such a prestigious theatre in London and performing to its audiences is always a special experience. I also love the Wales Millennium Centre, the stage is vast, which can be a satisfying challenge and the auditorium feels very magical in its wooden design.

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 is always a challenge at the beginning of rehearsals or a creation period but I think half of the battle is really knowing the music, that is the key for me. Sometimes mistakes are made but everybody's human.

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

Wearing a nightie as Clara in *Nutcracker!* was lovely as I was able to move freely and expressively. My Hibernia costume, in *Sleeping Beauty* is incredibly elaborate with amazing embroidery but is certainly more of a workout to dance in.

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?

This is a really tough question but I think I would have to say my favourite role is Kim in *Edward Scissorhands*. I was very lucky in this role as I had amazing partners in my Edwards (Liam Mower and Dominic North) and Jims (Tom Clark, Dominic Lamb, Tim Hodges and Leon Moran) which made telling the story and all of the dancing such a joy and really emotional. I think Kim's storyline is very interesting, as she develops and matures throughout the show and falls in love! The various dance styles and magical music both lends itself wonderfully to the story. It was great to work alongside Ashley Shaw as Kim from whom I learnt a lot and have always thought her performances to be pitch perfect and beautiful.

In response to the second part of the question, I have always thought that *Highland Fling* would be a fun show to learn and perform.



Katy as Kim in Edward Scissorhands with Liam Mower

You are able to follow Katy on Twitter (@k_low9) and Instagram (@katylovenhoff) for a further insight into her world!